

Robert Henry Thurston

Director of Sibley College and Professor of Mechanical Engineering

— *October 25, 1903*

The Faculty and Instructing Staff of Cornell University, wishing to give voice to the sentiments evoked by the death of their colleague and friend, Professor Robert Henry Thurston, Director of Sibley College, have directed the following to be entered upon the records of the University Faculty and communicated to his family :

Professor Thurston came among us in 1885 when the University had barely entered upon its present era of development, and the college over which he came to preside was still small in numbers and poor in equipment. During the eighteen years of his labors he witnessed the progress of the University in all of its departments and the remarkable growth of Sibley College. His own contribution to this splendid result can hardly be overestimated. To his wise and farsighted policy and his tactful and efficient administration is due, in greatest measure, the development of Sibley College, which now constitutes the largest unit of our University organization and holds an assured place among the foremost technical schools of the world.

In all his relations to general University problems he exhibited the spirit of the scholar and the wisdom of the man of affairs. Serene in temper, sound in judgment, swift and certain in action, he justly exercised a weighty influence in all our counsels.

As a colleague he exhibited an interest in all good learning that bespoke the true scholar and the generous fellow-worker.

As a friend and companion he manifested a cordial sympathy that attracted all who knew him and held them in the bonds of increasing affection.

In all the relations of life he moved upon the higher levels and shewed forth the better qualities of our nature.

His loss falls heavily upon us, his colleagues and friends, upon the College whose head he was, and upon the University in whose history he has borne a distinguished part. It falls most heavily upon his family, whose grief we share and to whom we desire to express our profound and sincere sympathy.

Committee: T. F. Crane, E. W. Huffcut, W. F. Durand

Source: Records, p. 233, November 6, 1903