ALLEN, RAY
The Rev. Ray Allen, D.D.

The Rev. Ray Allen, member of Genesee Conference, died, March 4, at Keansmore, 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 travelling 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; Somerton; manager Silver Lake Assembly; associate editor Northern Christian Advocate; LeRay; 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 1936-1931. Six times he was a delegate to the General Conference (1908, '10, '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 anti-parliamentarian, and his great vigor, shrill and insistent voice, together with his ample intellectual equipment, gave him prominence in any deliberative assembly. An able orator, 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 transcriber of the Gospel of Mark under the title, "That Wonderful Man, by John Mark."

In 1885, Dr. Allen married Beeze 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 also Dr. Allen's third wife, who was Mabel E. Crabbe, of Brooklyn, to whom he was married in 1919.

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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 hygene but against a lack of spiritual 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 considerations 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 the camel?

Students may regard derisively the man who appears at a formal function improperly clad and last not bound to 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 economical 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 privilege.

Professors of English have been known to turn against mply, clear-headed preachers because of occasional lapses in grammar, yet they would not have been nearly so much disturbed if the minister 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 employers and competitors have good reason to mock his Christian pretensions. Thus very man voluntarily 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 comfort ourselves lest we also be tempted. It is frightfully easy to get a very fine nose for not performing our plain duty.

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Photographs from this file have not been included but are available upon request. For more information please contact research@gcah.org