

IN MEMORIAM

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ROBERT LEWIS DABNEY

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1899

7.21.21
Library of the Theological Seminary,

PRINCETON, N. J.

Presented by Charles W. Dabney.

BX 9225 .D2 D32 1899
Dabney, Charles William,
1855-1945,
In memoriam

Shelf.....



ROBERT LEWIS DABNEY,
Hampden Sidney, Va., 1872 or '73

✓
IN MEMORIAM

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ROBERT LEWIS DABNEY

Born, March 5th, 1820

Died, January 3rd, 1898

“Prove all things. Hold fast that which is good.”

The University of Tennessee Press
Knoxville,
1899

OUR LOSS.

BY REV. DR. G. B. STRICKLER.

(Introductory Address at the Funeral.)

"A Prince and a great man has fallen in Israel." On such occasions it is proper to take account of our loss, that we may rightly estimate what the Lord gave and what the Lord has taken away. That our departed friend and brother was, indeed, a Prince and a great man in Israel—made so by God's gifts of nature and grace—all would agree. That he was a great teacher, scores and hundreds of our ministers who have enjoyed the privilege of his instruction, have always cordially testified. That he was a great theologian, his numerous works, left as an invaluable heritage to the Church, make abundantly evident. That he was a great philosopher, his frequent and important contributions to the philosophical discussions of the last thirty years in our country, clearly demonstrate. That he was a great preacher many present can bear witness from their own delightful experience, as for years they sat under his pulpit ministrations. That as the result of thirty years' teaching in the seminary and of the contributions he has made to our religious and ethical and theological literature, he has left a deeper impression for good on our Southern ministry and Southern Church than any other man who has ever been connected with our denomination, few, I suppose, would question. That he was a great man in the excellence of his character, in conscientiousness, in integrity, in courage, in his supreme devotion to truth and to duty, and in zeal for the Church and for God, none can doubt. That he was one of the most valuable gifts God has ever made to our Church and our country all would admit. While, therefore, we to-day mourn over our loss (for God would not have us so lightly esteem so great a gift as not to be profoundly affected when it is withdrawn), we should mingle with our lamentations the most sincere thanksgiving to God that He ever made us so great a gift; that He preserved it to us so long, and that now our brother, after faithfully serving his generation until vital forces failed under the growing infirmities of advancing

years, has gently fallen on sleep, and been received to his reward, and that those eyes, so long closed to the beauties of this world, and to the faces and forms of earthly love and friendship, have been opened to the glories of the Heavenly Kingdom, and to behold the loved ones gone before and the general assembly and church of the firstborn, and to see the King in His beauty. Let us, then, be profoundly grateful while we are at the same time tenderly sorrowful.

But it is not my purpose even to attempt to give you an adequate conception of Dr. Dabney's life and character. I leave that for the more competent brethren who will presently address you. I only wished, in introducing this part of the service, to avail myself of the privilege and opportunity of laying a little flower upon the bier of him to whom I am more indebted than to any other man, living or dead.