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WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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The Athens of Socrates and the Athens of St. Paul

Rev. Albert J. Alexander, D. D.

I

We are told that when the Jews stirred up a riot in Macedonian Beroea also, the Christian brethren sent Paul off at once on his way to the sea. His escort apparently did not leave him until they had delivered him safe upon Attic soil.

We can imagine the apostle and his companions walking the short few miles from the Port of Piræus up to Athens. Many others have taken that path, men living just before Paul's day, or his contemporaries, or those to come shortly after. Philo and Josephus have followed the line of "the long walls", and Cicero and Seneca. All the world went that road to its school-masters. For Athens was—shall we say is—the intellectual and artistic capital of the world.

Of course when Paul covered the ground the "long walls" were down. But the tradition regarding those walls, which gave to Athens at the height of her power a protected way to the sea, was strong in Paul's day. Indeed it still abides a proud memory.

Entering the city and bending his steps toward the Agora (or market place) Paul would have the Theseum and the temple to Zeus and the Stadium on his right. On his left would rise the Acropolis, Mars Hill, and the Pnyx.

**Rev. James Caruthers Rhea Ewing,
D.D., LL.D., K.C.I.E.**

REV. JAMES A. KELSO

By birth and education James Caruthers Rhea Ewing was a son of Western Pennsylvania. He saw the light of day on January 23, 1854, near Saltsburg, in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania. In 1872 he entered Washington and Jefferson College and graduated in 1876. The same year he entered the Western Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pa., and completed the regular course of that institution as a member of the Class of 1879. He was ordained by the Presbytery of Kittanning on September fourth of the same year, as he was under appointment by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church. A few weeks later he landed in India, where he was to spend his life as a preacher, educator, and leader in the Church of Christ.

He began his missionary career at Fatehgarh. It was here that he learned the language and made his first acquaintance with the people to whom he was to minister. After two years he was transferred to Allahabad, the capital of the Northwest Province (afterward the United Province of Agra and Ough) where he spent three years. At this period of his missionary career Dr. Ewing devoted himself to evangelistic work. In India the term "evangelistic work" is used to cover preaching to non-Christians in bazaars, at the city gates, and itinerating among the villages of the district. This type of work compels the missionary to learn the mental habits of the people and to become acquainted with the details of their religion. While the missionary learns the mental and spiritual idiosyncrasies of the people, he himself receives a thorough schooling for his future labors. In Dr. Ewing's case these years of apprenticeship were to bear rich fruit in his career of missionary leadership.

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Dr. Ewing's fellow missionaries were so impressed with the rapid progress which he had made in learning the language and in understanding the people, that he was transferred to a chair in the theological seminary at Saharanpur within five years of his arrival in the country. In this institution he labored three years, training native preachers for the Presbyterian Churches of India, and in order to make it possible for the native preacher, unacquainted with English, to use his New Testament in Greek, he published a dictionary, "Greek-Hindustani Dictionary of New Testament Greek". His Alma Mater, Washington and Jefferson College, recognized his contribution to theological education by conferring the degree of D. D. in 1887.

It was at the Theological Seminary that Dr. Ewing speedily won his spurs as an educator. Within four years after his taking up theological teaching he became President of Forman Christian College at Lahore in the Punjab, a position which he held for thirty years. Under his presidency the institution prospered and came to be generally recognized as one of the leading Christian colleges of the Indian Empire. Forman Christian College is affiliated with the Punjab University, and through this affiliation Dr. Ewing was in turn, a fellow of the University, dean, and for the seven closing years of his presidency vice-chancellor of the Punjab University.

Busy as his teaching and administrative duties kept him, Dr. Ewing found time for literary work. The output of his pen was extensive for one who was engaged in administrative duties. His writings were devotional and biographical. Among the former we may mention "Seven Times Victorious", to which ought to be added numerous contributions to the religious press, American and Indian. Among the latter we note the "Life of Dr. Duff" and "A Pioneer of the Church in India" (Life of Rev. Dr. K. C. Chatterjee.) In the year 1918, while on

Rev. James Caruthers Rhea Ewing

furlough, Dr. Ewing served as lecturer on the Severance Foundation at his theological Alma Mater. His course of lectures on Hinduism were delivered under the title "The Growth of a Mighty System".

He severed his connection with the Forman Christian College in 1918 and became the Secretary of the India Council, a directing administrative agency of our missions. In this position he wielded a far-reaching influence as the general adviser and counsellor of all the work of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in India. Dr. Ewing returned to his native land in 1922 and settled in Princeton, N. J., where as lecturer on Missions he became a member of the Faculty of the Theological Seminary. A year later he was elected a member of the Board of Foreign Missions, and on November 17, 1924 received the high honor of being selected by this same Board as its President. But God in His providence did not permit the Board of Foreign Missions to enjoy the benefit of his ripe experience and wise judgment for many months, for on August 20, 1925, he was suddenly called to his Heavenly reward. Without question, Dr. Ewing was the leading American missionary in India. He was trusted and honored by all classes, British and native Indians. The British Government recognized his services to the people of India by the many honors which they conferred on him. His zealous labors for the alleviation of famine suffering were recognized by the Kaiser-i-Hind Gold Medal, which was presented to him by King Edward VII. in 1907, and a year later his Alma Mater conferred the degree of LL. D. on him in recognition of his notable services to the cause of missions. In 1915, King George V. created him a Companion of the Indian Empire, and a little later (in 1923) made him Knight Commander of the Indian Empire. This latter honor entitled him to use the title of knighthood; he was no longer Dr. Ewing, but Sir James C. R. Ewing, K. C. I. E. But the honor which he himself prized most

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of all was the election to the presidency of the Board of Foreign Missions.

Dr. Ewing is survived by his widow, Mrs. Jane Sherrard Ewing, who resides in Princeton, N. J., and by three daughters and two sons. The missionary mantle of the fathers has fallen upon two of the daughters, who are wives of missionaries in India. A third married daughter resides in America. His eldest son is engaged in social service activities, while the younger has recently been taken under the care of Presbytery as a candidate for the ministry.

When the Associated Press telegrams of August 21st flashed the news of Dr. Ewing's sudden and unexpected death there was universal mourning in the Church which he had served long and faithfully both in India and America, for all realized that a prince and a great man in the Church of Christ had fallen that day.