

The PRESBYTERIAN SURVEY

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1872—JOHN IRVINE ARMSTRONG—1924

AN APPRECIATION

R. E. MAGILL, *Secretary*

With aching hearts, stunned minds, but, we trust, with submissive wills and unquestionable faith, we announce the death of the Editor-in-Chief of our Sunday School Publications, Rev. John I. Armstrong, D. D., which occurred on March 8, 1924.

He was stricken with pneumonia on Monday, March 3rd, and after five days' illness, during which every remedy known to modern medical science was used, he entered into eternal rest.

Dr. Armstrong left as a legacy a record of service to our Church and to the Kingdom of God conspicuous for its devotion to high ideals, the sacrificial giving of himself to his work, gracious consideration of the opinions of others, and of loyalty to his friends. He consecrated his life to the task of Christian education, and to a mental endowment of a high order he added the equipment which comes through continuous study and research. He received the degree of A. B. and M. from Hampden-Sidney College and immediately took up the profession of teaching. He was associated with the Wallace School for boys at Nashville, Tenn., until he entered Union Seminary at Richmond for his theological training. He graduated with distinction in 1904, and was called at once to the chair of Moral Philosophy and Preaching by his Alma Mater, Hampden-Sidney College. This position he

held until he accepted the chair of Philosophy and English Bible at Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Ga., in 1906. In order to enlarge his usefulness, he accepted at the same time the pastorate of the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in the suburbs of Atlanta. The heavy burden was carried successfully.

He became Educational Secretary of Foreign Missions in 1913, and held this position until 1920. A new literature of an exceptionally high order was created, and the Church was given a new vision of its missionary obligation and an intensive course of study

was launched, which, if followed, will give our people an intimate knowledge of conditions in every field we occupy.

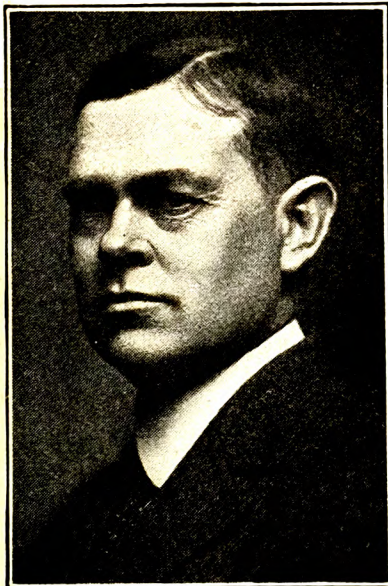
The Lewisburg Seminary of West Virginia found itself in need of a President, and laid a call upon Dr. Armstrong's heart. He accepted this arduous task in 1920, and rendered a great service to the cause of Christian education in carrying this institution through a grave financial crisis.

The Publication Committee made three attempts to have Dr. Armstrong accept a place on its Editorial Staff. Our last call, to become Editor-in-Chief of all the Publications of the Southern Presbyterian Church, appealed to him as offering a field of boundless usefulness and a task that would tax his resources to the limit. It was characteristic of the man that he always sought tasks that involved great personal sacrifice. He took full charge of our publications on April 1, 1923, and here entered upon what promised to be his largest service to the Church. He began at once a broad and constructive plan of developing and improving our periodicals, and enlisted at once the enthusiastic support of his associates in the Editorial and Educational Departments.

Dr. Armstrong personally reviewed every line of copy appearing in our

twenty-four Sunday School periodicals, and his fine judgment was reflected in the improvement of all the periodicals. In addition he prepared the expository notes which appeared in the *Earnest Worker*, and many of the leading Editorials.

Throughout the Church his fine work and spirit were recognized, and this sudden ending of a rich and fruitful life brings grief and regret to the whole Church. He leaves a devoted wife and five children, ages six to eighteen years, and the sympathy of the whole Church is with them in their great bereavement.



John Irvine Armstrong.