

# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1897.

GOODE MEMORIAL MEETING.

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ON Saturday evening, February 13, 1897, a memorial meeting was held in the lecture room of the United States National Museum at Washington, to commemorate the life and services of the late George Brown Goode. Over four hundred persons were assembled, representing the seven scientific societies and the patriotic and historical societies of Washington, the American Philosophical Society and the American Society of Naturalists.

The meeting was presided over by the Honorable Gardiner G. Hubbard, President of the Joint Commission, who opened the exercises with some brief remarks. He explained that the day was chosen because it was Dr. Goode's natal day, he having been born on the 13th of February, 1851. "Never," said Mr. Hubbard, "was there a truer, a more intelligent counsellor, a more sympathetic friend, a more ready helper, a more kindly nature."

"None know him but to love him,  
None named him but to praise."

"His mind was versatile, his interests widespread, his tastes refined, his judgment correct. He was a true lover of nature, of art, of beauty everywhere." "Into the work of the Museum he threw his heart and life." "He was urged last summer to go to the Seal Islands, but he was reluctant to leave his work. He re-

mained to die at his post." "He was a friend whom I loved and whom I miss from my daily life."

Dr. S. P. Langley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, then delivered an address in which he spoke of Dr. Goode's moral qualities, his success as an administrator, his love of nature and of men, his fine literary and æsthetic instincts. The address is given in full in this number of SCIENCE.

He was followed by Postmaster-General Wm. L. Wilson, the subject of whose address was 'Goode as a Historian and Citizen.' In the course of his remarks Mr. Wilson said:

"It has been most appropriately assigned to those who were privileged to see more of Doctor Goode than myself, in his domestic life and in daily official intercourse, to speak of his virtues and his most charming and lofty traits as a man; and to speak of him in his chosen field of science, must be assigned to those who do not, like myself, stand outside of the pale of scientific attainment. The somewhat humbler part is mine, to speak of Doctor Goode in those relations in life in which he was probably less known and less thought of than as a man of science, or in other fields of his distinguished attainment.

"Doctor Goode was honored in his own country, and in other countries, as an eminent man of science, and deservedly so honored; and his lasting fame must rest upon his solid and substantial contributions to science and the advancement of human knowledge; upon his eminent success as an administrator of scientific organizations, and in that work which all his life shows to have been most congenial to him—the bringing of science down to the interest and instruction of the common people.

"He was a richly endowed man: first, with that capacity and that resistless bent toward the work in which he attained his

his great distinction, that made it a perennial delight to him; but he was scarcely less richly endowed in his more unpretending and large human sympathies, and it was this latter endowment that distinguished him as a citizen and as a historian.

"As a citizen he was full of patriotic, American enthusiasm. He understood, as all must understand who look with seriousness upon the great problems that confront a free people and who measure the difficulties of those problems—he understood that at least one preparation for the discharge of the duties of American citizenship was the general education of the people; and so he advocated, as far as possible, bringing down to the reach of all the people, not only the opportunities, but the attractions and the incitements to intellectual living.

"Doctor Goode, with the quick and warm sympathies of the man and of the historian, seems to have felt that he could do no greater service to the people of his day and generation and to his country, than in the most attractive and concrete way, if I may so express it, to lead the young men of this country to a study of the history of the past—to the deeds and the writings of the great men to whom we owe the foundation and the perpetuation of our institutions.

"Perhaps no family in this country has had so perfect a book, so complete a study of all its branches as Doctor Goode gave to the family whose name he bore, in that book entitled 'Virginia Cousins.' And it is especially gratifying to me to know that Virginia history, so much neglected, was perhaps the favorite field of Doctor Goode's study and investigation. He was a student of the writings of Washington and gathered all the materials he could find about that great Virginian. He was a student of the writings of Jefferson; he was a student of the lives of other distinguished men of that old Commonwealth, and I am told that he had in contemplation the publication of

a book to be called 'Virginia Worthies,' in which doubtless he would try to give the proper standing to that minor and second class of Virginia great men of whom the country at large knows so much less to-day than it ought to know.

"But Dr. Goode was not only an historian in this respect and in this peculiar way. He was also an historian of science, and he seems here likewise to have followed the same general idea of grouping scientific history—the history of scientific progress—around the particular man and individuals connected with that progress.

"I am told that in certain lectures, partly published and partly as yet unpublished, he has given us the most interesting and instructive history yet produced of the progress of science in the United States;—so that it is not attributing to Dr. Goode a novel and undeserved character to speak of him as an historian. Had his life been spared, in his peculiar way, in his own personal and attractive manner, he would doubtless have made most substantial contributions to the study of American history; and I cannot doubt, as I have already said, that in doing this he was impelled by the patriotic idea that he was helping to build up a strong, American, intelligent citizenship in the country he loved so well."

Professor Henry F. Osborn then spoke of 'Goode as a Naturalist,' reviewing his numerous contributions to the study of natural history and touching upon his fine character, his distinguished position as a museum administrator, and the elements which made him a leader of men and a controlling power in the natural history and museum work of the country. Professor Osborn's address appears in full in this issue of *SCIENCE*.

The final address was by Professor William H. Dall, of the United States National Museum, on 'Goode's Activities in Relation to American Science.' Professor Dall traced the origin of government scientific institu-

tions. These he showed were not 'created' by Congressional fiat, but were due in reality to the unselfish devotion of master minds. "A great institution," he said, "is not created; it is built up. With the mortar of its foundations is mixed the blood and sweat of its builders. Something of the very soul of its architect springs with its pinnacles towards the heavens." He then described the multitudinous operation of the Museum; its cooperation with museums and institutions of learning in this and other lands and the wide knowledge, infinite tact and unwearying devotion which Dr. Goode displayed in directing all of these operations and relations to a useful end. "What has been said," remarked Professor Dall in conclusion, "I trust, is enough to show that no ordinary man could have done this work (and much else), and yet have left behind him no antagonisms, no memories of failure, no hint of insufficiency associated with his name. He is remembered as one never weary of well doing; who reached the heights, though ever aiming higher; whose example stimulated and whose history will prove a lasting inspiration."

Professor Dall then read from among a large number of letters received since the death of Mr. Goode, appreciating his great service and offering consolation, the following extracts:

Professor Henry Giglioli, of Florence, in writing to Mr. True, October 3, 1896, spoke of Mr. Goode as one of the men he loved and esteemed most. "I feel so crushed," he says, "by this terrible blow that I hardly know what I am writing;" "he was so full of energy and work, it is hard to believe that he is now no more. To you all at the National Museum the loss must be immense, but to many abroad it is a great and much felt sorrow. To Science in America, not alone, but in the civilized world, his loss is indeed irreparable and will be felt for years."

M. Henry de Varigny, of Paris, writes to Secretary Langley: "I have received the card which notifies me of the sad news of the death of that excellent and most distinguished man, G. Brown Goode. I was already acquainted with the fact, and had published a few lines of obituary notice in the *Revue Scientifique*, but I have not adequately expressed the feeling of true sorrow I experience when I remember that he is no more, and that his untiring activity and energetic kindness have ceased to be. He was very kind and obliging to me, and I shall keep a warm remembrance of him. Your loss is a great one."

William Wirt Henry, descendant of Patrick Henry, wrote to Mr. Hubbard: "It is a source of great satisfaction to me that I knew Dr. Goode personally and was privileged to be united with him in his work for the patriotic and historical societies with which he was connected. No one could know him without being impressed with his learning and modesty and with the sterling qualities of the man. I feel that his death is a loss which will be felt in every path in which he walked, and will be mourned by every votary of science."

The Hon. John Boyd Thatcher, Mayor of Albany, N. Y., wrote to Mr. Hubbard: "My personal knowledge of Professor Brown Goode began in 1890, when he gave his advice and counsel to the World's Columbian Commission in classifying the various objects into proper departments for exhibition, and more particularly in advising and establishing an adequate method of passing judgment upon the exhibits. In these matters I can testify to his ability and consummate skill. It was purely voluntary service he rendered, and I at once formed, and have still maintained, a profound sense of his goodness to those who were officially charged with work for which he knew we were most imperfectly equipped and to whom he gave not only suggestions, but detailed and elab-

orate and finished plans. It is the glory of the modern scientist and scholar that he subordinates himself to the accomplishment of public work. Our friend never asked to be identified personally with the accomplished thing. It was enough for him to know that some good was done and not that the world should know that it was done by him. The utter absence of selfishness in any life is worthy of recording in brass or in marble or in formulated words."

Doctor Möbius, of Berlin, writes January 26, 1897: "The unexpected death of Mr. George Brown Goode has deeply affected me. We were in agreeable communication to the advantage of our Museums. We have lost in him a distinguished promoter of our scientific efforts."

Dr. Richard Schöne, Director-General of the Royal Museums at Berlin, expresses 'his sincere regret at the death of this worthy scholar' and extends his sympathy.

Prof. Pavesi, Director of the Zoological Museum of the University of Pavia, offers his condolence. A similar message was received for the Museum Francisco-Carolinum in Linz.

Dr. Leon Vaillant, professor of the Museum of Natural History at Paris, says that "the ichthyological world has experienced a great loss."

Dr. H. von Ihering of San Paulo, Brasil, speaks of the loss the National Museum suffered both in administrative and scientific interests.

Dr. Duges, of Guanajuato, Mexico, expresses his profound regrets.

General O. B. Wilcox, U. S. A., representing the Sons of the American Revolution of the District of Columbia, then offered the following resolutions which were seconded by Rear-Admiral J. A. Greer, U. S. N., representing the Sons of the Revolution, and adopted by a rising vote:

We, the associates and friends of the late George Brown Goode, in the Scientific, Patriotic and Histor-

ical Societies of the City of Washington, being met together to commemorate his life and service, do recognize:

That in his death the world has lost a great man of true moral worth, unusual breadth of intellect, profound human sympathy, unswerving loyalty to his duty and devotion to his family and his friends.

That America has been deprived of a most patriotic, public spirited and loyal citizen; American Science of its first Historian, and American History of an original investigator.

That Universal Science has lost one of its foremost Ichthyologists and a man broadly learned in the entire field of Natural History.

That the Scientific service of the United States government, the Societies to which he belonged, and all the institutions in America for the promotion of knowledge, have lost in him an ever faithful and willing cooperator.

*Resolved*, That this minute be communicated to the societies of which Dr. Goode was a member and a copy be sent to his family, to whom the persons here assembled extend their sincere sympathy.

It is expected that all of these addresses, together with a narrative of Doctor Goode's life, an account of his contributions to museum administration, a bibliography of his writings, and possibly a chapter on his work in National and International exhibitions will be fittingly published in a memorial volume, and it is also likely that a permanent memorial will be established.

But there is a memory in the hearts of all who knew him which grows more fond as the days pass by, mingled with a sense of grief and loss, not as yet tempered by the months that have elapsed since that sorrowful day in September on which Dr. Goode went to his reward.

CYRUS ADLER.

WASHINGTON, February 22, 1897.

#### GEORGE BROWN GOODE\*

WHILE I am aware that it is only fitting that I should say something here about one I knew so well as the late Doctor Goode, I

\*Address at the Goode Memorial Meeting held February 13, 1897, by Secretary Langley, of the Smithsonian Institution.

feel the occasion a trying one, for he was so dear a friend that my very nearness and sense of a special bereavement must be a sufficient excuse for asking your indulgence, since I cannot speak of him even yet without pain, and I must say but little.

Here are some who knew him still longer than I, and many who can estimate him more justly in all his scientific work, and to those who can perform this task so much better, I leave it. I will only try to speak, however briefly, from a personal point of view, and chiefly of those moral qualities in which our friendship grew, and of some things apart from his scientific life which this near friendship showed me.

As I first remember him it seems to me, looking back in the light of more recent knowledge, that it was these moral qualities which I first appreciated, and if there was one which more than another formed the basis of his character it was sincerity—a sincerity which was the ground of a trust and confidence such as could be instinctively given even from the first, only to an absolutely loyal and truthful nature. In him duplicity of motive even seemed hardly possible, for, though he was in a good sense worldly wise, he walked by a single inner light, and this made his road clear even when he was going over obscure ways, and made him often a safer guide than such wisdom alone would have done. He was, I repeat, a man whom you first trusted instinctively, but also in whom every added knowledge explained and justified this confidence.

This sincerity, which pervaded the whole character, was united with an unselfishness so deep-seated that it was not conscious of itself, and was, perhaps, not always recognized by others. It is a subject of regret to me, now it is too late, that I seem myself to have thus taken it too much as a matter of course in the past, at times like one I remember, when, as I afterwards learned,