



# The Princeton Seminary Bulletin



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## THE CAMPUS MOURNS

Princeton Seminary is in mourning.

The material for this issue of the *Bulletin* had already gone to press—except the copy for the opening editorial. Dr. Edward H. Roberts, the editor, had been engrossed in a multiplicity of campus duties, and other duties relating to the wider sphere of theological education. Before his editorial was ready, a sudden summons called him from this earthly life to the life everlasting.

Dr. Roberts had spent a busy day on the campus on Monday, December 13. He had had a long conference with the President, attended a meeting of the Committee on Graduate Studies, followed by the monthly meeting of the Faculty. He appeared to be in the best of health, and was certainly in the best of spirits. He dined at home, engaged in some chores around the house, and wrote up the minutes of the Faculty Meeting. At ten o'clock he experienced a violent heart attack. Within half an hour he had passed away. When the announcement was made in Chapel the following morning, a deep shadow fell across the campus which has since then been in deep mourning.

Since 1945, when he was appointed Dean of the Seminary, Dr. Roberts had become more and more a pivotal figure in the life of the institution. He was beloved and trusted by all who knew him or who had occasion to come in contact with him. For his colleagues of the Faculty and Administration he was a trusted partner, to the students a faithful and sympathetic counselor, to the Alumni a friend tireless in his efforts for their welfare, to the Church-at-large an outstanding preacher of the Word. In interseminary circles he was the symbol of dedication to the task of providing the Church with a worthy ministry. He was a leading exponent of progressive policies in theological education.

For eighteen and a half years Dr. Roberts had been for the writer of these lines a beloved friend, and a close confidant and comrade in all matters relating to the progress of the institution we both loved and served. Not a ripple of discord had ever disturbed the warmth and trust of our comradeship in service. A void has been created which God alone can fill. Only the inspiring memories of yesterday and the legacy of work accomplished, together with the marvelous cooperative spirit of all the members of the campus community, make it tolerable to bear.

The funeral service took place in Miller Chapel on Thursday afternoon,

December 16. That place of so many hallowed memories was thronged to capacity, although many students, their examinations over, had already left the campus. The President of the Seminary presided at the service. Dr. Charles R. Erdman, Dr. Roberts' old teacher and friend, recited impressive passages from the Old and New Testaments. The prayer was offered by the pastor of the Roberts' family, Dr. John R. Bodo, minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Princeton. A massed choir made up of students and former students led the singing. Dr. David Hugh Jones, at the organ, rendered moving selections from a repertoire of Welsh music which Dr. Roberts dearly loved. The swelling strains of his favorite Welsh hymn "Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah" preceded the passage of the pallbearers and the ministers down the Chapel aisle. In a quiet nook in Witherspoon Cemetery, on the edge of the Northern wall, the remains of one of the most loved figures in the long annals of Princeton Seminary were laid to rest.

The hearts of the whole Seminary family, present and past, and scattered throughout the globe, go out in deepest sympathy to Mrs. Roberts and John, and to the brothers and sisters on both sides of the house. John is now thirteen years of age. Throughout the painful ordeal, the spirit and courage of mother and son were marked by Christian resignation and triumphant faith. The hours between death and burial were truly sacramental; and the entire Seminary family was knit together in a mingled mood of desolation and triumph.

On the Monday of Commencement, June 6, a memorial service will be held, when addresses will be given by representatives of the Seminary and of other organizations to which Dr. Roberts gave distinguished service.

Meantime, Edward, farewell! And may the "Great Jehovah," who is also the "God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ," help those of us who remain behind to tread the path you walked, till traveling days are done—"until the day breaks and the shadows flee away." Till then, dear heart, farewell!

J. A. M.