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A Memorial Sketch

of

WILLIAM G. NEVILLE

D. D., L. L. D.

(President of Presbyterian College of South Carolina)

By JAMES H. THORNWELL, D. D.

1907

Mr. W. L. Jones, Librarian;-

The James H. Thornwell, D. D., mentioned as the author of the memorial to Dr. Neville, is the second of that name. The first James Henley Thornwell was the owner of the Thornwell Library which we have, was President of S. C. College and of Columbia Theological Seminary, and one of the most profound thinkers and writers that the South has ever known.

The son, who wrote the memorial to Dr. Neville, was also James Henley Thornwell, pastor at Ft. Mill and Ebenezer Churches near Rock Hill for most of his ministry. He became interested in Presbyterian College, and during the sessions of 1902-3 and 1903-4 he raised some money for the college. This was while I was still President of the College, and in order to give Dr. Thornwell more prestige and more authority in soliciting funds, he was called "Chancellor" of the College for those two years. He has been dead for a good many years. I do not know what college he attended. His son, who is Supt. of Schools at Hartsville, S. C., and whom we honored a year ago with the degree of Doctor of Literature, was graduated from P. C. about 1905 or 1906. He is James Henley Thornwell, III.

Hope this will give you the needed information as to James Henley Thornwell II, the author of the memorial to Dr. Neville, which I am returning to you by the Officer of the Day.

Yours,

A. E. Spencer

A MEMORIAL SKETCH
OF
WILLIAM G. NEVILLE, D. D., L. L. D.

(President of Presbyterian College of South Carolina.)

By JAS. H. THORNWELL, D. D.



¶ Prepared and published by order of the Board of Trustees of the Presbyterian College of South Carolina; the expense of publication being borne by Dr. Neville's last charge the Yorkville Presbyterian Church

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WILLIAM G. NEVILLE, D. D., L. L. D.

BORN JULY 2ND, 1855

DIED JUNE 8TH, 1907

In Memorium.

IT would be almost impossible to frame a sentence that would cause more genuine sorrow among the Presbyterians of South Carolina than the telegram announcing the death of Dr. William Gordon Neville. When this sad news was flashed over the wires tears trickled from eyes unused to weeping, a pall of gloom settled over our Synod and hearts were crushed with grief. All felt that a good man and a prince in Israel had fallen. Telegrams of condolence and sympathy poured in from all directions. Churches adopted tributes of personal loss. Yorkville church (his old charge) draped her pulpit and chair in mourning and craved the honor of having his body sleep in her cemetery. This request being impracticable, a large delegation headed by their noble pastor drove 22 miles after night for one more look in his face before he was laid to rest until the resurrection morn.

I first met Dr. Neville in the aisle of the lecture room of the First Presbyterian Church at Columbia, he was then a student at the Seminary. I had just preached from the words of Johnathan to David, "Thou shalt be missed, for thy seat will be empty." Approaching me, he introduced himself, and grasping my hand said: "You have encouraged me today to try to so live that, when my seat is empty, I shall be missed." How well he kept that promise, a mourning Synod, a disconsolate Presbytery and a heart-broken College can testify. I next met Dr. Neville in Abbeville, in 1882, when he and I entered the Synod together. Our acquaintance soon ripened into friendship, a friendship which grew stronger as the years rolled on,

a friendship that stood the strain of all the vicissitudes of life and was not broken even at the grave, but leaves the survivor with many precious treasures in the casket of memory, while waiting until the shadows are a little longer drawn, when I shall find him, I trust, waiting to welcome his friend to that beautiful home of which he talked so much on earth. "I am distressed for thee my brother Johnathan; very pleasant hast thou been unto me, thy love was wonderful unto me, passing the love of woman."

How much and how widely he is missed! It is truly startling to contemplate the breach made by this one death. Doing so much and doing it so quietly, we scarce realized the burdens we were placing on his shoulders, until called to fill the gaps caused by his death.

We may truthfully say that the whole of our ecclesiastical machinery felt the jar when he was cut down by the reaper. Thy seat is empty and thou art missed, and we cry:

"Help Lord, for the godly man ceaseth and
the faithful fail from the earth."

William Gordon Neville.

WILLIAM NEVILLE was born near Walhalla, in Oconee County, South Carolina on July 2nd, 1855. He added the name Gordon in 1875 in honor of his pastor, Dr. John Gordon Law. Confucius being asked at what time to begin the training of children, answered, "Ten thousand ages before birth." Ian McLaren, not quite so extravagant says: "A man begins long ago, just like the river passing your door. You have to go back to its very source, when you want to know what a man is, find out what his father and his grandfather was."

The father of the subject of our sketch is John Coffee Neville, still living, age 82, and his mother was Julia McFall. His great-grandfather, Jessie Neville, came to this country from England before the Revolutionary War, and settled first in Virginia, and later came to South Carolina. He was in several battles of the Revolutionary War, notably King's Mountain, under whose shadow at Yorkville his great-grandson spent many happy years. His maternal ancestors were Scotch-Irish, and emigrated to America in time to also take part in the contest for freedom. His mother's father, although exempt by reason of age, fought in the Confederate Army, and he and his youngest son, also exempt by reason of age, were killed at Gaines' Mills. His father, Capt. J. C. Neville, was Captain of Company K. 12th Regiment, and bears wounds received in battle. Thus we find Dr. Neville with an ancestry, on both sides, of intelligent people, noted for industry, steadfastness, integrity and piety. His veins being filled with patriotic blood, we are not surprised at the interest he always took in the Confederate soldier, and the pains and efforts that he showed in organizing chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and other organizations.

He had a right to be a man, and was true to his God-

given legacy. He first attended the common school at West Union, taught by Pickens Harbin: next a select school at Walhalla, taught by Misses Carrie and Amanda Morgan. In 1872, at 17 years, of age, he attended the Hayesville High School in Clay County, N. C., taught by John O. Hicks. After a year of study, he became the assistant teacher of this school for one term. In 1875 he taught the High School in Rabun Gap, Ga., for one term. In the Fall of 1875 he entered the Sophomore Class of Newberry College then located in Walhalla, but at the end of his Junior year this college was moved back to Newberry. He entered the Senior Class of Adger College in 1877, and graduated in the Fall of 1878: dividing second honor with J. W. Shelor. The subject of his Salutatory Address on that occasion was "Liberal Education." How strange are the providences of God. The commencement of his life work was a study of education, the closing of his life was the same. His mother joined the Presbyterian church when the Doctor was three years of age, and he was baptized by the Rev. D. C. Boggs. He was converted at a Methodist meeting held at Hayesville in 1872, and joined Hiawasee church, Mecklenburg Presbytery, of which Rev. W. H. Davis was pastor. He at once decided to study for the ministry, although he did not make public this decision until he had finished his college course. He was taken under the care of South Carolina Presbytery at Walhalla, in the fall of 1878, and went at once to Columbia Seminary for two years, and from there to Princeton, in 1880, for one year. He was licensed by South Carolina Presbytery during his second year in Columbia Seminary on April 9th, 1880. Upon his return from Princeton in May 1881, he took charge of Ninety Six and Cokesbury as stated supply. He was ordained by the same Presbytery, April 7th, 1882. On Saturday before the third Sabbath of July 1882, he was ordained and installed as their pastor, and continued with them until the fall of 1885. His ordination sermon was preached from John iii.3. In 1886 he accepted a call to Concord church in Bethel Presbytery, and was installed pastor, May 8th, 1886. In September 1890, he became pas-

tor of the Southern Presbyterian church at Frankfort, Ky. After three years service, he accepted a call to Yorkville, and was installed pastor on October 29th, 1893. From thence he removed to Clinton, in January 1905, having accepted the presidency of the Presbyterian College of South Carolina, located at that place.

Home Life.

He was happily married to Miss Virginia Aiken, third daughter of the late Honorable D. Wyatt Aiken, Congressman from his District, and Mrs. Virginia Smith Aiken, on November 7th, 1883, in the Cokesbury Presbyterian church by the bride's brother-in-law, Rev. R. D. Smart, D. D., of the Methodist church. To this union were born eight children, all living; viz, Tallulah, David Wyatt Aiken, Virginia Smith, Mattie May, Julia Rebecca, Eliza Aiken, William Gordon, and John Coffee.

Of these all are members of the church, except the two little boys. His plan of dealing with his children was to treat them as companions, and as they reached the age of discretion, he would have a quiet talk with them about their relationship to Christ and an earnest prayer for the Holy Ghost to regenerate their hearts, and leave them to decide as to joining the church. Dr. Neville did not sow any wild oats, hence he had no bitter memories to torment him, for this reason he was a great believer in early piety. He preferred his children "to build on a foundation rather than on ruins" and would rather have "a fence at the top of a precipice than a hospital at the bottom of it."

I would not presume to enter with unholy tread behind the veil of this ideal home. Suffice it to say, Dr. Neville found in his wife a help-meet indeed, whose portrait is found in Proverbs xxxi. 11-29: and it was largely through her prudence, tact, winning ways, influence, counsel and prayers "that her husband is known in the gates, where he sitteth among the Elders of the land." He knew what a treasure he possessed. In his last public utterance he paid her a well deserved tribute. Speaking of those who

had helped him in his arduous labors in building up the Presbyterian College, he said: "None has been more self-sacrificing, more faithful, more devoted, and to none is more honor due for what has been accomplished than to my faithful co-worker, my wife.

With these sweet words fresh on his lips, he was carried from the auditorium in a fainting condition and was soon beyond the power of saying kind words. "While it is terrible to lose one in every way so estimable, yet it is a great gift of God to have had such an one to lose."

Expressions of Regret at the Death of Dr. Neville.

Wherever known, regret was felt at the removal of a man of such a beautiful Christian character, real merits and usefulness. An intimate friend has voiced the sentiment of Bethel, when he says, "Presbytery will never seem exactly the same without him." How great his loss to the church and to the college is seen from the fact that the faculty of the South Carolina University expressed its great grief and sincere sympathy to the Presbyterian College on his death, and President Sloan in communicating this minute, asked to express personally his own grief, saying, "I knew him well, and ever honored him. I learned from him more valuable lessons than it was ever my good fortune to have taught him."

The faculty and trustees of Hampden Sidney College adopted beautiful words of condolence and expressions of sorrow. All the religious papers speak of his death as a serious loss, not only to the Presbyterian ministry, but to the cause of education. Presidents of colleges write: "We sorrow with you in your great loss—the loss of a true Christian man and a great loss to the cause of education."

The faculty of the Presbyterian College adopted a suitable minute, the trustees of the same ordered a memorial written and spread upon their minutes, the Knights of Pythias adopted resolutions expressive of their personal grief. The papers of the state, from the City by the Sea to the mountain city of his birth, had extended notices of his death, and spoke in highest terms of his personal work and of



RESIDENCE OF DR. NEVILLE, AT CLINTON, S. C.

the loss to the state. But we of Bethel Presbytery have met an irreparable loss.

Dr. Neville's Work in the Synod.

Dr. Neville was one of the most useful men of his day. If usefulness is to be measured by results, then our brother did not go empty handed into the presence of our Saviour. He was no stranger in the city of the King: great numbers led to Christ through his instrumentality had gone on ahead, and were waiting to welcome him. The little children playing on the golden streets, the old man of four score, bathing his weary soul in seas of heavenly bliss, the minister of the gospel with feet shod with the gospel of peace, all classes and conditions of people are shining as stars in his crown.

He commenced to work as soon as he joined the Presbytery. He was received into Bethel from South Carolina Presbytery, on May 8th, 1886, and on May 15th, we find him installing his old friend and classmate J. L. McLin at Catholic and Pleasant Grove. And from that time until the day of his death, he "approved himself a workman that needed not to be ashamed." If usefulness is to be measured by labors, then look around you and see the broken threads that must be gathered up. As we call the roll, the silence becomes oppressive, and we sit under the shadow of great sorrow. He was the stated clerk of our Presbytery; trustee of Chicora College; President of our male College; member of various committees; for eight years trustee of Davidson College; for ten years director of Theological Seminary; secretary of its Board, and chairman of its Executive Committee. In fine, wherever there was work to do he will be missed, for his seat is empty. Dr. Neville had rare ability to do whatever came to him to do. Not every one, however willing, has such an endowment of heart and mind for noble work. There are gifted preachers, who are failures at all things out of the pulpit. Dr. Neville was much sought after for memorial addresses, conducting institutes, baccalaureate sermons, and miscellaneous work. He was broad-minded, sympathetic,

practical, courageous, energetic, full of tact, possessed of unusual ability, social in manner,—so much so that he endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact, candid and open in all his dealings, polite, easy of access, a wise counselor, a loving friend, and of unsewerving integrity, one of the best all round men I ever knew. At home in the pulpit, at ease in the drawing room, a ready platform speaker, a capable business man, he could have filled with credit to himself any position within the gift of the church. He did not push himself, but his brethren soon learned that any work committed to him would be well done, and that he was a master workman where prudence and firmness and wisdom were needed. Hence we find that both in Synod and Presbytery all delicate matters or untried experiments were committed to his guidance. If a church was to be organized or to become defunct, a commission to license a candidate, a committee to settle differences between pastor and people, or to adjust the claims of the Assembly against Presbytery, revise the manual, make a deliverance upon the tithe question, define our attitude toward the Mormon missionary, arrange a program for an Elders and Deacons Convention, inaugurate a summer campaign, discuss the modern Sabbath, take part in the 250th Anniversary of the promulgation of the Westminster Standards, or make a circuit of Presbytery discussing the Reformation—in fact everything that required care and tact was more or less committed to his charge. It was certainly a high compliment to his ability and discretion that, when, after years of discussion, the Synod of South Carolina at last entered upon the work of Synodical Home Missions, he should be made chairman of the committee.

His first report showed his grasp of the subject, when he said, “While we realize that the work of Home Missions in South Carolina belongs to all the Presbyteries in the State, yet at the same time we realize that we are living under a form of Government dear to us all.”

While thus recognizing the rights of dissenting Presbyteries, he so constantly pressed the need of the work

that his successor in office found little difficulty in soon presenting an undivided Synod on this subject. He was sent by the Synod to consult with brethren from other Synods with reference to the South Atlantic University, and later on, elected one of the trustees of that institution but it never materialized. He was made chairman in 1900 of the 20th Century Fund, and entrusted with payment of the debt of the Ferguson Williams Colored College at Abbeville. He was on the standing committee on ministerial relief and endowment fund to execute the plan of our Assembly. He was also on a committee of program for our next Synod, and to re-arrange the committees. Even the careless reader of the Minutes of Synod from 1882 to 1906 will be surprised at the extent of his services, the clearness of his reports and the accuracy of his bookkeeping. Acting both as Chairman and Treasurer of the 20th Century Fund, his books are models, without a blot or mistake. An expert of years of service said to the writer after an examination of his books, "there is not a flaw in his five years record of the 20th Century Fund, everything is perfectly plain and can be seen at a glance."

If usefulness be measured by influence then eternity alone can reveal the story "for he being dead yet speaketh. "True he has gone from us, yet he remains with us." He was instant in season and out of season. His prayers, sermons and godly life will continue to bring forth fruit in an abundant harvest to the glory of God. He preached 2897 sermons within our bounds and received great numbers into our membership. He preached in as many churches as any pastor within our bounds and held more protracted meetings than any save the evangelists. He occupied as many pulpits in the Synod as any one preacher, and could come as near calling the roll of the Presbyterians of South Carolina as any man in our Synod. He slept in more prophets chambers and shared the hospitality of more families than almost any preacher of his age. His addresses on Christian education, winning the confidence and making friends for our college, his twelve Baccalaureate sermons, delivered before both male and female, denominational and State

colleges, his addresses to Seminary students, lectures on Foreign Missions, charges to pastor and people, speeches at school commencement, memorial, and unveiling of monuments and other occasions, his patience under trials, his sublime faith, his walk with God. "These things are beyond earthly competition and are only reckoned in the mathematics of Heaven."

The paper in the city of his birth says: "To know him was to love him," and his influence in the community and country will live on and on. Letters are before the writer from all parts of the church, even Indian Territory and Oklahoma, telling of their love and indebtedness to him, more especially are there tender tributes from the churches that he served. The Session at Frankfort, Ky., in their beautiful paper say that even after 14 years of absence he is still remembered with loving affection. It would not be delicate to unfold these sweet tributes to his memory. He literally died in the harness. It was at a prayer meeting conducted as a farewell service to the six candidates for the ministry under his charge that he was first stricken with the disease of which he died. The last request he made of Dr. Jacobs was, that Synod be invited to meet in Clinton in 1909 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of John Calvin's death.

Probably one of the last letters written by him was to an aged minister asking that he might place his name on the roll of beneficiaries of the Invalid Fund. His near neighbor did not exaggerate when he said you can hardly say too much of Brother Neville. His success as a pastor, his zeal for the Master's kingdom, his efficiency in all church work, his labors for the Presbyterian College of South Carolina, his undaunted courage, his broad-mindedness, and his brotherliness are all worthy of highest praise.

Dr. Neville never hunted for soft places but, was always content to follow the leadings of Providence. "I have come not to do mine own will but the will of Him that sent me," was manifest throughout his whole life: consequently no place was too humble for him to walk with his Saviour, and no place too difficult when the Master said "go."

He would not undertake to guide a half-dozen sheep without the Master's presence. He was not afraid to undertake to govern the world at the Lord's command. After spending seven years of hard study and several thousand dollars on his education, being trained by such men as Maj. Ben. Sloan, (now president S. C. U.) the lamented Drs. Girardeau and Hodge, and with the influence of Princeton to back him, he turned his face toward his native state and was installed pastor of Ninety Six, one of the weakest churches in the Synod, a church of only thirty-two members, and at a salary of two hundred and ninety-dollars. For four and one-half years he labored as contentedly in this narrow sphere (never receiving more than \$700 a year) as later on in greater fields. He was as faithful with the one talent as with the five, and at any time could meet his returning Lord with joy. Duty was his watchword, and his motto was "Whose I am and whom I serve." He recognized the truth that it is faithfulness in the sphere that God requires. It is a striking fact that God always tries men in the sphere of littles before he entrusts them with great things. Moody for example was advised not to lead in prayer, and refused a Sabbath School class. Archibald D. Brown called at 63 years of age to be pastor of Spurgeon's Tabernacle with its three thousand members, 21 missions and 7000 Sabbath School scholars, started his work with an audience of 16. Campbell Morgan, who has a world-wide reputation, spent some of the earlier years of his ministry in washing the faces of dirty children and encouraging to cleanliness. At the call of God Dr. Neville consulted not with flesh and blood, but was ready for the march. When the Master, therefore, had need for him at Concord; with his young wife he left the home and companionship of his father-in-law, Col. D. Wyatt Aiken, soldier, scholar, statesman and Christian, and put the length of the entire state between him and his parents.

With one bound he thus leaps from a small Mission point to one of the best equipped churches in our Synod, and with a session of remarkable intelligence.

Happily situated, as if for life, at Concord, though the influence of Dr. Hemphill, and at the call of the West he severed the ties of home and a prosperous pastorate, bade farewell to a devoted people and was soon installed pastor of the church at Frankfort, Ky. The constitutional Convention of Kentucky was in session for many months during his pastorate, and he was thus permitted to meet the great men of that State, and form friends of a lifetime. At the end of three years we find him back in South Carolina as pastor of (Yorkville) one of the noblest churches in our Southland. For nearly twelve years he went in and out before this people with "his shepherd's crook leading them beside the still waters and feeding them on the green pastures." As the years rolled on the tie grew stronger, and it seemed as if only the call of the Master to come up higher could sever the bond. When, therefore, God would put one more trial on his faith and love, he called him from this people to go out literally not knowing whither he went.

On the 8th of June, the day he left home for Europe, and three years to the very day of his death, he received a long distance 'phone message a few hours before leaving home, telling him of his unanimous election as president of the Presbyterian College. If required to answer then, he said he must decline: but they waited and he wrote from New York declining. The Board wrote him to Europe that they would not accept this answer, but would await his return.

He declined on the ground that he had no right to give up the pastorate for any other work. His ordination vows were upon him. The college persisted and friends insisted. Finally he said to the writer, "I am called to preach the Gospel, I dare not surrender my vocation, but I think I am young enough to take the college for three years, and then, if God has any field for me, he will open up the way." (Since the delivery of this memorial, my attention has been called to the fact that it was just three years to the day, and almost to the minute of the hour from the time he received notice of his election as President until his death.) Never once does he mention the difficulties,

though he knew them all; for he and the retiring Chancellor had no secrets. It was simply a question with him "Lord what wilt Thou have me to do," and thus he gave up his own ease, broke the ties of affection, turned his back upon comfort and inclination, left a commodious home, and devoted people, and went out to run the gauntlet of success or failure. How good God is to his children. Instead of giving up the pulpit he soon found that, whereas before he filled one pulpit, now all the pulpits of South Carolina were at his disposal, and his opportunities for preaching were limited only by his strength. As he thought and prayed over the subject he saw in this college the hope of our Synod, the source of supply of our candidates for the ministry. The work grew upon him until he felt that he must throw his whole soul into it and make it his life work. Few men loved the pastorate as he did. Just a few weeks before his death he said; "Oh! how I long for the affectionate ties, the fellowship and communion of a pastorate: but God has decided it otherwise." The battle was fought the victory won, and so we hear him saying at commencement "I have laid my life on the altar as a sacrifice to this good cause." Then it was, methinks the Saviour said, "Father, this child has no wishes nor will, but as thou wilt; he is tired and needs rest; let him come home." "Father I will that he shall be with me where I am, that he may behold my glory which thou has given me."

While indifferent to the honors of this life, his brethren were not unappreciative of his merits, and so, while crowding him with work, they bestowed upon him the rewards in their power. He was Moderator of South Carolina Presbytery in 1883, the first year after his ordination; Moderator of Louisville Presbytery in 1892; of Bethel Presbytery in 1896; and of the Synod of South Carolina in 1899; trustee of all her institutions, and Chairman of her most important committees. He was a commissioner to four (4) General Assemblies, viz., at Houston in 1885, three years after ordination; St. Louis, 1887; Macon, 1895; New Orleans, 1898; and three times an alternate in a ministry of 25 years. He was a representative of our Assembly at

the Pan-Presbyterian Council, at Washington D. C. in 1899; and also at Liverpool, Eng., in 1904. He declined to allow his name to be used for Secretary of Education, and Secretary of Home Missions, as he would not come in competition with friends.

In one year 1904-1905 he ran the gamut of ministerial distinction, receiving the title of D. D., from Davidson College, in 1904, elected President of Presbyterian College the same year, and receiving the title of L. L. D., from South Carolina University in 1905.

Pastor.

It is said a house going Pastor makes a church going people.

This was true in Dr. Neville's case. His register shows that he was a companion of his people in sickness, their friend in trouble and their adviser in perplexity, rejoicing with those that rejoiced, and weeping with those who weep. The years only strengthened the chain that bound his people to him. He was interested in all that concerned them. If any of them were absent from church he would inquire the cause, and, if needed, immediately repair to their home. He knew every man, woman and child in his congregation and seldom a Sabbath passed without his having grasped the hand and spoken personally to many, especially to those living out of town. Judge Witherspoon remarked that he never saw a stranger leave the church without Dr. Neville's having given him a welcome and a cordial invitation to return. A drummer in a distant city said: "If you want to feel at home in a church, go to Dr. Neville's church at Yorkville." The State in speaking of him as a Pastor said: "He was a man of great sincerity, cordiality and earnestness." A member of another church writes: "He was loved with a devotion surpassing that usually found even in the congregations of a branch of the church whose filial loyalty to the Pastor is noted." Henry Ward Beecher when asked the secret of a long pastorate replied: "Make yourself neces-

sary to the people and identify yourself with their interests." Dr. Neville was public spirited and took great interest not only in church matters but in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the community. A prominent business man of Yorkville says: "Dr. Neville knew all the white people who lived in York County and came to Yorkville, and was more thoroughly identified with all the interests of Yorkville and York County than any other minister I have ever known. He was a friend to the colored race also, often assisting their ministers financially and in other ways?" He might have added, "and was known to more colored men than all the other preachers of Yorkville."

He lent his influence to everything for the betterment of the community. He was a Knight of Pythias, Chancellor Commander of the Yorkville Lodge, and for three years a Tribune of the Grand Lodge. He was interested in the schools, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Daughters of the American Revolution, in fine, in everything that helped to lighten the burdens and promote the welfare of his people. In his ministrations of love he did not confine himself to his own charge, but, wherever there was sickness or sorrow, or wherever he could be of any use, he would be found.

A member of another church writes of him: "He was held in high esteem by all the people of Yorkville regardless of denominational ties, and the church here made wonderful strides along all lines during his pastorate."

The reports to Presbytery show that his churches led in every good work. Yorkville church, while under his care, led the Presbytery in contributions to the Twentieth Century Fund, Synodical Home Missions, and other causes. His church continued to grow until the last, the report of 1904 showing 24 additions upon profession of faith, 13 by letter and a total membership of 324, and contributions for all purposes aggregating a little less than \$3000.00; of which amount \$572.00 was contributed to the cause of Foreign Missions. Commencing at Ninety Six, in 1882, and in union with Cokesbury, and from there to Concord, in 1886, and from there to Frankfort, Ky., in 1890, and from thence to Yorkville in 1893, few preachers in our South-

land have a better record of faithful work and enduring success.

Dr. Neville both in the pulpit and in the home was an ardent advocate of Foreign Missions. He longed to see the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of Christ. Every church he served became a missionary church. His first charge, Ninety Six and Cokesbury, with sixty-four members averaged \$1.00 per member to this cause, as long ago as 1883. When he came to Concord, in 1886, their membership was 137, and their contribution to Foreign Missions was \$28.00; when he left, in 1890, they had a membership of 189, and were contributing \$150.00 to Foreign Missions. Under his leadership, in three years the Yorkville church gave over \$2500.00 to Foreign Missions, contributing in 1896 \$1000.00. This was before the days of the Forward Movement, and was due solely to prayer and faithful instruction. With such reverence for our Lord's command, it is not surprising that his churches took high rank in all church work. In going to the uttermost parts of the earth, Jerusalem and Samaria were not forgotten. He would take long rides in the afternoons to preach at Mission points. While pastor at Frankfort, Ky., he preached regularly in the penitentiary and jail.

The symmetry of his training is seen in the Narrative: growth in grace, constant additions, family altar, observance of the Sabbath, decreasing worldliness, salary and apportionments paid in full, and discipline, reasonably well maintained. Much of the liberality of his churches was due to his own generous leadership. While insisting that the law of the tithe ceased with the Jewish dispensation, and that the church now has no right to demand, or to advise the giving of any numerical portion of our income, he himself never gave less than a tenth to the benevolent work of the church, and heartily approved of the tithe. While not allowing his left hand to know the charities of the right, yet the writer is in a position to know that his annual gift to local Home Missions was \$50.00, to Foreign Missions \$100.00, and that his contributions, to special causes

were: to the Twentieth Century Fund, \$250, to the Presbyterian College, \$500, and to the Endowment Fund of the College, \$1000. His noble widow following in the steps of "the widow of the man who served the Lord" has seen to it that every obligation assumed by her sainted husband is met, "while she and her children live of the rest."

SUMMARY YORKVILLE CHURCH.

During Present Pastorate—August 1, 1893, to August 1, 1903.

Infants baptized.....	82
Adults baptized.....	21
Members on roll Aug. 1, 1893.....	235
Members added by letter.....	140
Members added by examination.....	108
Total of additions for ten years.....	256
Members lost by death.....	42
Members lost by dismissal.....	112
Members dropped from roll.....	6
Total losses.....	160
Members now on roll	332
Times preached by pastor for the ten years.....	1171
Prayer-Meetings conducted.....	340
Marriages	57
Funeral services.....	92

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE TEN YEARS.

Foreign Missions.....	\$ 6,724 00
Home Missions.....	2,082 00
Colored Evangelization.....	197 00
Ministerial Relief.....	350 00
Education	1,689 00
Publication.....	200 00
Bible Cause.....	132 00
Presbyterial	240 00
Congregational (including pastors salary).....	15,325 00
Miscellaneous	365 00
Total.....	<u>\$27,294 00</u>

Preacher.

As a preacher Dr. Neville was thoroughly Calvinistic and always instructive. He never entered the sanctuary without beaten oil. When he came before the people, it was with the best that prayer, meditation and study could produce. He wrote his sermons in full, and was only second to the late Jacob Henry Smith as a preacher from manuscript. He was not a slave to his notes, but was a fluent extempore speaker, preaching at will either with or without notes. He never used slang in the pulpit, nor condescended to sensationalism. He was always dignified, but absolutely fearless. He did not confine himself to the sins of the Hittites and Jebusites, but took special note of the sins of his day. His sermons on murder, lawlessness, intemperance, the dispensary and kindred themes were published, and did much toward educating the public conscience. Senator J. S. Brice writes that his sermon on the dispensary and a personal appeal to him was the origin of what is known as "the Brice Law." He was a thoughtful, forcible, effective preacher; conservative and yet progressive. At times he could make the alarm bells of wrath to toll, and again he could invite and persuade so sweetly that the hardened sinner would be drawn to the Saviour. While enthusiastically loyal to his own denomination, he was in no sense a bigot. He loved all who loved the Lord Jesus Christ and was willing to preach any where where he could say a good word for his Saviour, and gladly welcomed all to his pulpit who spake with authority. Catholic in spirit, he was in favor of the Articles of Agreement, because he thought they opened a wider sphere of usefulness for the glory of Christ. In the same spirit; he conducted an institute for the colored preachers, under the John Martin fund, because he thought they needed his experience and teaching. He was not afraid of his friends. He hewed to the line, let the chips fall where they would. He was tender hearted and it grieved him to wound, but neither fear, favor, nor affection ever diminished the force of his message. It would be better for the world, if we had more preachers like him. His

favorite themes were the mysteries of Providence, the doctrines of grace, and the excellency of Christ. The last sermon he wrote was the one preached for the Seminary students from II Corinthians ii.16 and iii.5. The last sermon he ever preached was before the young ladies at Chicora College, from Matthew ix.29. His centennial sermon at old Bethel, in 1905, was pronounced by competent critics one of the finest ever preached. His farewell sermon at Yorkville was preached from II Cor. xiii.11, "Finally Brethren, farewell; be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you." The local paper in publishing this sermon, headed it "Dr. Neville's Farewell,"

"Heart of gold yields up its precious contents."

Of fine figure, with clear voice, easy and graceful manners, rich thought and forceful illustrations, he was much sought after as a preacher. In four years, 1903-1907, he preached twelve Baccalaureate sermons: preaching to, Kings Mountain Military Academy, Westminster, Presbyterian College, Clifford Female Seminary, College for Women, at Columbia, Chicora Female College, Clemson, Winthrop Y. W. C. A., Columbia Seminary, besides many addresses and speeches.

In an address to the graduating class at Columbia Seminary on "Success in the Ministry", among other things he said: "Man's estimate of success is measured by results. Success in God's sight is doing your duty, and is measured by usefulness. Your aim should be to succeed in God's estimate. As conditions of success he mentions consecration, earnestness, humility, courage, sanctified common sense, spirit of sympathy, keeping in touch with young people, being men of prayer, possessing the spirit of missions, being men of study. Those who knew him best will at once recognize himself in this description, and in it possess the secret of his successful ministry.

Presbyter.

As a Presbyter, Dr. Neville had few equals and no superiors: well versed in parliamentary law, and fully posted in ecclesiastical law, he was invaluable in our church courts. The use made of his experience and talents as shown in this sketch are the best evidence of his efficiency.

President.

As president of the College, Dr. Neville met fully the high expectations of his friends. His large acquaintance, family connection, strong personality and popularity began to tell at once. His addresses on Christian education arrested the attention, quickened the conscience, and reached the pocket book. His plans met the approval of the Synod, and through the efforts of Brother Shive were endorsed with phenomenal liberality. In four months \$52,000.00 in cash and notes were added to the material plant valued at \$75,000.00: thus giving a nucleus for a college that will be a credit to South Carolina. During his short time as President the enrollment of students reached 120, and the outlook was bright for a still larger increase; the Administration Building and President's house were completed, the equal of any buildings in the State; and Vice-President Spencer's and Prof. Martin's houses were paid for. Fancy dreams were becoming realities. A self-sacrificing faculty who lived on starvation wages were beginning to reap the fruit of their labors. The day was dawning, and the shadows were fleeing away. Every one was buoyant with hope. The future seemed as bright as the past had been gloomy. We all recognized that we now had, in fact, what we had long had, in name, the Presbyterian College of South Carolina. In the zenith of his powers he has left us. But the seed sown will continue to grow and coming generations acknowledge their indebtedness to him. Dr. Neville fully appreciated the good work of those



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

who preceeded him. It was his intention to place the portrait in the Administration Building of all those who had made sacrifices for the College. He had already made progress in this direction, when death interrupted his efforts. In the center of these portraits, as worthy of the highest honor must hang the picture of the Rev. Wm. P. Jacobs, D.D.; the man in whose heart the idea of the college was conceived and whose brain executed the thought; the man who strong in prayers, faith and hope, laid the foundation upon which others have builded; the man who, in the face of indifference, prejudice and opposition, for 21 years, bore the burden and heat of the day. W. P. Jacobs, A. E. Spencer, William G. Neville, what a trinity of names in educational circles, and how much we owe them! Scraps of paper are the materials of the future historian, so I offer no apology for inserting at length the estimate placed on his work by those most competent to judge:

Dr. Jacobs.

First of all let us hear what Dr. Jacobs has to say: (See Our Monthly, July).

Three years ago he was elected President of the Presbyterian College of South Carolina of which he was always a friend. After patient study of the question, he accepted the office, and since then his life has been cast with us. The growth of the college under his efficient leadership has been phenomenal, and the very brightest hopes are before it. His name was a tower of strength. The student band was devoted to him, and appreciated him as a friend and adviser, and as a public speaker. He was honored: and now here he will undoubtedly be missed in our social and religious circles, and of course in the educational field where he was a leader. It is a heavy misfortune that has befallen us, "A great man in Isreal is fallen," but he has nevertheless done a work that will abide, and his name will ever be fresh in our hearts and memory.

Dr. Robert Adams.

Listen to Dr. Adams, President of the Board of Trustees, on Dr. Neville's work for the college:

Dr. Neville was elected President of the Presbyterian College

of South Carolina in June, 1904, though he did not enter upon the duties of the office until some months later.

A crisis had been reached in the history of the college. The Board felt this keenly. It was of so serious a nature that the continued existence of the institution seemed to be at stake. A man was needed who could so present its interests to the people of the State that their sympathy and help should be secured. It was a high tribute to Dr. Neville's worth, when he was selected. He made friends for himself; it was felt that he could do it for the College.

At first he declined the call. In October, during the meeting of Synod, he expressed himself to some close friends as being inclined to accept. Finally he did accept, because he became satisfied that such was his duty.

He entered vigorously upon the work of visiting the Churches, delivering splendid sermons on the needs of our Synod in the matter of Christian education. He was everywhere well received. His words had weight. The people esteemed him. Their confidence was given to him. The number of students began to grow. Money was given. The College took on new life; the crisis had passed; it was saved.

All honor to Dr. Neville for the splendid work he did.

To have so lived as to gain the affectionate regard, confidence and esteem of such a people, enabling him to accomplish so much for such a cause, is to have lived well.

ROBERT ADAMS.

Rev. Wm. M. McPheeters.

Personal word of appreciation from Rev. Wm. M. McPheeters, D. D., in introducing resolutions for the Board of Trustees.

Of the many things for which I have to thank my heavenly Father none awakens within me a livelier emotion of gratitude than the benefits that I have reaped from the holy, helpful, stimulating, and moulding influences that have been exerted upon my own life by certain men and women who have admitted me to the privilege of their more or less intimate friendship.

One of this group was our departed brother, Dr. Neville. I cannot claim to have been an intimate friend of Dr. Neville's, certainly not in the largest meaning of the word intimate. But for some years past common interests and common duties have thrown us much together. And as the result of this kindly intercourse and fellowship, I shall carry with me through the years to come an abiding sense of the beauty, worth and power of a life of simple, unaffected, but unintermitted devotion to duty and to the advancement of the Master's glory, such as I saw him live during these years that we have been associated together. I shall have no more permanent, nor any more

pleasing and precious memory of our departed brother than just that of a man whose heart was loyally set to do his work to the full of his opportunity and to the best of his ability.

Board of Trustees.

Resolutions adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Presbyterian College of South Carolina:

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God, our Heavenly father, to remove from us and call to a higher sphere of service our honored president, Rev. William G. Neville D. D., L. L. D., who was also our beloved co-presbyter and valued friend, therefore,

RESOLVED, 1st.—That while the removal of our brother in the midst of his days, and at the height of his usefulness inflicts upon our institution a loss that it will be hard for us to repair, and upon ourselves as a Board and as individuals a painful sense of personal bereavement, still we not only bow in humble submission to our Heavenly Father's will, but rejoice in the assurance that even this dispensation, afflictive as it is, has been ordered by Him in wisdom and love.

2nd.—That as a Board we place on record our sense of the great value of our brother's service to this institution, and to the all important cause for which it stands, and also our gratitude to God for sending him to the college at the time that he did. Coming to us at that critical juncture in our history, he inspired within us, new hope for, and confidence in the future of the institution. We recognized him as God's gift to the College and to the cause of Christian education in our Synod. In the well earned reputation, the influence co-extensive with the bounds of the Synod, and the fine judgment and other gifts that our beloved brother brought to his work, we saw an augury of success, and in the impress of his admirable personality a permanent asset of priceless and growing value that would abide with us long after he himself had finished his course.

3rd.—That we bear our loving testimony to our brother's worth as a man, graces as a Christian, wisdom as a counselor, and devotion as a minister of Christ, and to his untiring zeal and efforts for the welfare of the College, and for the advancement of every interest of his Master's cause.

4th.—That we will ever hold his memory as a precious legacy and find in it an inspiration to higher consecration, a challenge to unselfish service, and a call to make this institution the ornament and the blessing to our church that he longed and labored to see it become.

5th.—That the Board appoint a committee whose duty it shall be, at as early a day as they may find practicable, to provide some suitable visible memorial of Dr. Neville's personal worth, and of his efficient labors for the College.

6th.—That we extend to the bereaved and beloved widow and children of our brother the assurance of our tenderest sympathy in a loss that is not only theirs and ours, but that of the Synod, and of the entire Church as well.

Clinton Gazette.

On the minute adopted by the Faculty of the Presbyterian College of South Carolina, the Clinton Gazette has the following:

The Faculty of the Presbyterian College of South Carolina would express their sense of loss and sorrow, in the unexpected death of our late President, Rev. William Gordon Neville, D. D., L. L. D.

Our association with him has been fraternal, close and cordial. We have known him both in his official and private life, and honored him for his consecration to duty, his Christian fidelity and his lovely domestic associations. We find comfort in the assurance that his death, however sudden, found him not unprepared, but standing at his post of duty, and exerting his powers to the last, in the cause of Christian education. We feel that although his work in the College was short, it was successful, and that he has left a permanent impress on the institution.

To his bereaved family we extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathy. We invoke for them the consolations of that God who has sent this great bereavement, and who alone can alleviate their sorrow. May His presence abide with them and give them peace; and may His blessing continue the influence of our departed brother, so that although he rests from his labors, his works may follow him.

W. S. BEAN

M. G. WOODWORTH

BOTHWELL GRAHAM, JR.

A. V. MARTIN

A. E. SPENCER.

A. E. Spencer.

Tribute of A. E. Spencer, Vice-President of the Presbyterian College of South Carolina.

He did, as possibly no other man in the Synod could have done, the work of winning the confidence of the Presbyterians of the State and convincing them that we must have a College in South Carolina. Going from church to church for a year and a half, he presented his strong and convincing arguments, and won numbers of friends, where before the college had not had any supporters. The opposition to the college has been growing less each year since he began his work, and now we feel that we have almost the united backing of the strong and vigorous denomination for which he was working. Of course, he did other work for the college—went North and accomplished something, raised money—but the thing of greatest value, and the thing absolutely essential to success in his work for the college, along any other lines was the winning of the confidence of the people. That was his *great* work as I see it.

Benjamin Sloan.

Tribute of Benjamin Sloan, President of South Carolina College.

To the Acting President of the
Presbyterian College,
Clinton, S. C.

DEAR SIR:—

At a meeting of the Faculty, held just before the close of the session, 1906-1907, a minute, unanimously adopted by it, instructs me to express to you and through you to the Board of Trustees and to the Faculty of your college, its great grief and sincere sympathy with you in the loss you have sustained in the untimely death of Dr. Wm. G. Neville, the President of Clinton College; and I ask to be permitted to express my own sympathy. Dr. Neville's death was to me a personal bereavement. I knew him well and ever honored him. He was graduated from Adger College, while I was one of its professors, and while there and since, I learned more valuable lessons from him than it was my good fortune ever to have taught him.

With kind regards, I am,
Sincerely yours,
BENJAMIN SLOAN, President

Tribute of Hampden-Sidney College

To the Trustees and Faculty and Students of
The Presbyterian College of South Carolina,
Clinton, S. C.

The Board of Trustees of Hampden-Sidney College, in session at Hampden-Sidney, learned with profound sorrow the death of your honored President, the Rev. W. G. Neville, D. D., and directed me to send you this message of our sympathy. We sorrow with you in your great loss, the loss of a true Christian man. Some of us knew him personally, and all knew him only to praise. We trust that the work which he so auspiciously inaugurated will be carried forward with the success he was bringing to it and that his influence for good may long and mightily abide upon the College to which his labors were given. May we ask you to convey this to his family, also the expression of our sincerest sympathy.

Faithfully yours,
J. GRAY MCALLISTER, President.

News and Courier.

The News and Courier has the following tribute to Dr. Neville:

The Presbyterian people of South Carolina having resolved

that their College at Clinton should be raised to a high place in the educational world, sought for the direction of its affairs, a minister of approved ability, learning and piety, in whose selection no hazard of failure, in a task recognized to be of large proportions and calling for severe toil and sacrifice, would be incurred. The choice two years ago fell upon the Rev. W. G. Neville, who for a long time had been pastor of the church in Yorkville, where he was loved with a devotion surpassing that usually found even in the congregations of a branch of the church whose filial loyalty to pastors is notable. Already Dr. Neville is dead. He only lived long enough to see the great work that he had undertaken well begun, and for the friends of the college to understand with gladness that he was conspicuously fitted to be its head in its early and formative days, when its struggles are severest and its obstacles hardest to overcome.

Laurens Advertiser.

The Laurens Advertiser, says:

The loss of an efficient head whose fitness was already fully proved would be a severe blow to any college, but the Presbyterian College of South Carolina in those formative days, when its work on larger lines is beginning, suffers especially by the death of so good and able an official as William G. Neville.

Dr. Neville was not only a man of excellent ability and attainment, and a genuinely good man, but he was a tactful man, which is to say one blessed with common sense and a knowledge of his fellow men: qualities more in demand for the successful administration of the affairs of a college than for any other calling. We think that the college presidents are perhaps the strongest group of men in mind, education and character to be found in the United States. The old and rich colleges have no great difficulty in securing the best men for these high positions, because they may choose from the whole field of the smaller colleges: but the weaker institutions often try many more times than once before they find the man who "fills the bill." Dr. Neville was already a proved success, and there seemed before him a long career of usefulness to his denomination, and to the educational interest of the State.

Synodical Home Missionary Journal.

Synodical Home Missionary Journal for July on our College and its loss.

Through his splendid efforts the college has been lifted into the confidence and love of the Presbyterians of South Carolina. It is not too much to say that, barring gross and continued mismanagement, the future of the college is assured, and we have no reason to antici-

pate any such mismanagement. Our hearts are full of satisfaction for the present, and the confidence for the future. The sudden removal of him to whose efforts this condition is most largely due, seems a calamity; but surely the God of all grace will rise up a man to continue the great work, so nobly begun.

The memory of William Gordon Neville will long be cherished in the Synod of South Carolina, as pastor, preacher, presbyter; but longest of all will his name be linked with the life story of the college for which—we had well nigh said—he gave his life.

Associate Reformed Presbyterian

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian of June 12th, 1907, on the death of Dr. Neville, says:

As President of the Presbyterian College, there opened up before him a wide field for usefulness. He was getting a fine grasp on his work, and was commending his college to his own denomination, and to the public in general. We lament the death of a man of such recognized worth.

Last Sickness.

Dr. Neville had been for some time an uncomplaining sufferer from a malady that was liable at any time to prove fatal. A successful operation at the Columbia Hospital, Dec. 1905, entirely relieved the difficulty. He felt that he had a new lease on life, and his best work was ahead of him. Alas! for him an expectations. The heavy drain on his nervous system caused by constant travel, irregularity of diet and sleeping, incessant preaching, lecturing, talking and planning, the mingling of alternate hopes and fears, faith and discouragements undermined his strength; and so in the crisis of his disease, when all his resources were needed, he had no reserve force, his heart failed him, and the citadel of life was captured. But let us hear the sad story from an eye witness:

Since recovering from his confinement in the hospital, and ailments incident to that, Mr. Neville's health had never been better, that I know of. He was well and strong and never did more nor harder work, than for that year, in all his life. On the tenth of last May, while delivering

the address on Memorial day here, and in the open air, he became hoarse, and had a pain in his chest. This passed off in the course of the afternoon, and he felt it only slightly while walking rapidly sometimes after that. On the night of the 21st, just after getting in bed he was taken with a severe pain in his chest, which yeilded, after a time, to simple remedies: but he was sick two or three days, and after that a few times, felt a pain about his heart. On June the 2nd, Commencement Sunday, which he enjoyed so much, he took a nap in the afternoon, slept very hard and woke up chilly and feeling badly. The weather had blown up very cool and damp, and he felt it much. A while before 7 o'clock he went to his office in the college building to meet with the young men of the college, who were candidates for the ministry, to talk to them, before they should leave for the vacation. While praying with them, he was taken with a severe pain in his chest again. He was quite sick, we thought, with acute indigestion. After being relieved he rested tolerably well. On Monday, realizing how much work was before him, he was anxious to begin early, but had to take it slowly, as he felt very badly. The same was the case on Tuesday. He was so anxious to meet with the Board and Executive Committee, this he did so at intervals: but each time had to leave in order to lie down. He went out to the exercises Monday night, but not Tuesday night. Those of the Board who were here we had to take tea with us Tuesday evening. He was sorry a full attendance was not present. Next to his loving to preach, I think he loved to have his friends and particularly the "Brethren" in his home. The afternoon that Synod spent with us last fall was one of his happiest days, and he loved to talk of it. On Wednesday of Commencement, he felt very badly, and the doctor was called upon to bolster him up, that he might be able to attend the exercises. This he did, and enjoyed them thoroughly. With his own hands he broke dirt for the new dormitory, and stood through the little service at both buildings, or where the buildings were to be. Coming out of the hall, when nearly all of the people were gone, he

fainted, but did not lose consciousness. After that he never tried to be up again, but felt that he was too weak. Dr. Davis, of this place, (Clinton,) was his physician, and he called in Dr. Hugh Aiken on Thursday. On Friday they called in Dr. McDowell of Chester, our old physician, who gave him a thorough examination. 'Twas too late. Efforts were made to arrest the disease: but they had too strong a grip then, and he succumbed on Saturday, June 8, 1907, about 12:45, dying of one of the most acute and dangerous forms of cardiac trouble and of acute Brights' disease.



Dr. Neville Laid to Rest.

The funeral service was held in the Presbyterian Church at Clinton, June 10th, at 10 o'clock, and the body was taken to Greenwood for interment, on the 11:45 train. Dr. W. M. McPheeters had charge of the funeral service at Clinton. He was assisted by the Rev. Dr. Jacobs, the Rev. Dr. Adams, and the Rev. Mr. Shive.

The service was very short and simple in accordance with the wishes of the family.

The burial services were conducted by Dr. James H. Thornwell, of Fort Mill, who joined the funeral party at Clinton, assisted by Dr. W. M. McPheeters, of Columbia, and Dr. J. Lowrie Wilson of Abbeville.

The following acted as pallbearers: Dr. Hugh K. Aiken, of Laurens, A. M. Aiken, of Chester, Congressman Wyatt Aiken, of Abbeville, J. Gilliam Aiken, of Spartanburg, S. K. Neville, of Trenton, J. F., Jesse C., and M. C. Neville, of West Union.

In his desk after his death were found these beautiful lines, which he had been reading just before commencement. Who knows but that there were visions unseen by us, "The rustling of wings, whispering that the crossing was near", intimations that the kind words about friends and wife, sustaining him in his arduous labors, must be hurriedly spoken "with fast failing strength" ere the seal of silence be placed on his lips." Was it the dying swan singing its own funeral note?

Life's race well run
Life's work well done,
Life's crown well won;
Now comes rest."

Upon his tombstone might be fittingly inscribed:

"A useful life ended."



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