

Charles Edwin Bennett

Professor of Latin In Cornell University

April 6, 1858 — May 2, 1921

It is with dismay and deep grief that we have learned of the sudden death, on the morning of Monday, May the second, at his home on our campus, of one of our most revered scholars, professor Charles Edwin Bennett. Almost without a premonition he passed in his sleep from life into death.

His quiet and studious career is known to us all. A graduate of Brown, the University of his native state and city, he carried further his scholarly training at Harvard, at Leipzig, at Berlin, at Heidelberg; then, after a brief apprenticeship as teacher and principal in secondary education and two or three years as a professor at the University of Wisconsin and at Brown, he entered, at thirty-four, on his long service as professor of Latin at Cornell. Since the summer of 1892, almost thirty-nine years, he has with rare distinction held that chair among us, honored and loved by all.

How high and rigorous were his standards as a teacher, how exacting his methods, how discriminating and sensitive his scholarship, need no pointing out. His books on Latin grammar and Latin composition, keep abreast of scholarship by revision and republication, his great work on the syntax of early Latin, his editions of classical authors, his exquisite translation of Horace, his many learned papers in philological journals, have made his name a household word throughout our land and widely known beyond the sea and have drawn to his class room a growing throng of students, many of them now in college chairs. He found time to collaborate with his colleague, Bristol, in an influential manual on the teaching of Greek and Latin in secondary schools and with his colleague, Hammond, in a charming version of the Characters of Theophrastus. Yet this large fruitfulness of his pen was never at sacrifice of attention to his students or his full share in the management of the University.

Less known, even to his colleagues, has been his good citizenship, his kindly civic helpfulness, his large and efficient part, as chairman of the Belgian Relief Committee of his county, in the activities of the great war, his genial comradeship in club and social circles. We shall miss his stately figure and his scholar's face; we shall miss his sincerity, his ripe judgment, his clear and chosen words; but most of all shall we miss his earnest, high and self-reliant manhood.

Source: Faculty Records, p. 1214 Joint Resolutions Adopted by The Trustees And Faculty of Cornell University June, Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-One



Charles Edwin Bennett