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In Memoriam: Samuel Calvin

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SAMUEL CALVIN

IN MEMORIAM

PROFESSOR SAMUEL CALVIN.

Professor Samuel Calvin, Professor of Geology in the State University of Iowa, and senior fellow of the Iowa Academy of Science, was born in Wigtonshire, Scotland, February 2, 1840. He departed this life on the morning of April 17, 1911.

It is fitting that this Academy should spread upon its records some expression of appreciation of our late colleague, both as a fellow-worker in Science and as a man among men, and the minute here appearing is prepared by vote of the Academy.

Professor Calvin entered the Academy in 1876 and his name appears as that of active member or fellow in every volume of our proceedings published since. His name also appears with those of the group of men active in 1887 in organizing the Academy upon its present prosperous basis. He has contributed to every volume of our proceedings; his papers fill our pages and we can but deplore that such a record of industry and productiveness is forever closed.

As a fellow of the Academy, Professor Calvin was distinguished at once by his earnestness and his generosity; his papers were always presented with confidence indeed, but with an unassuming modesty that won for him the sympathy and the affection of his colleagues. He was generous in the extreme. Having by virtue of his connection with the state survey the disposal of the research work of Iowa, he freely assigned it to any who would attempt such enterprise, always attributing at last to every author, every fraction of accomplished work even though effected under his own immediate personal direction.

He was State Geologist from the establishment of the survey to the time of his death, with the exception of two years during which he laid aside the responsibility on account of the pressure of other duties. It was his to give shape, proportion and character to the work. He combined its scientific and economic phases in such a way as to give great satisfaction to all the varied interests involved.

Professor Calvin easily ranked among the foremost educators of the state. He was a natural teacher. He loved the work and so identified himself with the interests of his pupils that they promptly recognized their opportunity as a high privilege and rarely did he fail to raise even the most unresponsive to a higher plane of appreciation and endeavor. The intellectual and moral elements of a true manhood were so admirably mingled and proportioned in him that his pupils and friends as well felt in his presence a tonic influence, a wholesome stimulus to better things. His pupils, wherever they may be

found today, proudly acknowledge their indebtedness to him as teacher and friend.

Professor Calvin was a naturalist in the broad sense of that word. He loved Nature, was in profound sympathy with all her phases, moods and movements; he was a botanist, a zoologist, a geologist, and though more immediately concerned at last with the history of the planet especially in recent phases, yet in his deepest sympathy he was a student of life and her ways, and he turned the pages of geologic record only the better to watch the drama, to measure the stately progress of earth's living forms; he stood in reverence in the presence of the ages and appreciated the sublimity of their mighty message.

The members of this Academy recognize thus a life of supreme service to the state, to education and to the cause of science in the world; they revere the memory of Samuel Calvin and find in his example the purest inspiration for future effort and devotion.

THOMAS H. MACBRIDE,
MELVIN F. AREY,
WILLIAM HARMON NORTON,
Committee.