In memoriam. The Rev. Charles Hawley

#Auburn Cayuga County historical society
IN MEMORIAM.

THE REV. CHARLES HAWLEY, D.D.

Founder and First President of the
Cayuga County Historical Society.

THE PROCEEDINGS

of a Special Meeting of the Society, held Nov. 28, 1885,
and a
MEMORIAL ADDRESS,
delivered before the Society, March 9, 1886,
by
REV. WILLIS J. BEECHER, D. D.

WITH APPENDIX.

AUBURN, N. Y.,
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1886.
On Friday evening, November 13, 1885, Dr. Hawley was suddenly prostrated by a stroke of paralysis. The attack was a serious one, and, though he afterward partially rallied, yet from the first only the faintest hopes were entertained of his recovery. He lingered until Thanksgiving day, Thursday, November 26. On that day pneumonia set in, and death ensued at ten o'clock in the evening.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

A special meeting of the Cayuga County Historical Society was called Saturday evening, November 28, 1885, to take action on the death of its founder and president, the Rev. Charles Hawley, D. D. The meeting was largely attended, and deep feeling was manifested. The president's vacant chair was draped in mourning. Gen. W. H. Seward, vice-president, called the meeting to order and said:

"It is my painful duty to make official announcement of the death of the respected and much loved president of this society. This sad event occurred at his residence in this city, at about ten o'clock Thursday evening, November 26, 1885. The Rev. Charles Hawley, D. D., was the founder of the Cayuga County Historical Society, in the year 1876, and from then until now he has remained its only president. He was its earnest and active friend from the beginning, and has done more than any other person to promote its welfare and carry forward its laudable aim, to collect and preserve correct records of local events. His work on earth is completed and his memory now passes into that history which he himself did so much to retain and perpetuate. His life has been one of usefulness and good works, and while we now mourn the loss of our faithful president, the community regrets the removal by death of a just and liberal citizen, and many of us here tonight will remember him as one of our best and dearest friends. We are not to forget that his good deeds and their influence will live after him, and that the whole community is better for his life among us.

The history of Dr. Hawley's life and public services will, I trust, form the subject of an extended, interesting and instruc-
tive paper, later on, to be contributed to the archives of this association in which he took so deep an interest, and it should be our early duty to secure a faithful record of one whose labors and untiring energy in behalf of others has entered so largely into the history of our city for more than a quarter of a century.

The vacant chair which he occupied with so much dignity at our meetings for the past ten years reminds us of his pleasant, genial face and cordial manner, ready to give a hearty greeting to each associate as they came. Courteous and agreeable to all alike, he had a way of making those with whom he came in contact love and respect him. He was the trusted adviser of many, and those who sought his counsel or sympathy always found in him a willing ear and helpful hand. God has given to but few all the noble traits possessed by Charles Hawley, and there was much in his character that we might well adopt and follow as the example of a pure man, an unselfish neighbor, and a friend to be trusted in time of need.

It is therefore most fitting that this meeting of the Cayuga County Historical Society should be held, to express the feelings of regret and sympathy which its members entertain at the loss of their president and fellow associate."

The Rev. Willis J. Beecher, Hon. B. B. Snow, and Professor Geo. R. Cutting were appointed a committee to report resolutions for the action of the society. The committee subsequently reported the following:

Whereas, It has seemed good to our Heavenly Father to remove from us Rev. Charles Hawley, D. D., the president of this society from its organization; who deceased Nov. 26th, 1885, in the 67th year of his age, and the 42nd of his service in the ministry of the gospel; therefore,

Resolved, First, that we hereby express our sense of the great loss we suffer in the removal of Dr. Hawley; the loss to this
society of a faithful and devoted member and presiding officer; the loss to each of us, personally, of a friend, highly esteemed and deeply loved; the loss to the community of one, who, as a citizen and a Christian pastor, was widely known, was trusted by all, and was greatly influential for good.

Second, that we express our appreciation of the importance of the services which Dr. Hawley has rendered to this society, and through this society to the public; using his gifts and his influence for securing due recognition of the value of the work of preserving historical materials, and of making historical investigations; and himself accomplishing results in the study of American history, such as have secured to him an honorable place among men distinguished in these studies.

Third, that we especially express our conviction of the value of the work he has done, in calling attention to the labors of the early missionaries of the Roman Catholic church, among the tribes formerly inhabiting the region of central and western New York; we are proud to recognize the heroic deeds of these men as a part of the history of our country; and rejoice in the hope that work of this kind done by Dr. Hawley and by others of the same spirit with him, will have its influence in promoting catholicity of feeling among all who bear the Christian name.

Fourth, that in token of our respect for Dr. Hawley, and of our mourning for his loss, the rooms of the society be properly draped; and that we accept the invitation of his family to attend the funeral services.

Fifth, that this action be entered upon the minutes of the society; that a copy of it be presented to the family of Dr. Hawley, with the expression of our earnest sympathy with them in their sorrow; that copies be offered for publication to the daily papers of Auburn, and that copies of papers containing it be sent to the societies with which this society is in correspondence.
The resolutions were unanimously adopted, and the presiding officer invited the members to speak, when short and feeling addresses were made by Judge Hall, Prof. R. B. Welch, John H. Osborne, Prof. W. J. Beecher, James Seymour, Jr., Professor Geo. R. Cutting, the Rev. W. H. Allbright, the Rev. C. C. Hemenway, Lewis E. Lyon, John W. O'Brien, B. B. Snow, F. I. Allen, and Major W. G. Wise.

Messrs. L. E. Lyon, J. H. Osborne, and D. M. Dunning were appointed a committee to drape the rooms in mourning, after which the meeting adjourned.

Of the gentlemen who made addresses at the meeting, the following have kindly, at the request of the society, furnished abstracts.

REMARKS OF HON. B. F. HALL.

General Seward:

I came here in response to your invitation to participate in the proceedings of this society to manifest its sorrow for the decease of its beloved and eminent president, and to pay appropriate tribute to his character and memory. Although the occasion is a sad one for us all, I esteem it a privilege to be here and to mingle my humble homage with yours.

Doctor Hawley was a superior man in his vocation, and in all his varied positions and relations—theological, political, official and social. By nature and by culture he was capable of filling and honoring any position in society, and in the government, to which he might be called. That qualification was recognized by your father, when he selected him for the diplomatic mission to St. Thomas. He was capable of searching deeply into profound subjects, as his papers read before you at various times amply attest. By his researches into the hazy depths of American Archeology and Ethnology, while president of this society, he became an erudite and famous antiquarian.
And by his genial disposition and manners, he magnetized and charmed everybody with whom he was associated in this society, and elsewhere in his summerings abroad. And, as he was the founder of this society, its president since it was organized, and its principal pillar, this meeting and your address were timely, to afford us all the opportunity to pay some tribute to his memory. I cheerfully concur in the expressions of sorrow and tribute expressed in the resolutions reported by the committee, and also in your suggestion that a careful biography of Dr. Hawley's life and public services shall be prepared and deposited in the archives of this society to be preserved in a permanent form. That should be done for the benefit of the present and future members of this society, as a tribute of gratitude to him. It should be done moreover, for the benefit of kindred societies in this and other lands. But whether his biography shall be deposited in a printed or written form on paper or parchment in your archives or not, his great works will survive long after the contents of your archives shall have crumbled into dust. Dr. Hawley lived for immortality and attained it. He is still alive. I have known Dr. Hawley well for eight and twenty years, and some of the time I have held confidential intercourse with him. I admired him at first, as a clergyman of superior talents and qualifications for his vocation. As time rolled apace and duties outside of his vocation as a pastor devolved upon him, I was charmed with him. I perceived then that he was an intellectual and courageous Hercules, capable of great achievements in great national emergencies. As a divine I then thought that he resembled my ideal of the great apostle to the Gentiles, more than of any other character known to history, and, as a statesman, Alexander Hamilton, who by a marvelous inspiration "had the laws and the constitution by heart." From that time onward, I revered him as a sage.
After the termination of the war, during which we were temporarily separated by official duties elsewhere, we renewed our intercourse with each other, when I found his views, sentiments and tastes upon historical subjects, to be in harmony with my own. During the interval between the death of your venerable grandfather, Judge Miller, under whose inspiration I had secured from further desecration the vestiges on Fort Hill, and erected the shaft to perpetuate the memory of Logan, I had been entirely alone here, with no congenial associate to confer with upon the subject of American antiquities or any similar theme. I esteem this discovery of his relish for subjects which had for many years been so interesting to me, a God-send to me. It relieved the tedium of my loneliness very considerably, and made his company grateful. And I have good reasons for believing that our friendship was reciprocal, so that we often revealed and confided to each other our respective experiences, necessities and premonitions of mental and physical enfeeblement by disease and age. He was afflicted for years with an annual attack of what is generally called "hay fever," and was obliged to seek the climate of the Catskills to endure it. And, although he seemed to recover his strength and vigor, whilst there during the hay-flowering season, he often said to me after his return to Auburn and to his clerical duties, that he was conscious that that disease was gradually impairing his constitution, and rendering his confinement to his vocation more and more irksome.

He not only had profound esteem for your father in his lifetime, and enjoyed his society and confidence, but had implicit faith in all his suggestions respecting the means to avoid mental rust. He heard your father say, upon his return home from his journey around the world, that whilst some thought him presumptuous at his time of life, to undertake such a journey, he found that some such change of occupation and scenery was indispensable to him to avoid inevitable rust. If