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THE REV. WALTER AUGUSTUS BROOKS, D.D.

BY THE REV. HENRY COLLIN MINTON, D.D., LL.D.

The Rev. Walter Augustus Brooks, D.D., who was for a number of years and until January, 1913, the Recording Secretary of the Executive Council of The Presbyterian Historical Society, departed this life January 12, last. The immediate cause of his death, which occurred in Philadelphia, was a surgical operation from which he never rallied. The funeral service was held in the church of which he had been the beloved pastor, and the interment was in the beautiful Riverside Cemetery on the banks of the Delaware, just south of Trenton.

Dr. Brooks was born in 1849, in Genesee County, New York. He was a child of the manse, being the son of the Rev. Asahel L. Brooks, who was a Presbyterian pastor in New York, Connecticut and Illinois. His mother was Sarah T. Warner, of Revolutionary family and of Mayflower stock.

Dr. Brooks was graduated from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1872, and from the Union Theological Seminary of New York in 1875. His first pastorate was his only one. He at once took charge of a new enterprise in the western section of Trenton, New Jersey, and the new church, with its young pastor, entered upon a happy and successful career. In 1880 he was married to the eldest daughter of the late Judge John T. Nixon, who, with their only child, a recent graduate of Princeton University, sur-

vives him. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Lafayette College in 1893.

On account of failing health Dr. Brooks relinquished the pastorate of the Prospect Street Church in October, 1905, the thirtieth anniversary of his ordination; and for some years afterwards he served as editorial writer of the *Presbyterian*. But he continued to reside in Trenton until his death.

Dr. Brooks possessed qualities which enabled him to become an exceptionally useful servant of the Church. He was for thirty-five years a clerk of the venerable Presbytery of New Brunswick, in the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and for twenty-five years he served as stated clerk of the Synod of New Jersey. He was moderator of this Synod in 1905.

As pastor and presbyter, he was always faithful in the discharge of every detail of duty; and yet, so large was his interest and so wide was his vision in the outlook of the Church, that he was well able to interpret both the near and the far, each in the light of the other. He was modest and quiet, genial in companionship, slow to speak, and yet when he did speak, his words always carried great weight in counsel.

He combined in a rather unusual way the accuracy of the scribe with the efficiency of the executive, the affability of unruffled patience with the gentleness of an unflinching sympathy. His natural qualities were nobly crowned with the rich graces of a Christian life. These endeared him greatly to his brethren in the ministry and to a very large circle of friends who knew and loved him both as pastor and as friend.

His services in connection with the work of this Historical Society were of great value and were rendered at considerable sacrifice to himself, only because he loved the Church and was loyal to all her heritages and traditions. He was a faithful devotee of that branch of the Church with which he was immediately connected; and he was also profound in his faith in, and generous in his sympathy with, the wider field of Christian fellowship in the whole Church of God on earth.

In his life he was a noble and unselfish and able minister of the Word, and in his death he leaves a precious legacy to be treasured among the unfading memories of the years.



REV. WALTER A. BROOKS, D.D.