

NINETY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

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entious and successful teacher. As a man his leading characteristics were *sterling integrity*—he despised shams of all kinds—faithfulness and devotion to duty, large capacity for hard work, independent, modest, humble, kind, companionable, devoted to and happy in his family.

Soon after coming to Brooklyn he became acquainted with Dr. Helmer, late pastor of Tompkins Avenue Congregational Church, and joined his church. He was an active Sunday-school worker, and he believed more in *true living* and in active earnest Christian endeavor than he did in formulated creeds.

He was a graduate of the Lay College, one of the instructors during last term of the Evening High School, and was an active member of the Long Island Historical Society.

Dr. Hamilton owed much to an even temper—a physical gift, indeed, but sanctified by the grace of God. In his home, affectionate and devoted; among his friends, courteous and unselfish; lenient in judgment and temperate in speech, he everywhere made friends. The four years at the Polytechnic endeared him to his associate instructors and his students as a man of thorough conscientiousness, of patient and laborious industry. The year he spent at the Lay College in studying sacred themes was well spent. Though head and shoulders above most of his class in culture, he was humble, unassuming, and ready always to meet his duties. One at least of his theses—“Advantages of the Study of Sacred Rhetoric”—was published. His last sickness was brief and severe. His mind wandered at the last. The tired teacher still taught. As if to cheer himself or chide a pupil, he said, “Steady! keep at it!” These his last utterances may well be remembered as an epitome of his earnest life.

HENRY WELLS.

BY Professor JOHN W. MEARS, D. D.

On the character and work of the late Henry Wells, Esq., of Aurora, Dr. Mears remarked that his acquaintance with the deceased was of the slightest, being limited to a single call made at his residence in Aurora last summer. All are aware that he was the founder of the express business, which in his day had grown from the carrying of packages under the arm or in wheelbarrow, to an interest co-extensive

with the great system of American railroads, and had stretched its arms across oceans and continents. The express business was one pleasantly connected with education; no school-boy or school-girl away from home but had at some time been cheered by its ministrations, and had a host of pleasant associations ready to weave around the name of its founder. We, however, are more deeply interested in the noble use which he made of the wealth accumulated in this business. We honor his wise zeal and liberality in the cause of female education in this State. So long as Wells College at Aurora exists the memory of its founder will be held in grateful remembrance.

I saw Mr. Wells when the signs of infirmity and disease were but too evident upon his person. Against my protestations, he insisted on rising to receive me, and on escorting me through his beautiful residence, pointing out the works of art with which it was adorned. I went over the elegant building which he had erected for the use of the college and marked the amplitude and perfection of its appointments. I was fain to pause at an alcove in one of the halls before a statue carved out of the purest marble, the design of which had been suggested by Mr. Wells himself to the artist in Italy. It represented Truth as a female figure armed, but no longer in the agony of conflict. Her face bore the serene aspect of assured victory. The sword in her hand points to the ground and her foot was upon a masque. Truth victorious in unmasking error was the theme. Mr. Wells evidently wished this work of art to embody his idea of the value and purpose of the education which he was offering to the maidens of the State. It should help to disclose the real deformity of error, and that would be sufficient to secure the triumph of Truth and the safety of her devotees.

Wells College was founded 1868. At the laying of the corner stone, July 19, 1867, Mr. Wells delivered an address, the following extract from which will more fully illustrate the commendable spirit in which the work was done:

“It is the fervent wish of the founder that this college may be conducted on truly Christian principles, and that its pupils may always be surrounded by an atmosphere of Christian influences. This feature of the education to be here imparted will, he hopes, ever be considered of the greatest importance. Highly appreciating the value of secular education, but not forgetful of its dangers when divorced from religious training, it is his heartfelt desire that in this institution the two shall ever be so thoroughly combined, that through their mutual and co-operative influence the young ladies who shall here spend their school-life shall become not only intelligent and cultivated but truly Christian women.”