

D. D., Minister, Author, Traveler And Friend Of Grinnell

The Herald is in receipt of a letter from Mrs. James L. Hill enclosing clippings from the Salem Evening News of Salem, Mass., regarding the career and funeral of her distinguished husband, whose death has already been noted in this paper. Mrs. Hill also enclosed the last article which Dr. Hill ever wrote for publication. It is a historical appreciation of Salem, the city where he was a minister for so many years. It appeared in the Salem News the very day that he took to his bed. Mrs. Hill writes:

"He was sick in bed only two days when he passed away without any pain. It is a cause for greatest gratitude that his mental activity was unabated and that he was able to continue his work so near to the end."

The following material from The Salem Evening News will be read with interest by many friends here:

Rev. James L. Hill, D.D., one of the most widely known Congregational clergymen in Massachusetts, although he has been retired several years, died at his home, 225 Lafayette street, in his 83rd year. He had been a sufferer from heart disease for a long time, but occasionally took short walks out of doors. Only last Sunday afternoon, he and Mrs. Hill called at the home of a neighbor, a member of The News staff, and left an article for publication, which appeared in this paper last Tuesday. He was exceedingly happy at that time, and joked and laughed with all of his accustomed manner. At the request of The News Dr. Hill two years ago prepared this sketch of himself:

Dr. Hill was a contemporary with Daniel Webster, Dolly Madison, and Mary Lyon, the pioneer in the education of girls, who began her career as teacher, receiving 75 cents a week with board and went from Essex county and passed through Salem on her way to South Hadley, to hang a seminary on the brow of a mountain, and to plant the seeds of Mount Holyoke, Vassar, Wellesley and Smith colleges. His father, Rev. James J. Hill, was born in Maine before it was admitted as a state to the union.

The outstanding inspiration and impulse given to his life, the son felt came from the character and memory of his mother, born in Bath, who went with her husband to Iowa, when it was a territory. There was no settled minister between them and the North Pole, and none west of them to the Sunset sea. Their table was spread with bear meat and wild honey. Into these conditions, March 14, 1848, Dr. Hill was born. Half of the states which have been added to the 13 original colonies, have been admitted to the union during his day. His father gave the first dollar to found Grinnell college and remembering that fact, the son gave the first dollar to found Yankton college.

The circumstances are set out in Durand's Joseph Ward of Dakota. He graduated at Grinnell in 1871, was elected tutor, and later became a trustee of the college. He was elected a member of the Phi Beta Kappa, on nomination, by the faculty of the college, at the initial meeting of the chapter. He graduated at Andover Theological Seminary in 1875, and had the best place on the graduating program. On the 25th anniversary of his graduation, he was elected, by his class to give the address before the trustees. In the last 12 months in the seminary, he earned \$800.

He had a unanimous call to the North church in Lynn before he had graduated from Andover. He preach-

ed the election sermon, at the Old South church in Boston, before the governor and the legislature of Massachusetts, and in 1878, in congratulating him, Governor Rice said that it was the best sermon preached during his term of office. After he was 80 years old, he still performed the marriage ceremony, and for preaching, received a check every month. Having delivered his first sermon in 1871, and since then, having continued preaching occasionally, he had gone on thus for quite a period beyond a half century.

Works of his have been published by the government of both states where he has lived, Iowa and Massachusetts. He had given over 400 addresses at Society of Endeavor conventions and anniversaries, and 275 formal travel lectures and platform addresses on stated occasions.

One summer he supplied the united congregations of five churches in Jersey City for six Sundays, and the summer before he occupied the pulpit of the Second Presbyterian church at St. Louis. He was called to the American Church in Leipsic. He had made convention addresses at the capitals of all the New England states, and reckoning Rhode Island and Connecticut as each having two capitals, this statement would still be true. He campaigned in England in the interests of the Society of Christian Endeavor, and founded the Society at Old Boston in England.

He was a member for life of the board of trustees of the Young People's society and a member of the executive committee. He was one of four, who acquired the society paper and was the largest giver, \$10,000, to the headquarters building in Boston. The society paper said, "No one is more popular on a Christian Endeavor platform than James L. Hill, D.D., and few are in greater demand." In its published vote of thanks, Post 65, G. A. R., makes this public record: "It has not been the province of this post ever to have, since its organization, such an oration delivered to them and, Sir, it stirred the same feeling of patriotism in our hearts that caused us to leave our homes in '61-'65."

He has published 48 books and pamphlets. His contributions to the papers and his other fugitive pieces, have been gathered up into three red morocco volumes of 956 pages, as large as an Atlas, entitled his "Life and works." Touching one of his books, a missionary in Burmah, India, wrote to him "You can write and I can read. That was one of the finest things I ever read. I refer to the Immortal Seven."

Who dips his pen in morning light And writes in music sweet and bright Should scratch away with all his might.

Any Christian man that can make such a graceful use of his pen as you can, ought to make a large use of it."

In the Journal and Messenger, it was said that "Doctor Wayland's life of Judson; Dr. Edward Judson's life of his father; Dr. Wyeth's missionary sketches are more formal, and possibly more exhaustive; but none of them has the attractiveness, or so portrays its heroes and heroines as does this little volume.

"If marriage be a lottery," Dr. Hill drew a first prize in 1878, when making up his firm. He married in 1878 Miss Lucy B. Dunham, daughter of the chaplain of the Massachusetts senate. She survives him. She was one of those daughters of the manse

who have risen to places of influence, and have attained a merited distinction. She was war president of the Salem Women's club for three years. She was president for nine years of the Salem Society for the Higher Education of Women, and president for 20 years of the Essex South Missionary organization; thus presiding, consecutively, at 40 of the semi-annual gatherings, which included 26 churches and a constituency of a thousand women.

Dr. Hill secured the gift of the bronze tablet for the Tabernacle church memorializing the ordination there of our earliest foreign missionaries, also the tablet and flag pole in the yard of the First Baptist church in honor of Judson and his missionary wife; and the tablet and flag pole in Lafayette park, commemorating the enterprise and resolute spirit of the citizens of Salem in rebuilding their walls after the great conflagration. The commissioners on the rebuilding of the city gave him the credit of being the first to suggest the accepted name for Lafayette park.

He was the great-great-grandson of John Langdon, the outstanding sire, and so when a new street was being opened in Salem, as he owned five houses in this new way, he put up on the corner a design marked with his maddie name, "Langdon," as a suggestion for the name of the street. The papers stated that the first hero from Salem, killed in the World war lived on Langdon street. Thus the name of the street still stands.