

**A TRIBUTE TO THE
MEMORY OF REV.
HENRY J. RIPLEY, D.D.**

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A Tribute to the Memory of Rev. Henry J. Ripley, D.D. by O. S. Stearns

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O. S. STEARNS

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THE MEMORY

OF

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1875.

PREFACE.

REV. HENRY J. RIPLEY, D.D., died at his residence in Newton Centre, Friday evening, May 21, 1875. The funeral services were observed the following Monday. At the house, prayer was offered by a former pastor, Rev. S. F. SMITH, D.D. At the First Baptist Church, the Scriptures were read by Dr. SMITH, addresses were made by Prof. STEARNS, likewise a former pastor, and by Dr. HOVEY, the President of the Institution; and prayer was offered by his pastor, the Rev. W. N. CLARKE. The remains were borne to the Newton Cemetery, followed by numerous relatives and friends, and by the students of the Institution. The next Sabbath, his pastor preached the sermon contained in this volume, commemorative of Dr. Ripley's relations to the church of which he had been for so long a time a beloved member.

TWO of the sons of Rev. IRAH CHASE, D.D., the revered first professor of the Institution, "in grateful remembrance of the regard and affection existing for so many years between Dr. Ripley and their father, and between the members of both families," have generously provided for the publication of this "TRIBUTE." I have been requested to select the material, and arrange it according to my judgment. It has been a labor accompanied by precious memories, and yet it has been a delicate task to make the proper selections. Dr. Ripley left few manuscripts; and those at my disposal have been so repeatedly

corrected by his own hand, it has been no slight difficulty to decide upon his final revision. From papers equally valuable, I have chosen such as I think will illustrate him as a LECTURER, an EXPOSITOR, and a PREACHER.

With the hope that these memorials will perpetuate in the mind of the reader pleasant recollections of a life distinguished by loyalty to truth, by devotion to the cause of sacred learning, by Christian affection for Christians of every name, by love for his country, including every race, and by an unselfish interest in the temporal and spiritual welfare of all men everywhere, this TRIBUTE is dedicated with sentiments of esteem to

HENRY S. CHASE

and

HEMAN L. CHASE

O. S. STEARNS.

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REMARKS.

BY PROFESSOR O. S. STEARNS, D.D.

DR. RIPLEY occupied a peculiarly influential position in this church. He has been connected with it nearly fifty years. He has identified himself with it in its weakness and in its strength. He was the wise counsellor, the tireless worker, and the discreet sympathizer. In his connection with his pastors, he has been rather a co-pastor, in the purest sense, than a private member. This position will be commemorated by his pastor next Sabbath. His position relative to the Institution, as one of the earliest Professors,— a Professor universally beloved by his students for his kindness, his fidelity, and his earnestness, and held in the highest esteem by the several faculties with which he labored,— will be spoken of at the present time by the President of the Institution. My part of this service is a very simple one; and yet so uniquely, for the last twenty years, have our lives run side by side, sometimes almost interpenetrating each other; so emphatically

has he been a father to me, aiding me by his advice, his sympathy, and his prayers, both while I was his pastor, and since that time; his life, public, social, and churchly, is so photographed upon my memory, — I know I shall be in danger of trenching upon the province of others, and of saying what, perhaps, I ought not to say. To me, Dr. Ripley was an ideal man. To all of us, he was a marked man, both for his goodness and for the good he accomplished. His life was so single in its purpose, so symmetrically developed, and so harmonious in its movements, it is much easier to say what he was not, than to delineate him as he was. Some lives are distinguished by special excellences, angularities, prominences, like mountain-ranges by which to map out a globe. Other lives are growths, germ-seeds ripening amidst storms and sunshines, and gathered at last, "as a shock of corn cometh in its season;" or, to change the figure slightly, they are like a tree planted by streams of water, whose leaf does not wither; and whatsoever they do prospers. Dr. Ripley realizes to me the ideal man of the first Psalm, more perfectly than any one I ever knew.

As my part of this service, indulge me while I give a brief biographical sketch of his external life, and a brief summary of that life.

Rev. Henry Jones Ripley, D.D., was born in