

IN MEMORIAM

HENRY EYSTER JACOBS

Henry Eyster Jacobs, D. D., L. L. D., S. T. D., who was President of the American Society of Church History, 1907-08, and for a number of years a member of its Council, died at his home in Philadelphia on July 7th. He was one of the five or six most influential personalities the Lutheran Church in America has produced.

Dr. Jacobs was born at Gettysburg, Pa., November 10, 1844, and was trained in the college and seminary there. Graduating from the seminary in 1865, he spent one year in the study of history and law, was tutor in Gettysburg College, 1864-67, home missionary in Pittsburgh, 1867-68, principal of what is now Thiel College, 1868-70, professor of Latin and History at Gettysburg College, 1870-80, of Ancient Languages, 1880-81, and of Greek 1881-83. Then he succeeded Charles Porterfield Krauth as professor of Systematic Theology in the Lutheran seminary in Philadelphia, was dean of the faculty, 1894-1920, and president, 1920-28.

Dr. Jacobs was distinguished as historian, as theologian, and as churchman. He wrote the standard work on the *History of the Lutherans* in this country, Volume IV of the American Church History Series, 1893. He is the author of the life of *Martin Luther* in the series on the Heroes of the Reformation, 1898. Other contributions to church history are his *Lutheran Movement in England*, 1891, his *German Immigration to America, 1759-40*, and scores of articles in magazines and encyclopedias. He was co-editor of the *Lutheran Cyclopaedia*, 1899, and a member of the American Historical Association, the Pennsylvania Historical Society, the Pennsylvania German Society, and the Henry Bradshaw Society. Dr. Jacobs also made numerous important contributions to systematic theology, as editor, translator, and author. He was frequently entrusted with the highest responsibilities his church could bestow. But his greatest influence was exerted as a teacher. The breadth, accuracy and clarity of his scholarship, and his unusual ability to impart knowledge to others made him a teacher of exceptional power. More than a thousand clergymen came into direct contact with him as students during nearly seventy years of his career as instructor. Thousands of others felt the moulding impress of his mind and heart through his books and his statesmanship in the church. He was succeeded as President of the Philadelphia Seminary in 1928 by his son, the church historian Charles M. Jacobs.