

**MEMORIAL SERVICES
FOR DR. MARSTON**

Grinnell Record 2-25, 1916
Former Pastor of the Congregational Church Is Honored by Those Who Loved Him.

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED ARE UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED

Rev. P. A. Johnson, Dr. E. C. Bliss, Mrs. E. R. Towle and Professor Charles Noble Speak.

Memorial services in honor of Rev. P. F. Marston, former pastor of the Congregational church, were held in the church last evening and resolutions presented by the advisory board of the church and read by J. M. Woodworth were unanimously adopted. There were four speakers, Rev. E. W. Cross presided and Rev. L. S. Hand offered the closing prayer. The vested choir sang an anthem.

All sides of Dr. Marston's character were reviewed and each speaker touched on the theme from a new angle. Rev. P. A. Johnson spoke of Dr. Marston as denominational leader. He referred movingly to the big brotherly love of the man and of how much it would have meant to the denominational work of the state if he had not been taken away just as he was reaching the point where he would have been most useful.

Dr. E. C. Bliss, speaking of Dr. Marston as a man said that first of all he was a good man. He was a man of wide reading, of culture and refinement. He was a man of infinite sympathy and tenderness and he was a man filled with the spirit of Christ.

In speaking of Dr. Marston as a pastor and a friend, Mrs. Towle touched a more personal note. She spoke of Dr. Marston as he entered Grinnell homes, both a pastor and a friend, to share the joys and sorrows of his people. Several anecdotes illustrated the kind thoughtfulness, the chivalry and the utter friendliness of the man.

Professor Charles Noble, in closing spoke of Dr. Marston as a preacher. He was essentially a preacher; an announcer of the word of God. His preaching was always carefully prepared, it was extensive and broad in scope and it was colored by a love of illustration from Dr. Marston's wide reading of the best things.

The resolutions adopted read as follows:

We, the members and attendants of the First Congregational church, of Grinnell, Iowa, desire that you will record our love and esteem for Dr. Percival F. Marston, our gratitude for what, under God, he did for us while our minister, and our sympathy with his family in the great sorrow that has come upon them in his illness and death.

Dr. Marston lived among us for three years an inspiring Christian life. His example pointed us to his Divine Master. His influence was always for the high and the true; as a citizen in our community, as a friend in our homes, and in our social life, he helped us in all that was good and won our affectionate admiration.

In his preaching, he always led us to the hatred of sin and the longing for goodness. With a simplicity and excellence his sermons always aroused our admiration for their truth and power. His preaching pointed us always away from himself and to his Master, the Christ. He set an ideal of Christian living before us which, though beyond our actual realization, will surely make our lives more nearly Christian than they could have been without it. Through the unique steadiness and power of his preaching, supported as it was by a rarely consistent and winning Christian personality, Mr. Marston has left a permanent mark upon the life of this church.

To Mrs. Marston and to his son and daughter, we can only tell our love for the one they mourn, and our genuine sympathy with them in their sorrow. We pray that they may be led to think of the great gift that has been theirs, in his presence in their lives; that while they sorrow they may yet rejoice in what God gave to them, as to all who really knew Percival Marston, the example and the power of a genuine Christian life.

(Unanimously passed at the memorial service, Feb. 24, 1916.)

**REV. P. F. MARSTON
DIES IN THE EAST**

Grinnell Record 2-25, 1916
Grinnell Friends Are Saddened By the News Which Flashes Across Wires Last Saturday.

FIRST WORD RECEIVED AT L. M. SMITH HOME

Card Received That Morning Stated Dr. Marston Was Showing Signs of Impoverishment.

Grinnell friends were greatly saddened on Saturday afternoon when the announcement was made through a tel-

egram to L. M. Slaith, of the death of Rev. P. F. Marston, formerly pastor of the Congregational church, at Concord, N. H. No particulars have been received, but it seems likely that death was unexpected as a telegram received the same morning at the Smith home stated that Mr. Marston had not seemed so well, but that he was growing better.

Mr. Marston made a large place for himself during his pastorate here. He came to Grinnell in 1912 from Chicago, where he had been a pastor for a number of years, and at once took a foremost place among the Congregational ministers of the state. He was without doubt one of the ablest preachers in Iowa at that time. He continued

his work successfully until the summer of 1914, when he left for his summer vacation in poor health. He did not return, the condition of his health being such that he was unable to resume his active duties. In the spring he again attempted to fill his pulpit, but in a short time it developed that he could not continue. Last June his resignation was accepted and since about that time he has been in the east, where he has been receiving careful medical care in the hope that his accustomed vigor might return. On every hand expressions of regret were heard when the telegram brought word that the death angel had come, and Mrs. Marston and the members of the family are sure of the sincere sympathy of the people of Grinnell.