JAMES BLANTON WHAREY MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS

The General Faculty wishes to record its deep regret at the death of Professor J.B. Wharey, and its appreciation of his many years of valuable service to the University of Texas and the State.

James Blanton Wharey was born in Cumberland County, Virginia, March 4, 1872, and died in Davidson, North Carolina, the scene of his college days July 24, 1946. His heritage was the best. His father was Reverend James M. Wharey, a Presbyterian minister, whose pastorates were mostly in North Carolina. His mother, Mary W. (Blanton) Wharey, was a worthy companion and a model minister's wife, a perfect mother.

The career of Dr. Wharey was marked with distinguished success from beginning to end. His first teaching position was at Cape Fear Academy, Wilmington, North Carolina, 1892-1893, after which he was called back to Davidson College as tutor in Latin and Greek. After three years in that position, followed by three years more of graduate study, he became in 1896 Professor of English in Southwestern Presbyterian University, Clarksville, Tennessee. From there he went in 1906 to Peabody College, Nashville, as Professor of English. That same year he married Miss Elizabeth Chapman, who was teaching English in Ward Seminary. In 1910 they went to study in the University of Berlin. In January, 1912, he joined the faculty of The University of Texas, where he continued to win distinction as scholar and teacher until the day of his death. At the University he gave genrueously of his time and talents to all the activities of a large undergraduate and graduate department, as well as to the general life of the campus and community.

The recognition which Dr. Wharey received as a scholar was well deserved. He possessed the necessary equipment of a scholar; mentality, application, accuracy, thoroughness, keen insight, fair-mindedness. As evidence of his scholarly habits and ability, he graduated from Davidson College in 1892 as valedictorian, received the Master of Arts degree from the same institution in 1895 and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from The Johns Hopkins University in 1904, and later in 1934 was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws by Davidson College. However, the crowning evidence of his scholarship is his published research, which was almost entirely devoted to the writings of John Bunyan, notably The Pilgrim's Progress. He began the study of John Bunyan with his doctor's thesis and ended it with his edition of The Pilgrim's Progress in England in the tricentennial year of Bunyan's birth. Dr. Wharey states in his preface that 'The aim of the present edition is quite definite: it is to write the history of the editions of The Pilgrim's Progress that were issued in England from 1678 to 1650, and to discover so far as may be possible their relative textual value.' The success of that difficult task is indicated by the practically unanimous praise of scholars in England, Germany, and America. Allardyce Nichol in The Year's Work in English Studies says: 'This is in every way an admirable piece of work; in many ways it may be regarded as the finest achievement in critical bibliography produced within recent years.'

This was not all that Dr. Wharey published, but his heart was more in teaching than in research and publication. He was universally admired and loved as a teacher. Because of his clearness in presentation, his sense of humor, his genuine and kindly approach to his students, his personal magnetism, his scholarly mastery of his courses, his classes especially in Browning and Tennyson were always in great demand by students.

Added to Dr. Wharey's excellence as a scholar and a teacher was the high esteem in which he was held as a churchman. His Christian character was known by all. His judgment in church matters was sound and his example in Christian living was an inspiration to all who knew him. He was active in his church as an officer, a teacher, a worshipper, a generous contributor who did not let his right hand know what his left hand was doing.
The home life of Dr. and Mrs. Wharley was a model. They were entirely congenial. Both were scholars and teachers in the field of English. Both were earnest and sincere Christians and active in the work of the church. Both were simple, though elegant, in their tastes. Both were ideally gracious and wholehearted as hosts. It was a real joy to anyone to be in this home where love and mutual consideration and thoughtfulness for each other and their guests were manifest.

Dr. Wharley was in great demand as a public reader. His magnificent voice, his ability to forget himself and impersonate what he was reading, his genuine sincerity in presenting the thoughts and style of the subject matter in hand account in part for his gift as a reader.

Though endowed with so many gifts, Dr. Wharley can have no higher praise than that found in the expression, an ideal gentleman. He was always kind and considerate and unselfish. His gracious and gentle smile and manner endeared him to all. No unkind word passed his lips nor, as far as one could tell, was any in his mind. He was the personification of courtesy, of unselfish devotion to duty. He loved his home, his work, his church, his fellowmen, his God, and was in turn loved by all who knew him.

As his heritage to the world, Dr. Wharley left all the fine qualities which he possessed in such abundance. Besides, in more tangible form, his library of nearly 3,000 select volumes has come through his heirs to The University of Texas, while his beautiful home on Washington Square was bequeathed to the University Presbyterian Church as a home for its minister.

L.L. Click
R. H. Griffith
T. F. Harrison, Jr.

R. A. Law
D. A. Penick
H. T. Parlin, Chairman