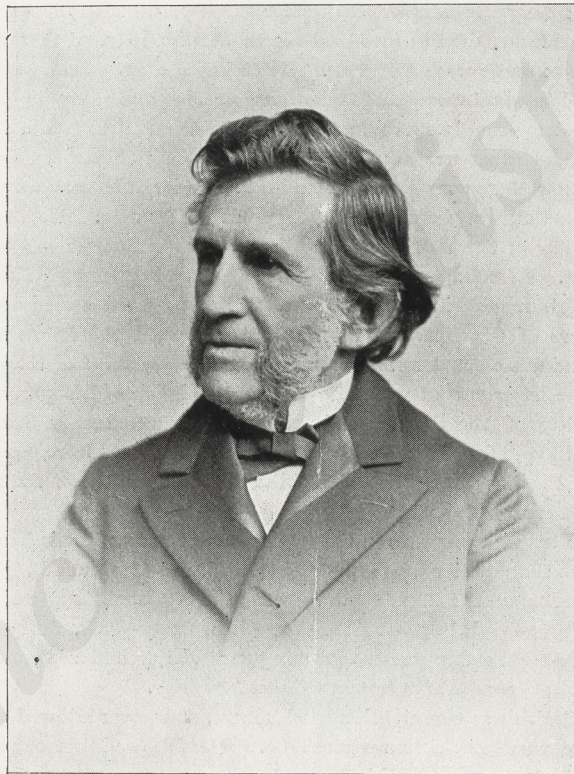


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In
Memoriam



Hon. A. Herr Smith

1815 == 1894

Hon. A. Herr Smith

On Friday morning, February 16, 1894, announcement was made in Lancaster that the Hon. A. Herr Smith had closed his earthly career after a brief illness of only one week's duration. His death was due to a complication of diseases following an attack of *la grippe*. Mr. Smith was born near Millersville, Lancaster county, on the 7th of March, 1815. His father died in 1818 and his mother in 1827, so that from the age of 12 years he was an orphan. He obtained a preparatory education at an academy in Lititz, studied civil engineering and surveying in Lancaster, and assisted in surveying the route of the Pennsylvania Railroad through Lancaster, was employed in a store for two years, spent some time at the college near Haddington, Philadelphia, and afterward attended Dickinson College, from which he graduated in 1840. He began the study of law in the Fall of the same year, and in due time was admitted to the bar. He soon rose to distinction, and in a surprisingly short time to the highest rank in his profession. He was elected a member of the Legislature of Pennsylvania in 1843 and re-elected the following year. In 1845 he was elected to the State Senate for one term of three years, during the latter part of which he was the candidate of his party for the Speakership of the Senate, and failed to be elected only because he declined to vote for himself. Had he so voted he would have become, by virtue of his office, the Governor of the Commonwealth on the resignation of Governor Shunk.

Upon his retirement from the Legislature of Pennsylvania he devoted himself to the practice of his profession until the Autumn of 1872, when he was elected on the Republican ticket to the National Congress, serving in the Forty-third, Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth, Forty-seventh and Forty-eighth Congresses with singular fidelity and zeal, and *longer than any man ever elected to represent Lancaster county*.

Mr. Smith was conscientious and honest, and never allowed a caucus to dictate what his action should be. He followed his convictions, whether in harmony with his party or not. His speeches in Congress were able and exhaustive, indicating thoroughness of research and knowledge of the subjects considered, and were highly commended by the press and reading public generally.

Mr. Smith was for many years a trustee of Dickinson College, Carlisle, and later he sustained a similar relation to Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa. He was a director of the First National Bank of Lancaster, and interested in many of the industrial enterprises of Lancaster as well as the literary and charitable institutions of both the city and county, all of which found in him a warm and substantial friend.

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He was never married, but lived with his only sister, also unmarried, Miss Eliza E. Smith, in an unpretentious home on North Lime Street, Lancaster. Here they manifested the grace of hospitality and planned and devised for the benefit and blessing of scores and even hundreds of worthy persons and enterprises. Plain and unostentatious in all things, Mr. Smith was especially so in charity and benevolence. Possessing large wealth, recognizing his obligations to God, clothed with humility in a manner and to a degree seldom witnessed, he sought out those who were in need, or seconded the offices of his devoted sister in this direction, and in such a way that the words addressed to Cornelius might be appropriately addressed to him, "Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God."

The churches of Lancaster county, especially the Methodist Episcopal churches, have reason to remember him, for almost all of them had received his benefactions. The First Church, Lancaster, which he attended with great regularity, contains a magnificent window erected by him and his sister, jointly, as a memorial to their sainted parents, and nearly one-tenth of the entire cost of the new building recently erected, at an expense of over \$83,000, was given by him. Enlargement along the line of his acts is unnecessary. What has been written reveals the man—a man of pure and lofty motive, having before him a high ideal of character and life, and seeking daily, through the Word of God, by prayer and trust in the all-atoning merit of Christ as a personal Saviour, to whom he devoted himself in the days of his boyhood, to make the ideal a reality in his experience and before the world. The end of such a man must be peace, and so our friend found it, for he came to the close of his earthly course in full consciousness with the light of the Divine smile illuminating his countenance as he sank quietly to sleep.

Appropriate funeral services were held in the First M. E. Church, Lancaster, on Tuesday afternoon, February 20th, under the direction of the pastor, Rev. J. T. Satchell, who delivered an address. The Scripture lessons were read by Drs. McConnell and Vernon, and prayer was offered by Rev. W. C. Robinson, former pastors and personal friends of the deceased. Prior to leaving the late home of the deceased brief services were held under the direction of Mr. Satchell, and were participated in by Rev. P. Rowbottom, the rector of St. James' Protestant Episcopal Church; Rev. Dr. Mitchell, of the First Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Mr. Fry, of the Trinity Lutheran Church. Hon. Judge Livingston and the members of the Lancaster bar; Rev. Dr. Stahr, President of Franklin and Marshall College; Dr. Apple, of the faculty, and the trustees testified their respect for the deceased by their presence at the services. A large congregation occupied the spacious church, and at the close of the services reverently looked upon the quiet form, sorrowing that they should see his face no more.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

J. S. J. McCONNELL.