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BRARY

On Monday, January 4th, he was attacked with heart trouble while in Camden, and although he continued his work after a brief rest, he never fully recovered. His condition was not considered serious, however, and in the very brief illness preceding his death he and his friends fully expected his speedy recovery, until a few minutes before his death. He was married in 1874 to Miss Kate A. Rockafeller, of White House, N. J. She was a faithful helpmeet to him in all his life work. She and their two children, a son and a daughter, now mourn in their loneliness, but rejoice in the priceless heritage that he left in a stainless record and a devoted Christian life.

Brother Herr was emphatically a Christian gentleman. Well versed in all the questions affecting human interests, and especially in the line of the bringing of the world to Christ, he had the courage of his convictions, and was never backward in expressing them when expressions were called for; yet withal so courteous and kindly in utterance and demeanor that none were ever needlessly wounded.

The funeral services were held in the church at Merchantville on Monday, May 3d, conducted by the writer. Revs. W. P. C. Strickland, George L. Dobbins, S. M. VanSant and A. E. Ballard participated, and at the leave-taking his ministerial brethren, of whom a large number were present, gathered around the casket and sang, "Shall we meet beyond the river?" with hearts sad at the loss of a brother beloved, but exultant with hope of a blissful reunion. The members of his Conference class bore him to his last earthly resting place in Colestown Cemetery, where his mortal remains await the trumpet call to a glorious immortality.

D. B. HARRIS.

ELWOOD H. STOKES



Elwood H. Stokes, D.D., LL.D., was born of Quaker parentage at Medford, New Jersey, October 10, 1815. He had only the opportunities of the public school up to the age of thirteen years, when he entered upon his apprenticeship to the book-binding trade in Philadelphia, where he remained for fifteen years serving as foreman of the house for the last several years of that period. He always spoke of these fifteen years as a valuable school, placing within his reach so many instructive books which he used very diligently. July 31, 1838, he was married to Miss Neff, of Philadelphia, who died the fourth year after her marriage. By this marriage he had his only child, his lovely daughter

Mary, who died in her twenty-third year. Her death was the keenest sorrow of his life. January 6, 1847, he was married to Miss Sarah Ann Stout, who after a beautiful married life of fifty years still survives her husband. In 1834 in his nineteenth year Dr. Stokes was converted at the

Union Church, Philadelphia, under the ministry of the celebrated Dr. Charles Pitman. In the same year he united with this church in company with the gifted and lamented Dr. Samuel Y. Monroe. Of his conversion he writes in his journal as follows:

"For three long terrible weeks I drank the bitter cup of wormwood and gall until I had consumed it to its last fearful dregs and so terrifically awful was these dregs that I seem almost to taste their bitterness even now. At last after having been at the altar for three successive Sabbath nights (there being no meetings through the week) I found peace while praying alone at about 12 o'clock midnight in the attic of my father's house, No. 19 Perry street, Philadelphia. It was a change real, deep and blessed, yet in a way so different from what I conceived it would be, that for a little I doubted whether it was what I sought, but as I looked within I found I had peace in place of trouble—joy in the place of sorrow—light in the place of darkness, I concluded I was converted and so without a word and almost without an emotion—physically and mentally exhausted I lay down to profound and peaceful slumber. The next morning the world was as new as if I had been translated to another sphere. Everything was new because I was new and Christ was new within me."

Twenty-five years after his conversion he entered a deeper religious experience of which he writes in his journal as follows:

"I wish to record to the glory and praise of divine grace that between the hours of seven and eight o'clock this evening, October 20, 1859, God gave to me a clear, calm, quiet yet unmistakable evidence that I am entirely His through the blood of the slain Lamb of God. For a long while, even for the last seven years with greater or less intensity, but especially for the last three months my soul has longed for the fullness of that redemption which I have seen—was my privilege to enjoy in Christ. On the evening named I retired to my study—fell upon my knees and then in the twilight alone with God the divine baptism came—not as I expected it—but soft and still as lightest snow-flakes fall—it came and filled my soul. I am happier now than I have ever been; not more ecstatic, but calmer, sweeter rest is mine. Satan does not tempt me now—he may and doubtless will, but he does not now—nothing disturbs the holy joy. Christ has said 'be still,' and the calm is too deep for Satan to disturb at this time. The rough, restless waves of perhaps an over-anxious spirit have subsided and the calm is heaven! So I wrote then, and now after the lapse of twenty-five years let it suffice to say that the twentieth of October, 1859, has always been a red letter day with me and the experience I then received has been retained and enlarged to this day."

Dr. Stokes was made class leader and exhorter on the same day in 1842 and licensed to preach in 1843. The same year at the age of twenty-eight he was appointed Presiding Elder as supply with Rev. Noah Edwards on the Salem Circuit. His first sermon was preached at Hancock's Bridge, May 21, 1843. In 1844 he joined the New Jersey Annual Conference and the following were his appointments: '44, Medford; '45, Camden and Gloucester Point; '46, Gloucester City; '47-8, Lambertville; '49-50, Clinton; '51-52, Newark, Halsey Street; '53-54, Morristown; '55, Belleville; '56-57, New Brunswick, Pitman; '58-59, Camden, Third Street; '60-61, Trenton, Green Street; '62, New Brunswick, Pitman; '63-64, Bordentown; '65-66, Trenton, Central; '67-70, P. E. New Brunswick District; '71-74, P. E. Camden District; '75-77, Ocean Grove; '78-79, Agent and President Ocean Grove Association; '80-82, Ocean Grove, St. Paul; '83, Ocean Grove; '84, West Grove and Key East; '85-87, Ocean Grove Mission; '88-92, Ocean Park; '93-97, Ocean Grove Camp Meeting. His life work may very properly be divided into two parts, thirty-two years in the Methodist itinerancy and twenty-two years as President of Ocean Grove. In the pastoral work and presiding eldership he was

always effective. Great revivals attended his ministry. He gave conscientious care to all Conference collections and did his full share in building new church edifices and in improving all church property. But Dr. Stokes will always be best known as the far-famed president of Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association. There he began his work in 1869 and for twenty-eight years gave his warmest devotion to its welfare. To Dr. Stokes under God more than to any other man—more than to all other men put together—Ocean Grove has become what it is, the great religious Mecca of the continent. His name and fame shall always stand especially linked with the name and fame of Ocean Grove. Not Ocean Grove and Dr. Stokes, but Dr. Stokes and Ocean Grove—for Ocean Grove in a great measure, under God, is the product of Dr. Stokes. Dr. Stokes as a scholar and author occupied a conspicuous position; though enjoying only the most meagre school opportunities himself he was a warm friend of higher education. For twenty-eight years he was a trustee of Pennington Seminary—the longest period of any trustee in the history of the school. He was a vivacious and voluminous writer. His works of prose and poetry are as follows:

In 1827 *A Book of One Hundred Poems*; 1843 *Swedesboro and Other Poems*; 1854 *Life of John Hancock, a Distinguished Local Preacher*; 1862 *Memorial Volume of his Daughter Mary*; 1865 *Memorial Volume of the New Jersey Conference*; 1868, *Our Darling Minnie, a Memorial Volume*; 1878, *Songs of the Sea, a Book of Poems*; 1884, *What I saw in Europe, a book of prose*; 1885, *Blossoms*—his most important book of poems; 1893, *Story of Fifty Years—Semi-centennial of his ministry*; 1894, *Starlights by the Sea—a book of poems*; 1895, His last volume—a beautiful book made up mostly of memorial poems with beautiful pictures of his heroes as Dr. Chas. Pitman, Dr. John P. Durbin, Alfred Cookman, Dr. Samuel Y. Monroe, John S. Inskip, George W. Batchelder, Hon. George T. Cobb, John R. Sweeny, Phillips Brooks, B. M. Adams, George W. Bain, George W. Childs, Samuel VanSant and wife, a beautiful picture and poem of his only daughter Mary. His letters to the Ocean Grove Record as editor and assistant editor for twenty years would make a dozen of interesting volumes. I quote from Bishop Newman's address at Dr. Stokes' funeral as follows:

"He himself, was no mean scholar. Take his addresses here when he introduced to a cultured audience the men of the nation, of the bar, or of medicine, or of the church. Here he introduced those citizens who are renowned throughout our land, with accuracy of language, precision of thought, what propriety of diction. Take his letters when abroad. What diction almost Addisonian. Take that beautiful poem in celebration of his golden wedding. You can find nothing in Longfellow or in Tennyson in harmony of numbers or perfection of rhythm or of loftiness of sentiment, nothing superior to those glorious attributes of that golden wedding effusion." In 1874 he received the title of D.D. from Dickinson College; in 1893 the title of LL.D. from the Washington College, State of Tennessee.

Dr. Stokes was above medium height, heavy set but not large, broad shouldered with very deep chest. His face was rugged and strong, yet mild and gentle. In action he was quick and energetic. Who can forget the cordial and robust shake of his hand? He had a dignified and majestic bearing that somewhat impressed his personality upon all with whom he came in contact; to the inner circle of his friends he was very cordial and affectionate. His home life was beautiful and tender—so considerate of his wife and attentive to every circumstance that would add to her happiness. For over fifty years they enjoyed life together in what was really an ideal and a most charming Christian home. Belonging to the New Jersey Annual Conference for more than fifty-three years he was

one of its most honored members. He was a delegate to the General Conference in 1868 and reserve delegate in 1864. His preaching was marked by vivacity and spirituality. It was descriptive rather than argumentative—abounding with quotations of Scripture and poetry—animated by a spiritual earnestness that was sure to make a religious impression. He was a diligent pastor, carrying religion with him wherever he went. Many souls were converted under his ministry and some of the greatest religious revivals in the Conference occurred in his pastoral charges. As presiding elder on the New Brunswick and Camden districts for eight consecutive years he was laborious, conscientious, wise and eminently successful. As president of Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association he stands pre-eminent. The great responsibilities of the office proved him to be a much greater man than he had shown himself to be in his pastoral charges. As this great religious centre grew to its gigantic proportions, becoming continental in its influence and power, so did Dr. Stokes grow and develop, showing a talent and genius for his great work that excited surprise as well as great admiration. Dr. Stokes in more than an ordinary degree was a consecrated man. His piety in fact was his most marked characteristic. He walked with God, had a deep religious experience. His life was very pure; his controlling purpose from the time he was converted till he fell asleep in Jesus, covering a period of sixty-three years—was to glorify God. He did it by performing all the service he was capable of while he lived, and he did it by bequeathing almost all his fortune to the cause of his Lord and Master after his decease. Dr. Stokes showed signs of declining health for years before his death. When planning for the great Auditorium in 1893 he had the first severe attack of heart failure, which was followed occasionally with attacks of prostration and exhaustion from which it was difficult to arouse him. It was from one of these attacks that he fell asleep in Jesus on July 16, 1897. He died at his home in Ocean Grove surrounded by his family and friends, his last words being, "I know you all." Thus passed away this great and good man, as gently as the infant falls asleep on the loving mother's breast.

The funeral was held in the great Auditorium which was the crowning work of Dr. Stokes' life. Not less than seven thousand people with many clergymen were present. Bishop FitzGerald preached a very able sermon from Job 5: 26, "Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age like as a shock of corn cometh in its season." Bishop Newman followed the sermon with a brief but eloquent funeral oration. Vice-President Ballard, Secretary Evans, Drs. Hanlon and Alday, Revs. J. R. Daniels, William Franklin, H. M. Brown, J. G. Reed, W. A. Allen and Presiding Elder J. L. Roe participated in the funeral services. The body of Dr. Stokes lay in state all night in the Auditorium where an unbroken procession of people passed by the coffin taking their last view of all that was mortal of this great and good man. On the following day, July 20, the body was borne to Haddonfield, N. J., where with brief religious services it was committed to its last resting place awaiting the resurrection of the just.

THOMAS O'HANLON.