
**Reminiscences of the Life and Character of Benjamin
Woolsey Dwight**

Dwight Benjamin Woodbridge

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Blessed are the Dead which die
In the Lord.
Yea! saith the Spirit,

DR. BENJAMIN WOOLSEY DWIGHT,
AND
MRS. SOPHIA WOODBRIDGE DWIGHT.

That they may
Rest from their labors
And their Works do follow them.



REMINISCENCES
OF THE
LIFE AND CHARACTER
OF
BENJAMIN WOOLSEY DWIGHT, M. D.

BY HIS SON,
BENJAMIN WOODBRIDGE DWIGHT.

JANUARY 1, 1862.

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INTRODUCTION.

THIS little volume, of which but a very small number of copies has been printed, has not been prepared at all for general circulation, but only for the use of the immediate relatives and friends of the deceased. Too great reverence for good and noble ancestors is not, certainly, one of the faults of this land, or age. We are glad to remember ours, as given to us of God to carry his banner in their hands, that we might follow in their footsteps to the Land that is above.

A truly beautiful life is the highest monument to the praise of both God and man, that can be erected on the shores of time ; and, while the lives of the good are, indeed, the property of mankind at large, they are specially so of their descendants : theirs, to cherish with peculiar gratitude, and to emulate with peculiar zeal.

This brief Memorial of the loved parents, whose moral portraiture it contains, is dedicated, on the one hand, to their children, who know so well how inadequate is any representation, made in a few

hasty pages, of the full real beauty of lives so pure as theirs, and so productive of every good ; and, on the other, to their grandchildren, no one of whom ever knew either of their honored grandparents as they really were, and to whom, therefore, it has been both a special aim and a special pleasure, to bring the fresh and fragrant recollections of their parents concerning them.

An ancestry of faith is the noblest ancestry, over which any one can rejoice before God. It is recognized in Heaven itself, as the Divine order of nobility upon earth, each one of whom is "a king and priest unto God," forever.

In order that a biography should be true and life-like, it must be, by necessity, quite minute in detail, and paint the real life and character described exactly as they were. The sketches here presented are not intended to be ideals of what our poor humanity might easily be conceived to be, or become, in the tender and divine relationship of parentage, but to be truthful descriptions of what two dear parents actually were, who were not perfect, but who wished and prayed and strove constantly that they might be. Their deeds and their instructions are a precious legacy to their children, and their children's children.

CLINTON, *Jan.* 1, 1862.

IN MEMORIAM.

BENJAMIN WOOLSEY DWIGHT, the second of eight sons of Rev. Timothy Dwight, S. T. D., President of Yale College, was born at Northampton, Mass., on Feb. 10th, 1780. His mother, Mrs. Mary Dwight, who was born at Dosoris, Long Island, April 11, 1754, and who died Oct. 11, 1845, ninety-one years old and more, was the daughter of Benjamin Woolsey, whose revered name she gave to her son. Benjamin Woolsey, Esq., was when at College (1740-44) a class-mate and room-mate of Timothy Dwight, the father of President Dwight ; and to the end of their lives they continued to be warm mutual friends.

When young Dwight was three years old, his father, who was a teacher in Northampton, and who preached also as he had opportunity in neighboring towns upon the Sabbath, removed to Greenfield, Conn. Here he continued for twelve years, as the settled Pastor of the church in that place ; while being at the same time the Head of a large