

[Forbes, Henry Prentiss]

DEAN H. P. FORBES, LONG ILL, DIES

HEAD OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL AT S. L. U.

AT ST. LAWRENCE 33 YEARS

Scholar of Exceptional Attainments and Was a Contributor to Several Religious Publications—Tribute by President Gunnison.

(Special to the Times.)

Canton, Oct. 2—Dean H. P. Forbes of the theological school of St. Lawrence university, died at 5 this morning after a long illness with stomach trouble.

President Almon Gunnison at the chapel exercises this morning, conducted a memorial service. He praised the late Dean Forbes very highly, and said that St. Lawrence University had suffered a distinct loss. He said that Dean Forbes had taught in St. Lawrence university for the longest consecutive time of any instructor there, having been connected with the university for a quarter of a century.

Dean Henry Prentice Forbes, D. D., was a native of Maine and was 64 years of age. His early education was received in his native state and he came to St. Lawrence University about 1870 and entered the Theological school from which he graduated in 1873. After his graduation he visited Germany, spending a year as a student at Heidelberg. His first pastorate was at Gaysville, Vermont, and he was afterwards located at Danvers, Mass., as pastor of the Universalist church there. While his success as a pastor and preacher was marked, he was by nature especially a scholar and teacher and his inclinations led him to accept the invitation of the trustees of the university, which was extended in 1880 to come to St. Lawrence to become professor of Biblical languages and literature in the Theological school of which Dr. Isaac M Atwood of Canton was then the president. For 19 years he continued to be the efficient assistant and coadjutor of Dr. Atwood at the school. Upon the resignation of Dr. Atwood in 1899, and the reorganization of the various branches of the university, the office of president became vested in the general president of the University and Dr. Forbes became dean of the Theological school, an office which he held up to the time of his death.

Dean Forbes was a scholar of exceptional attainments and his abilities were recognized outside of his own denomination and extended to the widest circle of Biblical students. He was the author of a volume of commentaries on the books of John and the Acts of the Apostles, a work of exceptional scholarship. He also collaborated with other scholars in biblical literature. He was a contributor to many religious periodicals, being a regular contributor to the Andover Review while that publication existed and being also a contributor to the Biblical Review of Chicago.

He was early married to Miss Harriet Wood, of Vernon, Vermont, a niece of the late Dr. Lee of St. Lawrence University, and one son and four daughters were born of that union, all of whom with his widow survive him. The son,

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Harry Forbes, is a lawyer in New York city; Miss Lila [Leila] Forbes, a daughter, is librarian at Wells college; Miss Phyllis Forbes, another daughter, is engaged in teaching at Norwood, while the Misses Ruth and Portia Forbes reside at home.

Besides his immediate family he leaves a brother Arthur Forbes, who graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1885, and is now an editor at South Paris, Maine. He also left three sisters, all residents of Maine.

In 1910 Dr. Forbes and Mrs. Forbes went abroad and attended a meeting of the Liberal Congress in Berlin and afterwards made a tour of the continent.

Dr. Forbes will be greatly missed both in college circles and in the community generally. He was one who gave much to those with whom he came in contact. As a husband and father he was self-sacrificing and uniformly kind and indulgent. As a citizen he was public spirited and active in every movement calculated to advance the welfare of the community in which he lived. As a Christian he lived the life his Master taught. As a churchman he upheld the highest ideals and while a man of positive convictions accorded to others the right to a free expression of their views. As a student and investigator, he delved deep and was satisfied with nothing short of the most comprehensive examination of every subject which he considered. To every student he was a friend as well as a guide and mentor.

His death comes after a long illness. He completed his work last year, but it was evident to his friends that his health was failing fast. During the summer he went to Boston for an operation in the hope of getting some relief, but without success. When the Technological school opened this fall, he was unable to take his place in the class room. It is a coincidence that Dean Henry Priest of the college died just a little over a year ago.

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown NY, Thu. 2 Oct 1913

THE REV. DR. FORBES DEAD

Was Dean of Theological School of St. Lawrence University, at Canton

The Rev. Dr. Henry Prentiss Forbes, dean of the Theological School of St. Lawrence University at Canton, N.Y., died at Canton yesterday. He had been a professor of theology in the university school for thirty years, and was one of the best-known theologians in the country.

Dr. Forbes was born in Oxford, Paris Co., Maine, July 4, 1849, the son of Elbridge and Julia Prentiss Forbes, being a lineal descendant of Miles Standish of Plymouth and Henry Prentice [sic] of Cambridge, Mass. He was graduated from St. Lawrence University in the class of 1873, studied at the University of Leipzig, Germany in 1874-5, and received the degree of doctor of divinity from Bechtel College in 1892.

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He was married to Miss Harriet E. Wood on September 12, 1876. She survives him with five children, Harry Wood, Leila Gay, Ruth Dorothea, and [Phyllis] Katherine and Portia Standish, the two latter being twins. He was ordained to the Universalist ministry at Gaysville, Vt., February 5, 1874, and served at Danvers, Mass., for five years, beginning in 1875. He had been professor of Biblical literature and languages at St. Lawrence University since 1880, and the dean of the divinity school since 1899.

Dr. Forbes was the author of Volume 4 of the "International Handbooks of the New Testament," and was a voluminous contributor to periodicals and trustee of the Universalist Publishing House, Boston, Mass.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle, New York NY, Fri. 3 Oct 1913

DEAN FORBES' FUNERAL
(Special to the Times.)

Canton, Oct. 4.—Attended by students and townspeople in large numbers, the funeral of Dean H. P. Forbes was held at 2 this afternoon from the Universalist church in this village. There were no classes at college, practically all of the students attending in a body.

The casket was banked with a mass of flowers, tributes from college and village people.

Prayer was offered by Dr. Isaac F. Atwood and funeral addresses were made by Dr. Almon Gunnison, president of St. Lawrence University, and Dr. J. F. Atwood. Dr. Atwood spoke of Dan Forbes' work as a teacher and the universal esteem in which he was held as a man.

Interment was made in Fairview cemetery. A large number of former college students from all over Northern New York attended the funeral, among them being Rev. Harry Westbrook Reed, pastor of All Souls [Universalist] church in Watertown.

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown NY, Sat. 4 Oct 1913

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