

RESOLUTION HONORING
PROFESSOR H. W. MATLACK
ADOPTED BY ALUMNI
H-R. June 7, 1937



PROFESSOR H. W. MATLACK

At a meeting of the College Alumni Association Saturday morning the following tribute to the late Professor H. W. Matlack, former alumni secretary, was read by R. Y. Kerr, executive secretary, and was adopted by rising vote and a brief period of silence.

"In this chapel, where his music inspired and cheered so many audiences and in this traditional gathering, marked for so many years by his guiding presence, the Alumni of Grinnell College pause in grateful memory of Henry William Matlack. The abiding peace which has been brought is mingled with the abiding memories of his vigorous presence. We remember him as a fellow alumnus, as a senior professor of the college, as Alumni Secretary and as a genial friend. We remember his brilliant mind, his artist gifts and his zest for life, brimming to the full. And especially do we remember the great place which this college and its graduates held in his thoughts and his affections. We are conscious of his great musical acrobatics, and of his consistency and ungenerous confidence which gave us his famous rallying hymn, 'Here Come the Pioneers!'"

"We direct that this memorial be made part of the permanent records of the Grinnell Alumni Association, even as he has made his life a permanent part of our memories; and that a copy be sent to Mrs. Matlack."

One could not help but think that if he had been present, if the service had been for someone else, he would have found it good that his organ postlude would have reflected the rich spirit surrounding the whole occasion.

All the music rendered at the service was by Bach, a composer whose perfection of attainment had been especially dear to Professor Matlack's trained musical sense. The organ prelude, played by Keith Davenport, was "In Thee, Lord, Have I Put My Trust." The Vesper choir, under the direction of Professor Elias Blum, sang the noble chorale, "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" and the organ interlude Professor Blum played "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring."

Rev. Robert Ingles, pastor of the Congregational church, which Professor Matlack had served for so many years as minister of music, presided over the service.

Dr. Steiner's address was a moving tribute inspired by a close personal friendship. It was so intimate, so personal, that any attempt to report it fully could only result in failure. He found his apt in the words from Job: "When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of men shouted for joy."

He said in part: "Professor Matlack at the organ was one of the most gifted of the sons of Israel. There are those who die with all their music still in them; there are others who have no music at all; some hear their music with the ears; some with their hearts; others with their minds. Professor Matlack heard it with his whole being. He knew it and loved it as long as it was not false or cheap. He was at his best at the organ, an instrument which he knew and loved."

"He was one of those who arranged this program of Vespers. Other things have changed, but this program, as originally designed, has remained unchanged through all these thirty-six years and will continue as a source of inspiration as long as the walls of this college shall stand."

"Professor Matlack," he continued, "was always himself. He never pretended. He was an infinitely greater and better man than he would ever have admitted. He was an unassuming

LAST TRIBUTE
IS PAID TO
H. W. MATLACK

Special Memorial Vesper Service Is Held Sunday.

"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace." The words, sweetly chanted by the Vesper choir, fell like a benediction at the close of a singularly appropriate and beautiful memorial service for Professor H. W. Matlack at the Vesper hour in Herrick Chapel Sunday afternoon.

There was much of rich sentiment connected with the service. It was one of the golden October afternoons when Professor Matlack lived so greatly. As the service closed and the last "Amen" came like a benediction to the assembled worshippers, outside the sun was sinking in a glorious sunset and the sweet chirping of nesting birds mingled with the music from within.

The service in its perfection and appropriateness was worthy of the occasion and of the man who sought perfection in all his works on this earth. The Vesper service which he helped to formulate lent itself kindly to the occasion and a simple and heartfelt tribute by his friend, Professor E. A. Steiner, found its way into the hearts of those who listened.

It was singularly fitting also, that these final obsequies should be conducted in Herrick Chapel, as when so much of Professor Matlack's activity had centered, at the Vesper service, to which in his lifetime he had contributed so greatly, and in the presence of the student body to whose service he had devoted so much of his active life.

of his modesty as he was of his greatness."

Dr. Steiner said that he and Professor Matlack had been brought together in the fellowship of suffering. He referred with emotion to the letters which he had received from Professor Matlack at a time when he was in a hospital and needed the comfort and reassurance which they afforded and told movingly of his associations and talks with Professor Matlack during the latter's illness.

In conclusion he referred to the love and loyalty and unbroken patience of the members of Professor Matlack's family; to the many messages in which former students and expressed their debt to him and in particular to the service rendered by Mrs. J. P. Ryan in playing to the sick man the music which he loved to his dying day.

A few lines from Richard Watson Gilder's poetry opened the address to a suitable close.

At the Sunday morning service at the Congregational church the music was also dedicated to Professor Matlack, who had been minister of music there for three periods, from 1901 to 1903, 1909 to 1919 and 1928 to 1933. Here also selections by Bach were favored. Professor Ebert Smith at the organ played as a prelude "Kommt, susset Tod" and as a minor. The offertory was "Jesu meine Freude" and was followed by the familiar and lovely symphonic duo, "Kammerlied Ostrom," by Higgard Ryan at the piano and Professor Smith at the organ. This duo is one which Professor Matlack and Mrs. Ryan had played a number of times at this service. The anthem, "Whosoever Thy heart is filled with care," by E. B. Schreyer, a former colleague of Professor Matlack at the college faculty. The flowers at the service came from the beautiful Matlack gardens.

At a private service Saturday morning in the Snyder Brothers' chapel, attended by the family and a few close friends, Rev. Robert Ingles read from the Scripture and read some poems, commemorating the various phases of Professor Matlack's character.