

THE  
PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.

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I.

THE SILENCE OF SCRIPTURE A PROOF OF  
ITS DIVINE ORIGIN.

SILENCE is sometimes big with testimony. Evidence does not all get syllabled in speech. "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language." The praise does not get spoken audibly to the ear of men; but the swinging worlds are forever testifying to the "eternal power and divinity" of Him who fashioned them in the past, and holds them still in his resistless and measureless leash. All the starry hosts of the sky are "moving their rounds in silent rhythm and inaudible song."

Robert Hall has a sermon on the text: "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing,"\* in which he says it is difficult to determine whether the glory of God appears more in what He displays or in what He conceals. "Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself." Hiding, while yet revealing, He, in the very revelation, has given proof of the divinity that shaped it by the silences that thunder along the sacred text.

It would ill befit silence to claim for it everywhere the place of "Sir Oracle." Silence is not always a pearl of great price. It is not a pearl of any price when enforced by ignorance. It must be "cunning in dumbness"—not dumb from mere stupidity. Its worth lies in its withholding speech with a purpose, and for some high end. When it is of necessity, because of the utter paucity of its own

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\* Works of Robert Hall, London, 1845, vol. vi.

VIII.  
EDITORIAL NOTES.

JAMES EELLS.

WE are suddenly called upon to mourn the departure of our associate editor, the Rev. James Eells, D.D., LL.D., the representative of Lane Theological Seminary in the Presbyterian Review Association. The summons came to him in the midst of abounding usefulness and in the fulness of his powers to remove from his ministry in this world to the higher ministry to be assigned him by the Lord Jesus. Dr. Eells has served the Presbyterian Church as pastor of several important churches in Brooklyn, Cleveland, and San Francisco, as Professor of Practical Theology in Lane Theological Seminary, at Cincinnati, as an associate editor of this REVIEW from its foundation, and as a Moderator of the General Assembly. In all of these relations he won the admiration of his associates for the ease and grace and wisdom with which he did all that was required of him. During the past summer he devoted himself with self-sacrificing zeal to the important work of securing additional endowments for the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at San Francisco. His efforts were eminently successful, but they have not been completed, and it is to be feared that the San Francisco Seminary has suffered an irreparable loss. It is greatly to be desired, therefore, that the friends of sacred learning and the numerous friends of Dr. Eells should take up the cause he had so greatly at heart. No better monument could be erected to his memory than the endowment of a professorship that should bear his name.

Lane Theological Seminary should have the heartfelt sympathy of the Church in her bereavement. Dr. Eells was so admirable in all his relations as a Professor of Practical Theology, that the loss will be keenly felt.

Dr. Eells was one of the founders of this REVIEW, and has proved himself its faithful friend. The writer feels that he has been deprived of a wise counsellor, and he will greatly miss the hand of one who was ever prompt and reliable to render help in time of need. The readers of this number of the REVIEW have the privilege of several of the latest productions of his pen.

The wife and children of Dr. Eells are the greatest sufferers from this bereavement. They are to be congratulated for the honored name and the noble life with which they are so intimately associated. They will be sustained by the sympathy and prayers of multitudes who have enjoyed the ministry of Dr. Eells and by the ministers of the Church he has served so faithfully and so well. Above all, they will be comforted by the supreme Comforter, who has a purpose of grace even in this severe affliction.

C. A. BRIGGS.