

*The*  
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By

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Pastor

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



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Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

---Ecclesiastes 12:1

"O God, Father of our spirits and giver of all good; grant that we may live in such fellowship with Thee that we shall grow into Thy likeness, and share Thy life. Free us from fretting and pride, and beget within us a meek and modest spirit. Deliver us from the bondage and bitterness of a worldly life, and lead us into the large and joyous liberty of Christ. May He so dwell in us that His spirit shall become our disposition, and spring up within us a well of water unto everlasting life. Lead us in a plain path along life's journey, and at last may we enter in through the gates into the City. And this we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.  
(Book of Common Worship).

The Sunday School Christmas Exercises will be on Sunday evening, December 22nd.

The Ladies Fair and Supper was a pleasant and successful occasion, in spite of the snow storm which kept many from attending. The net receipts were over \$118.00. Of this \$63.00 was collected by Mrs. Charles Dux on the quilt contest.

The sudden and unexpected death of Mrs. Ella Ritzer on last Tuesday morning was a shock to the community, as she had not been ill. She was the daughter of William Dalrymple, an old Oxford family. She leaves her husband, Emil Ritzer and four children, William, Dorothy, Mabel and Catherine, and a brother, Cummins Dalrymple. She was a very helpful member of our Church, and our loss is great. Our sympathies are with the stricken family.

## George Scranton Humphrey

Mr. Humphrey died last Tuesday, Dec. the 3rd, at the home of Mrs. Dr. L. S. B. Hadley, in Cortland, N. Y. He had been in failing health the past year, and death came to him as a relief from suffering.

He was born in 1856, at Ithaca, N. Y. His parents were William Ross and Mary Wheeler Humphrey, who came from a distinguished New England family.

After finishing his education at Cornell University he took a position with the First National Bank of his native town. He came to Oxford in 1875, and for ten years was bookkeeper and manager of the old blast furnace.

While in Oxford he was married to Miss Caroline Scranton, daughter of Col. Charles Scranton.

He left Oxford in 1885; for a time he took a position with a gold mining company in New Mexico, and from thence to Kokomo, Indiana where he became assistant treasurer and superintendent of the Kokomo Window Glass Company. In 1890 he went to Staten Island and became treasurer of a company manufacturing machinery, and he was treasurer of that company for 35 years. He later was elected Vice-President of the Staten Island Savings Bank, which position he held until his death. He was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church and was an Elder for 50 years.

He became a member of the Oxford Lodge of Masons (No. 127) in 1878.

He was a member of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the historical Societies of Staten Island and Ithaca, and various other clubs and societies.

Mr. Humphrey was closely connected with the Scranton family, not only by marriage but also by receiving his Christian name from George Scranton.

It came about in this way: his father, Wm. Humphrey was an attorney in Ithaca, and was appointed Receiver of the railroad running from Ithaca to Owego. This was in the 1840s, at the time the Scranton brothers were founding the iron works at Scranton, Pa. Mr. Humphrey heard of the new iron works and went to Slocum Hollow to find out about it. He became acquainted with George Scranton, and a friendship was formed that lasted for life. George Scranton promoted

a railroad north to connect with the Ithaca road at Owego, thus giving an outlet for the Scranton products to Ithaca and through the lake to the Erie canal and the railroad.

This gave the Ithaca road and Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Scranton worked together in promoting this enterprise. So as a consequence of their mutual regard and friendship Mr. Humphrey named his son after George Scranton. Mr. George S. Humphrey was very proud of his name sake, and it was due to this fact that he was given a job in the Oxford Iron Works.

From the time Mr. Humphrey left Oxford in 1885, until about 1931 he was here only at times to visit his relatives, but from the first Reunion in 1931 he became deeply interested in Oxford, and was always at the Reunions and took active part in them. He often said that his ten years in Oxford were the happiest years of his life.

He became interested in the Bulletin from the first time he saw it, and was the first to write for it about the church in his time here. And every year since he has been a regular contributor. In one of his articles on the history of the old blast furnace he remarked that it ought to be made an historic monument. This led the Editor to look up the history of it and found it of great importance. Mr. Humphrey gave himself to the matter and it was through his taking it up with Mr. Peckitt, the President of the owning company, that the furnace was offered to the State as a gift.

Oxford will always owe him a debt of gratitude for what he has done for it.

But the great thing about Mr. Humphrey was his personality; and his character as a high minded man guided by noble principles of conduct, together with his great intelligence and culture and his never failing courtesy, marked him as a man among men.

These qualities were shown by him even to the last. Last Monday Dec. 2nd, the Editor received a letter from Mrs. Hadley, written the day before, which gives a vivid picture of the last days of Mr. Humphrey.

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The letter of Mrs. Hadley written by the bedside of her father, is as follows:-

Dear Dr. Yount:-

"I am sitting beside father, with his hand in mine most of the time. He is growing extremely weak and has had three critical sinking spells during the last twenty-four hours.

Last Tuesday Mr. Hadley and I, with the very fine Nurse, who had been attending father, brought him home to Cortland. Of course it was difficult to make up our minds to undertake the journey, but it was safely accomplished, by careful arranging of the back seat of our car. These days together have been very happy in spite of the painful effort of the body to keep on living. Father's mind is bright, he enjoys each one of the family — the young people only half a minute at a time — and even bits of letters from the grandsons who are away. Cards through the mail, little gifts and inquiries from people here — it is astonishing to see — although he can scarcely articulate, and only in part sentences — his appreciation and unflinching courtesy.

"He longs now to 'go and be with (my) Mother and (my) Brother.' He often quotes some phrases — 'The Most High', 'place prepared' and so on, and follows as Lindsay and I repeat the familiar passage, 'Remember thy Creator' he began and I finished, 'in the days of thy youth' — 'That is so important' he said. I showed him the Oxford Bulletin which came yesterday and it was an evident pleasure to him that you had received his subscriptions, and also wrote of him as you did.

"You can imagine that it is a great joy for me to be with him, most of the time day and night, and to fulfill not only the natural devotion of a daughter but also Mother's especial commission to 'Take care of Precious Father.' We are gratefully indebted to countless friends in many places."

--- Mary Humphrey Hadley

The funeral was at the Calvary Presbyterian Church, Staten Island, and interment in the Moravian Cemetery, beside his wife, who died in 1929.



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