

**MEMORIAL OF SAMUEL
GILMAN BROWN, D. D., LL.D.:
BORN JANUARY 4, 1813, DIED
NOVEMBER 4, 1885**

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Memorial of Samuel Gilman Brown, D. D., LL.D.: Born January 4, 1813, Died November 4, 1885
by Anonymous

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U. G. Brown

ARGENT, E. BIERSTADT, N. Y.

MEMORIAL

OF

SAMUEL GILMAN BROWN, D.D., LL.D.

Born January 4, 1813

Died November 4, 1885



NEW YORK

1886

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Samuel Gilman Brown.

SAMUEL GILMAN BROWN was born at North Yarmouth, Me., January 4, 1813; was graduated at Dartmouth College in 1831; was teacher in the High School at Ellington, Conn., from 1832 to 1834, and Principal of Abbot Academy, Andover, Mass., from 1835 to 1838; was graduated at the Andover Theological Seminary in 1837; travelled in Europe and the East from 1838 to 1840; was Professor of Oratory and Belles-Lettres in Dartmouth College from 1840 to 1863, and of Intellectual Philosophy and Political Economy from 1863 to 1867; was elected seventh President of Hamilton College, November 6, 1866; accepted, and entered, in April, 1867, upon his duties in the Presidency and the connected Walcott Professorship of the Evidences of Christianity; was inaugurated July 17, 1867; laid down these offices in June, 1881; was Instructor in Intellectual Philosophy in Hamilton College from January to April, 1882, Instructor in Intellectual and Moral Philosophy and Political Economy in Dartmouth College from April, 1882, to June, 1883, and Provisional Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy in Bowdoin College from September, 1883, to June, 1885.

In 1827, and before entering college, he had united with the Congregational Church at Hanover, N. H., from whose roll his name was never removed. After preaching for some years as a

licentiate, he was ordained to the Congregational ministry at Woodstock, Vt., October 6, 1852; he was a member of the White River Association, from which he was received by the Presbytery of Utica, January 28, 1868; he retained his connection with this Presbytery until his death. He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Columbia College in 1852, and that of Doctor of Laws from Dartmouth College in 1868.

He was a Trustee of Hamilton College from 1867 until his death, and of Auburn Theological Seminary from 1872 to 1884, declining re-election. He was also an Honorary Member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, a Life Director of the American Bible Society and of the American Tract Society, a member of the Oneida Historical Society, and of various other organizations with whose purposes he was in sympathy. After his death the announcement was received of his election as an Honorary Member of the Northwestern Literary and Historical Society of Iowa.

He was married, February 10, 1846, to Mrs. Sarah (Van Vechten) Savage, widow of Professor Edward Savage, A.M., of Union College, and daughter of the Rev. Dr. Jacob and Catharine Van Wyck (Mason) Van Vechten, of Schenectady, N. Y., who survives him. They had seven children, of whom five are still living. He died in Utica, N. Y., November 4, 1885.

On Monday, November 2d, he returned to Utica from a month's visit in New York. He had always enjoyed the life and movement of a great city, and this enjoyment was never more manifest than during these weeks. He spent them chiefly in the companionship of his sister—who came to New York while he was there,—some of his children, and other near relatives; taking the opportunity of greater leisure than had often fallen to his lot to make excursions to neighboring towns also, and renew old friendships. Those who were much with him in the course of these weeks remember the cheerful serenity of his bearing, the simple and tender directness of his affection, his quick sympathy, the breadth and geniality of his interest in all human affairs, the openness and expectancy of his mind toward questions which were occupying the thought of scholars, the gentle firmness of his opinions and judgments, his

charity, and all the unassuming and even unconscious tokens of the hope which he had "as an anchor of the soul." These were not new qualities in him, but they seemed riper, and the whole life more rich and mellow than ever before. The beauty of the world was still a fresh delight to him. "I think I never had so unwearisome a ride from New York," he wrote, on reaching his journey's end, to one from whom he had that morning parted; "with company nothing could have been more pleasant, even without, it was delightful. The sky and river, mountains and valley, were beautiful, till past Albany. Then we found snow, and the clouds again came about us, increasing in thickness till we reached Utica."—The unseen cloud was gathering fast over the heads of those that loved him.

It was afterward learned that when he left New York he had had a sense of oppression in the chest. He had felt it before, and was well aware that it might denote a serious affection of the heart. On Tuesday it had rather increased than diminished. This was the day of the State election, and he walked half a mile to deposit his ballots. In the course of the day he called upon his physician, who, after a thorough examination, recognized the gravity of the case, but hoped that the immediate danger might be averted. He returned to "The Waverly," which for four years had been to him and his family something like a home, spent the evening in writing letters and talking cheerfully with his wife and daughter, and retired at his usual hour. His sleep was fitful, and when, toward five o'clock in the morning of Wednesday, November 4th, he was asked if the night had not seemed long to him, he answered, quietly and gently, "Yes, rather long." A few minutes later, peacefully, without word or struggle, he ceased to breathe.

Funeral services were held in Utica, N. Y., on the morning of Friday, November 6th.

At "The Waverly" a few verses of Scripture were read, and prayer was offered by the Rev. Thomas J. Brown, D.D., Pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Utica; after this, at half-past nine o'clock, the funeral procession moved to the church itself. The pall-bearers were the Hon. William J. Bacon, LL.D., William D. Walcott, Esq., Professor Edward North, I.H.D., the

Hon. Ellis H. Roberts, LL.D.—all of the Board of Trustees of Hamilton College, and Professor North a member of the Faculty, as well,—Professor C. H. F. Peters, Ph.D., of the Faculty, Dr. M. M. Bagg, Dr. John P. Gray, and the Hon. John F. Seymour. The Rev. Henry Darling, D.D., LL.D., President of Hamilton College, and all the remaining members of the Faculty, other members of the Board of Trustees, and a large company of kindred and friends gathered in the church.

As the procession entered the choir sang :

“ Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord.”

The Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Brown, Pastor, the Rev. Professor A. G. Hopkins, of Hamilton College, the Rev. Isaac S. Hartley, D.D., Pastor of the Reformed Church, Utica, and the Rev. Thomas B. Hudson, D.D., Pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Clinton, N. Y., occupied the pulpit.

Dr. T. J. Brown read, as the Scripture lesson, 1 Corinthians xv. 20-58 ; Dr. Hartley offered prayer ; Dr. Hudson announced the hymn, which was sung by the choir :

“ Sun of my soul, thou Saviour dear.”

An address, full of delicate appreciation and sympathy, was delivered by Professor Hopkins.* At the close of the address Dr. T. J. Brown announced the hymn, which was sung by the choir :

“ Asleep in Jesus ! blessed sleep.”

Prayer was then offered by the Pastor, who concluded the service with the benediction.

An urgent request came from the Faculty of Hamilton College, that the burial of Dr. BROWN might take place in the College Cemetery there. It seemed fitting, however, that he should be laid at rest with his kindred in the earlier home.

Funeral services were held at Hanover, N. H., on Sunday, November 8th, at two o'clock in the afternoon. From a house

* This address is printed in full on pp. 9 sqq.

whose doors, with most delicate and affectionate kindness, had been opened to receive his mortal remains, the casket was borne to the College Church by friends and former colleagues, this being their own desire.

The bearers were Elihu T. Quimby, A.M., formerly Professor of Mathematics in Dartmouth College; the Hon. James W. Patterson, LL.D., formerly Professor of Mathematics and of Astronomy; and Professors John K. Lord, A.M., John H. Wright, A.M., Charles F. Emerson, A.M., and Louis Pollens, A.M.

The church was filled with friends from the College and the village. In the pulpit were the Rev. Samuel C. Bartlett, D.D., LL.D., President of Dartmouth College, and the Rev. S. P. Leeds, D.D., Pastor of the College Church.

At the opening of the service the choir, consisting of Miss Sarah I. Smith, Mrs. F. A. Sherman, Mr. E. S. Hill, and Mr. C. L. Jenks, accompanied by Mr. G. W. Glass, organist, sang the hymn:

“Jesus, lover of my soul.”

The Rev. Dr. Leeds read, as the Scripture lesson, John xiv. and other passages, and then announced the following hymn, which was sung by the choir:

“In vain our fancy strives to paint
The moment after death,
The glories that surround the saint
When he resigns his breath.

“One gentle sigh his fetters breaks;
We scarce can say, ‘He’s gone,’
Before the willing spirit takes
Her mansion near the throne.

“Faith strives, but all its efforts fail,
To trace her heavenward flight;
No eye can pierce within the veil
Which hides that world of light.

“Thus much (and this is all) we know,
They are supremely blest;
Have done with sin, and care, and woe,
And with their Saviour rest.”