

THE VIRGINIA TEACHER

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IN MEMORIAM

James Chapman Johnston was a born teacher—not the teacher of a subject, but a teacher of boys and girls, of men and women. Always there was the human element in his relationship with his classes. And therefore he will be remembered by the hundreds of students who have sat in his classes long after they have forgotten the details of subject matter, whether it be in English or Latin or physics or chemistry.

It happened that during Mr. Johnston's last illness there came to Harrisonburg a man who twenty years ago had been a student at the Harrisonburg High School. "And where is Mr. Johnston?" he asked. When he heard of his recent accident, he said, "I wish I could see him. Tell him for me that I think of him almost every day. The English he taught me when I was in high school has been a constant help to me. He is a *real man*."

But in other surroundings than the classroom Mr. Johnston's personality was no less vivid, no less genial, no less liberalizing. It was his attitude toward life that individualized him, that in the memory of his friends will keep him individualized.

In his volume on *Biography*, soon to be published, his own definition of personality offers a satisfactory analysis of those qualities that went to make this man a real man: "Whatever distinguishes a man—such as his mode of thinking or acting, his habits and manners, and, indeed, even his language and tastes—contributes to the sum total of his personality. It is what he really is rather than what he affects to be—not mannerisms, eccentricities, oddities, peculiarities, and the like, in themselves—that constitutes the man's personality. As much a part of him as his real life-flow, it courses on, intertwined with what at times we call temperament, and becomes an expression of his character."

This it is, this essential character of James Johnston, that will continue to course on in the lives of those who knew him.

In the following columns of this journal, which he created, are gathered together some of the various newspaper accounts of the death of James Chapman Johnston, with copies of resolutions memorializing him.

Prof. James Chapman Johnston, widely known as a scientist and author, secretary of the State Teachers College faculty for the past eight years and an instructor in that institution since 1910, former editor of the old Harrisonburg Daily News, founder of *THE VIRGINIA TEACHER*, former principal of the Harrisonburg High School, and a past president of the Kiwanis Club, died unexpectedly at five o'clock Saturday afternoon at his home at Edge Lawn, causing the community to sustain a deep and irreparable loss.

Although he had been confined to his room for the past month, because of a fractured ankle, suffered on May 18, and pneumonia and pleurisy, which followed an attack of influenza, Prof. Johnston's condition had shown marked improvement for several days. His death, therefore, came as a distinct shock to all, resulting, it seemed, from

a paroxysm of coughing and a collapse of the heart.

Funeral Services 11 a. m. Today

Funeral services will be conducted at eleven o'clock this morning from the Edge Lawn residence, his rector, the Rev. Walter Williams, of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, and Dr. Ben F. Wilson, of the Presbyterian Church, officiating. Interment will be in Woodbine, where the Masons will conduct final rites. Pallbearers will be as follows:

Active—Dr. S. P. Duke, Prof. Raymond C. Dingleline, Dr. H. A. Converse, George Shue, C. B. Williamson, and I. S. McNeil.

Honorary—Prof. George W. Chappellear, Prof. Conrad Logan, Dr. J. W. Wayland, Prof. W. B. Varner, A. K. Hopkins, Dr. A. S. Kemper, W. N. Sprinkel, Dr. Joseph W. Wright, Dr. J. H. Deyerle, John Reilly, C. G. Harnsberger, S. D. Myers, George N. Conrad, and J. Frank Blackburn.

Summer classes at the State Teachers College and at the Main Street School will be suspended for the day out of respect to the memory of Prof. Johnston.

Native of Harrisonburg

Prof. Johnston was born in Harrisonburg on April 29, 1875, thus being in his 52d year, the son of Judge Robert and Laura Criss Johnston. He was next to the youngest of twelve children.

Judge Robert Johnston, an alumnus of Washington College, now Washington and Lee University, was a Confederate soldier, a distinguished lawyer, an able and upright judge, and a gentleman beloved by his associates, young and old, as the resolutions passed by the Harrisonburg bar on the occasion of his death in November, 1885, clearly set forth. In earlier life he represented Harrison county (now West Virginia) in the Virginia legislature. For a number of years he was First Auditor of the State, and during the latter part of the War Between the States he was a member of the Confederate Congress. In January, 1880, he was appointed judge of the county

court of Rockingham by Gov. F. W. M. Holliday.

Coming of distinguished ancestry and growing up under cultural influences, James Chapman Johnston embodied and exemplified high character and fine traditions. As a scholar, a gentleman, a teacher, and a wholesome understanding friend he deserved good friends and had a host of them.

Principal of High School

For a number of years, Prof. James Johnston was principal of the Harrisonburg High School, during which period the local institution was so elevated in its standards and instruction that it ranked with the best in the country. No other person than Prof. Johnston was more responsible for the high ranking of the Harrisonburg High School. For years its standards were the highest in Virginia and recognized by the large institutions of the North.

In 1910 Prof. Johnston became a member of the faculty of the State Normal School (now the State Teachers College) and soon established himself in the esteem of his colleagues and in the appreciation and affection of his classes. For the past eight years he served as secretary of the college faculty. For the greater part of this time he was the able and discriminating editor of THE VIRGINIA TEACHER, monthly magazine of the college, which owes the national recognition so generously accorded it largely to his good taste and versatile talents.

Served as Food Administrator

For a year or two, following the death of A. H. Snyder, Prof. Johnston served as editor of the *Harrisonburg Daily News*. During the World War he was food administrator for Rockingham and Harrisonburg, and in that capacity rendered efficient and generous service. His public spirit and civic interests have been demonstrated in many ways. A charter member of the Harrisonburg Kiwanis Club, he contributed materially to the welfare and happiness of the community. He served as president of the

club for one term. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, having been advanced to the honors of the Chapter, the Knights Templar, and the Shrine. He was a member of Emmanuel Episcopal Church and for some time served as a vestryman.

Edited Books

Prof. Johnston was not only a cultured gentleman, a popular after-dinner speaker, a wide reader and skilful teacher; he was also a pleasing and forceful writer. Numerous magazine articles and several high-class books are in evidence of his talents. In 1904 he edited the classic, *Deutsche Liebe*, for Ginn and Company, publishers, of Boston, which is used extensively as a textbook. He also prepared numerous English outlines and instructions, which were in use in public schools throughout the nation.

Only a short time before his death Prof. Johnston finished the manuscript of a larger volume, *Biography, the Literature of Personality*. This, in manuscript, was submitted to the Century Company, of New York City, and by them promptly accepted for publication on a royalty basis. The book is promised in the early autumn. In accepting this work for publication, the company wrote a complimentary letter, characterizing the production as both "scholarly and entertaining."

These terms also characterize and describe the author. He was both scholarly and entertaining. His fine disposition, his gentleness and affection in the home, his ability and high standards as a scientist, his public spirit as a citizen and his unfailing good fellowship justify the esteem in which he was held and the affection with which he will be remembered.

Five Children Survive

On April 15, 1911, Prof. Johnston married Miss Althea Loose, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. E. P. Loose, of Waukesha, Wisconsin. Of this union were born five children: Jacqueline, James, Robert, Montgomery, and Althea. Mrs. Johnston, as Miss

Loose, was a teacher in the Normal School. In recent years she has again taken up work as member of the physical education department of the college.

Prof. Johnston also is survived by one brother—Aaron Johnston, of Washington, and three sisters—Mrs. D. W. Proctor, of Baltimore; Mrs. Margaret Rose, of Washington; and Miss Julia Johnston, of California. All of these, with the exception of Miss Julia, have arrived for the funeral.

Dr. E. P. Loose, of Waukesha, Wis., Mrs. Johnston's father, also will be here for the funeral, as will her cousins, Mrs. W. W. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Allison Hooff, and an aunt, Mrs. Emily C. Round, of Manassas.—*Harrisonburg Daily News-Record*. June 20, 1927.

As principal of the Harrisonburg High School, Prof. Johnston was possibly at his best. The inspiration he gave his students, his ability to organize and promote, and his peculiar ability to discipline formed a happy combination that has never been equalled in the Valley of Virginia by any other educator. The high school work of the State and particularly the high school work in Harrisonburg suffered an irreparable loss when Prof. Johnston severed his connection with high school work and associated himself with the Teachers College. His place in the Harrisonburg public schools has never been filled, and it is doubtful whether it ever will be filled in this generation. It was in the good old Johnston days when the Harrisonburg High School suddenly occupied a leading position.

The Johnston age of the high school still exerts an influence and always will as long as there is a single Johnston student living.

—*Bridgewater Times*, June 24, 1927.

OUR GREAT SORROW

Death's First Toll Among Our Ranks

The college passed through the darkest hour which it has yet known when Profes-

sor James C. Johnston slipped quietly from our sight into the Great Beyond.

Up to this time no member of the faculty or of the student body had, in all the eighteen years, been taken by death while still actively connected with the institution, though we have lost those who had counted for much in its upbuilding and had become deeply rooted in our affections.

Mr. Johnston's familiar and kindly face was but just now here among us, on the campus and in classroom and corridor—genial, cultured, mature but untouched by age, responsive to everything that was truly fine, speaking a readiness for manifold service.

One might be interested in science, another in literature, and another in language; but Mr. Johnston was interested in all of these—interested in the universe and deeply interested in the people about him.

A moving spirit in the making of Harrisonburg High School, beloved instructor in this college since 1910, secretary of the faculty, founder of the *VIRGINIA TEACHER*, author, scientist, scholar, Kiwanian, Mason, vestryman of his church, friendliest of men, but one who was at his best with his family, Mr. Johnston truly held "God's license to be missed."

Letters from the alumnae and from his former colleagues crowd in by every mail, attesting that our sorrow is theirs and showing how much this means to them. Their sympathy goes up with ours for the home which his gentleness pervaded, where the stricken but resolute wife now girds herself for the double responsibility that has thus fallen upon her.

—*The Summer Breeze*, July 6, 1927.

The Vestry of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, at a meeting Monday night, adopted the following resolutions in regard to the death of Prof. James C. Johnston:

"James Chapman Johnston departed this life at his late residence in this city on Saturday, June 18, at the age of fifty-two years.

"Born in Harrisonburg, reared in the tenets of the Protestant Episcopal Church, he early ac-

cepted the faith of his fathers and for seventeen years served Emmanuel Church as vestryman.

"A gentleman of the old school, quiet, reserved, and scholarly, he passed his life learning and teaching others to learn.

"A scientist and man of letters, he did not let his learning bury his human kindness. His ready wit, never of the stinging kind, brought pleasure to his many friends.

"A kind husband and devoted father as well as a loyal friend, he will be sadly missed by men and women in all walks of life.

"As a teacher in the high school and in the Sunday school his influence was spread over the whole city and as a professor in the college his influence was felt throughout the state.

"In the death of James C. Johnston, the Vestry, the Church, and the whole community loses a friend whose place cannot be filled.

"Resolved that this memorial be recorded in the minutes of the Vestry and published in the local paper and that a copy of it be sent to the bereaved family with the sympathy of the Vestry."

The following resolutions of regret have been adopted by the Harrisonburg Kiwanis Club over the death of the club's second president, Prof. James C. Johnston:

In the death of James Chapman Johnston, on June 19, 1927, the Kiwanis Club of Harrisonburg has sustained a distinct loss.

A charter member, he was devoted to the ideals and purposes of the Club from its beginning, and he has been a strong factor in carrying forward the work which it has undertaken in the community. He was seldom absent from the weekly luncheons, and his genial humor and ready wit did much to foster that spirit of cheerfulness and fellowship which is the life of the organization.

He was the second president of the Club, and served throughout his term of office with marked ability and success.

Stodious and thoughtful, friendly and public spirited, he was an asset, not only to his Club, but to any group of which he was a member, including the entire community, which, through his passing, has lost a valuable citizen.

Be it Resolved, therefore, that: This expression of a sense of his worth and of sadness at his death be placed among the records of the Club, that a copy be furnished the local paper for publication, and that a copy be sent to the bereaved family, with strong assurances of our sympathy for them in their deep affliction.

The Masonic Lodge of Harrisonburg, in the following resolutions, expressed its sense of loss:

James Chapman Johnston, a member of this fraternity, died on Saturday, June 18, 1927, mourned by all who knew him, and was buried with Masonic honors in Woodbine Cemetery, Monday, June 20.

James C. Johnston was born in Harrisonburg, April 29, 1875, and his entire life almost without exception was spent here; and none among us

was more beloved. He had what few men have in the same degree: character and personality. In disposition he was kindly and thoughtful of others. His keen sense of humor made him a delightful companion and endeared him to all who knew him.

This esteemed brother was raised to the degree of Master Mason in the Rockingham Union Lodge on the 30th day of May, 1904. He was exalted a Royal Arch Mason on May 25, 1906, and was created a Knight Templar on February 10, 1908, and continued a member of these three Masonic bodies of Harrisonburg until his death. He was also a member of the Acca Temple of Richmond. In the Blue Lodge, Brother Johnston served as Junior and Senior Deacon and Junior Warden, but declined further advancement on account of his home and professional duties.

He was a member of the Episcopal Church and was, for a number of years prior to his death, a vestryman of the Emmanuel Episcopal Church of Harrisonburg.

He began his professional career as a teacher in his twentieth year, and by his intellectual ability and studious habits he became eminent in his chosen profession. Along with his reputation as a teacher he enjoyed the distinction of being a writer of merit.

His unfailing cheerfulness, his geniality, his ability as a teacher and writer, his public spirit as a citizen, justify the love and esteem in which he was held and make us conscious of the great loss we have sustained in his passing to that home above, eternal in the heavens.

Be it Resolved, that these resolutions be incorporated in the minutes of this Lodge and a copy mailed to Mrs. James C. Johnston.

BOOKS

IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS BOOKS 1926-1927

The fifty books that comprise this list were selected by widely representative librarians and furnished by the publishers for the Religious Book Round Table exhibit in connection with the A. L. A. Conference, in Toronto, June, 1927. The list was edited by Crozer Theological Seminary, Chester, Pa., by the Librarian, Frank Grant Lewis.

Arendzen, J. P.—Prophets, Priests and Publicans. Herder. 1926. \$2.00.

Bacon, B. W.—Story of Jesus and the Beginnings of the Church. Century. 1927. \$2.50.

Baillie, John—Roots of Religion in the Human Soul. Doran. 1926. \$2.00.

Berry, E. S.—Church of Christ. Herder. 1927. \$3.00.

Brown, W. A.—Life of Prayer in a World of Science. Scribner. 1927. \$2.25.

Browne, Lewis—This Believing World. Macmillan. 1926. \$3.50.

Buck, O. M.—Out of Their Own Mouths. Abingdon. 1926. \$0.75.

Burton, E. D.—Christianity in the Modern World. University of Chicago Press. 1927. \$2.00.

Cabot, R. C.—Adventures on the Borderlands of Ethics. Harper. 1926. \$2.00.

Calkins, Raymond—Eloquence of Christian Experience. Macmillan. 1927. \$2.00.

Callcott, W. H.—Church and State in Mexico. Duke University Press. 1926. \$4.00.

Coffin, H. S.—What to Preach. Doran. 1926. \$2.00.

Elert, Werner—Outline of Christian Doctrine. United Lutheran Publishing House. 1927. \$1.00.

Foakes-Jackson, F. J.—Rise of Gentile Christianity. Doran. 1927. \$2.00.

Fosdick, H. E.—Adventurous Religion, and Other Essays. Harper. 1926. \$2.00.

Gilkey, J. S.—Faith for the New Generation. Macmillan. 1926. \$1.75.

Haas, J. A. W.—Unity of Faith and Knowledge. Macmillan. 1926. \$2.00.

Hickman, E. S.—Students' Introduction to the Psychology of Religion. Abingdon. 1926. \$3.50.

Hooker, E. R.—United Churches. Doran. 1926. \$2.75.

Jones, R. M.—Finding the Trail of Life. Macmillan. 1926. \$1.75.

Keller, Adolph, and Stewart, George—Protestant Europe; Its Crisis and Outlook. Doran. 1927. \$3.50.

Luccock, H. E., and Hutchinson, Paul—Story of Methodism. Abingdon. 1926. \$4.00.

Macartney, C. E. N.—Great Sermons of the World. Stratford. 1926. \$3.50.

McComb, Samuel—Book of Modern Prayers. Longmans. 1926. \$1.50.

McConnell, F. J.—Christlike God. Abingdon. 1927. \$1.75.

McLaughlin, R. W.—Spiritual Element in History. Abingdon. 1926. \$2.50.

Margolis, M. L., and Marx, Alex—History of the Jewish People. Jewish Publication Society of America. 1927. \$4.00.

Moore, G. F.—Judaism in the First Century of the Christian Era. 2 v. Harvard. 1927. \$10.00.

Murry, J. M.—Jesus, Man of Genius. Harper. 1926. \$2.50.

Newman, H. H.—Nature of the World and of Man. University of Chicago Press. 1926. \$4.00.

Newton, J. F.—My Idea of God; a Symposium of Faith. Little, Brown. 1926. \$2.50.

Phelan, Macum—Handbook of All Denominations. Cokesbury. 1927. \$1.25.

Russell, W. H.—Your Religion. Herder. \$1.75.

Schaeffer, Henry—Call to Prophetic Service, From Abraham to Paul. Revell. 1926. \$3.25.

Scott, M. J.—Religion and Common Sense. Kenedy. 1926. \$1.50.

Smyth, Newman—Recollections and Reflections. Scribner. 1926. \$2.00.

Soper, E. D.—What May I Believe? Abingdon. 1927. \$1.75.

Speer, R. E.—Church and Missions. Doran. 1926. \$1.75.

Speer, R. E.—Unfinished Task of Foreign Missions. Revell. 1926. \$2.75.

Streeter, B. H.—Reality; a New Correlation of Science and Religion. Macmillan. 1926. \$2.50.

Tawney, R. H.—Religion and the Rise of Cap-