

ALLEN, RAY

✓ The Rev. Ray Allen, D.D.

The Rev. Ray Allen, member of Genesee Conference, died, March 4, at Kenmore, N. Y., in his seventy-eighth year. He was born at Pavilion, N. Y.; educated at Academic Institute, LeRoy, N. Y., and received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Syracuse University. Before entering the ministry in Genesee Conference in 1886 he was a traveling railroad passenger agent for five years. For two years he served as a missionary in India. Returning to the United States, he went into the pastorate with appointments as follows: Alden; Ripley Memorial, Buffalo; Hedding, Rochester; Springville; Somerset; manager Silver Lake Assembly; associate editor *Northern Christian Advocate*; LeRoy; North Avenue, Rochester; associate Grace Church, Rochester; secretary Rochester Forward Movement; superintendent Central and Rochester Districts; executive secretary Genesee Wesleyan; Sentinel Church, Buffalo; East Avenue and Almond, Hornell; East Avenue, Hornell. He retired in 1928.

He had been the treasurer of Genesee Conference since 1926, and was its secretary from 1898-1911. Six times he was a delegate to the General Conference (1908, '16, '20, '24, '28, '32). He was a trustee of Genesee Wesleyan and of Silver Lake Institute. As a member of the General Conference Commission of Interdenominational Relations in 1928, he initiated an invitation to the Presbyterians to unite with the Methodist Episcopal Church. He had been a great traveler, having crossed the Atlantic forty-seven times; made twenty visits to Palestine, and covered every state in the Union and every province in Canada. He estimated that he had traveled 1,200,000 miles.

Dr. Allen was an individualist in his thinking, and was often in debate on the floor of the General Conference. He was an astute parliamentarian, and his gaunt figure, shrill and insistent voice, together with his ample intellectual equipment, gave him prominence in any deliberative assembly. An ardent democrat, he believed in a limited episcopacy and wrote and spoke frequently in support of his plan. He was the author of the *History of East Genesee Conference* and was the translator of the Gospel of Mark under the title, "That Wonderful Man, by John Mark."

In 1885, Dr. Allen married Bessie J. Bond, of Pavilion, N. Y., who died three years later. In 1895 he married Sarah E. Martin, of Alden, N. Y., who died in 1914. Their three sons—Earl, Carl, and Ralph Allen—survive, as does Dr. Allen's third wife, who was Miss Mabel E. Crabbe, of Brooklyn, to whom he was married in 1919.

THE CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

N. Y. Ed.
3-17-38

History certainly suggests that this would be the case. Martin Luther's sternest adversaries were the representatives of the church. John Wesley's most scornful critics were zealous churchmen.

The Pharisees were greatly shocked because the disciples did not always wash their hands in elaborate and ceremonial fashion before they ate bread. It is not a protest against uncleanness, but against a lack of fastidious ceremonialism.

Possibly the apostles did not demand water because they knew that to get the required water for twelve men would necessitate some tired woman putting a stone jar on her head and going to a neighboring spring for a fresh supply. But in the eyes of the Pharisees such human consideration did not at all excuse the neglect of the ceremony.

Tithers of Mint and Anise

We look down half contemptuously on these sticklers for ceremonial washings, but are the best of us free from the tendency to strain at a gnat and swallow a camel?

Students may regard derisively the man who appears at a formal function improperly clad and has not learned the conventions of polite society, but they do not regard with any reprobation the student who, in the face of the present world crisis, goes through college without delving deep into the great social and economic problems that confront us, and graduates without a disciplined mind, although this failure is nothing less than a crime against the society that has given him his special privileges.

Professors of English have been known to turn against manly, clear-headed preachers because of occasional lapses in grammar, yet they would not have been nearly so much disturbed if the ministers had failed to hold up Christ and Him crucified before a dying world.

And one occasionally finds a prominent businessman very zealous for his church, and yet his employees and competitors have good reason to mock his Christian pretensions. This very man perchance rises up against his pastor because he does not use the old shibboleths and is therefore not "spiritual."

Even the most consistent Christians are always tempted to put disproportionate time on tasks that do not greatly count, and neglect the weightier matters of the law. Let us not take it out too severely on the ancient Jews, but consider ourselves lest we also be tempted. It is frightfully easy to get a very pious excuse for not performing our plain duty.

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March 17, 1938

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