

IN MEMORIAM

JAMES ARTHUR MULLER
1884 - 1945

The passing of Professor James Arthur Muller on September 5, 1945, at his home in Cambridge, Mass., has left our Society bereft of a distinguished scholar, a devoted and effective teacher, and a faithful and unselfish friend. When his fatal illness overtook him last summer, his valiant Christian spirit and disciplined devotion were crowned by his heroic facing of death unafraid.

Professor Muller came to his life's task excellently trained. His elementary education was received in the public schools of Philadelphia, in which city he was born on December 23, 1884. After his graduation from Princeton in 1907 he prepared for the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church at the Episcopal Theological School. At the same time that he received his divinity degree from the latter institution, in 1910, he took an M.A. at Harvard. During the years 1910-15 he was a fellow in history, first at his *alma mater* and then at his seminary, two years of which were occupied with study in Europe. Upon receiving his Ph.D. from Princeton in 1915 he became an instructor at his seminary. From 1917 to 1919 he was a professor at Boone University, Wuchang, China. Shortly after his return to this country he became professor of history at St. Stephen's College, and in 1923 lecturer at the General Theological Seminary. He returned to his seminary as professor of Modern Church History in the latter part of 1923, and held this position until his untimely death.

During all these years he exercised regularly the ministry of his Church, serving and supplying various parishes. From 1933 to 1940 he was a member of the Standing Liturgical Commission of the Episcopal Church, and at the time of his death was Registrar of the Diocese of Massachusetts and a member of the diocesan Music Commission. In 1943 he was awarded an honorary Litt.D. degree from Occidental College.

When in 1926 Professor Muller's first book appeared, *Stephen Gardiner and the Tudor Reaction* (S.P.C.K.), his work was immediately acclaimed on both sides of the Atlantic for its

painstaking accuracy, its unsparing impartiality, its vividness of presentation. These qualities were to mark all of his teaching and writing. His edition of *The Letters of Stephen Gardiner* (Cambridge University Press, 1933) closed an outstanding gap in researches in the English Reformation and provided indispensable material for all future work in the subject. For his magisterial work in this field Professor Muller was elected a fellow of the Royal Historical Society, London.

The brief years spent in China bore fruit in articles in the *National Geographic* and *Asia* magazines, and more particularly in the interest which led to his biography of Bishop Schereschewsky (*Apostle of China*, Morehouse, 1937), a model of scholarly popularization. His preface to this volume, in which he recounts his gathering of materials, is a lesson for all historians in the diligent search for sources. The book was translated into Chinese in 1940. In connection with the 75th anniversary of the Episcopal Theological School, the seminary published a history of the institution by Professor Muller (1943), which exhibits his capacity for treating a subject, which in less skillful hands would have but a limited appeal, with such lively interest and breadth of interest as to make it a significant contribution to American Church History. It is a source of great regret that he was not spared to complete his biography of Philander Chase. A preview of it may be found in his paper read before the Society at its Spring meeting in 1944, and published in the *Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church* (June, 1945), a periodical to which he frequently contributed and of which he was an associate editor from its inception in 1932.

Professor Muller was married in 1919 to Dr. Gulli Lindh, whose scholarly publications in the field of medicine were an encouragement and stimulus to his own researches. Their home in Cambridge has ever been a place of happy and generous hospitality and a favorite resort for students and returned alumni of the seminary. Deeply loyal to his Church and School, thoughtful and unselfish in all his relationships, and of the utmost integrity of heart and mind, Professor Muller will be sorely missed by his companions of the way.

Massey H. Shepherd, Jr.
Episcopal Theological School.