

Charles Mellen Tyler

— *May 15, 1918*

The following resolutions on the death of Professor Charles Mellen Tyler were prepared (during the summer vacation) by a committee appointed by the President and consisting of Professors E. L. Nichols, W. Strunk, Jr., and E. Albee, Chairman, a committee appointed with power:

The University Faculty of Cornell University desire to express their deep sorrow at the death of their honored and beloved colleague, the Reverend Charles Mellen Tyler, D.D., Professor Emeritus of the History and Philosophy of Religion and of Christian Ethics, and to record their appreciation of him as a scholar and as a man.

After distinguished service in the church, in the General Court of Massachusetts, and as chaplain in the field in the arduous campaign of the Wilderness, Dr. Tyler came in 1872 to Ithaca, where his unusual gifts of mind and character made him a valued member of the community, in his office of clergyman and in civic and social life. After serving the University for five years as Trustee, he became in 1891 a member of the original faculty of the Sage School of Philosophy. He served for twelve years as professor, until his retirement in 1903, when he became Professor Emeritus and Lecturer. Since 1907 he has continued with Cornell University as a member of the Board of Trustees.

As Professor, Dr. Tyler is remembered with affection and gratitude, alike by his colleagues and by his students. His personal charm and his unfailing courtesy endeared him not only to his friends of long standing, but to the latest comers and the most diffident, while his openness of mind and aptness for lucid exposition made the work of his class-room attractive and stimulating. No one did more to make us realize that, as members of the University, in spite of all differences in our methods of approaching the truth, we are spiritually one body, and that our interests are not confined to the material and to the temporal. At a time of thoroughgoing and even radical reconstruction in many fields of investigation and speculation, Dr. Tyler was never unprogressive or intolerant, for he never forsook the essentially humane point of view. Always ready to welcome the accredited results of modern scientific thought, his faith was even more in the future than in the past. More than usually endowed with sympathy and imagination, Dr. Tyler was not only keenly susceptible to all suggestions of beauty in nature and art, but in his daily walk and conversation he unconsciously exemplified the beautiful as well as the fearlessly true and the humanely good. And his military figure, erect to the last, looked always forward.

We hereby express our sorrow and extend our sympathy to the family of our late colleague and friend.