



*Yours in Christ,*  
*J. J. Schmucker.*

# LIFE AND TIMES

OF

## Rev. S. S. Schmucker, D. D.,

First Professor of Theology in the Lutheran Theological Seminary,  
at Gettysburg, Pa.

BY

### P. ANSTADT, D. D.,

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"I have lived, and am dying, in the faith of Jesus."

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**DEDICATED**  
to the  
**Surviving Relatives, Friends**  
and  
**Students**  
of  
**Rev. S. S. Schmucker, D. D.,**  
by  
**The Author.**

## CHAPTER NINETEENTH.

DEATH OF DR. SCHMUCKER—ACCOUNT BY THE *Star and Sentinel*—IT OCCURED ON SATURDAY NIGHT AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK—FUNERAL SERVICES—ADDRESSES BY DRS. HAY, LOCHMAN, MORRIS, BROWN, AND BAUM—TRIBUTE BY THE SEMINARY BOARD—RESOLUTIONS OF THE COLLEGE BOARD—OBITUARY BY THE *Lutheran* OF PHILADELPHIA—TRIBUTE BY THE *Lutheran Visitor*—INSCRIPTION ON HIS MONUMENT—INSCRIPTION ON TABLET IN SEMINARY—THE GENERAL SYNOD AND THE SEMINARY AND COLLEGE HIS ENDURING MONUMENT.

We copy the following account of his death from the *Gettysburg Star and Sentinel* of July 26, 1873, from which it will be seen in what high estimation Dr. Schmucker was held by the people of that town :

“The citizens of Gettysburg were startled on Sunday morning last by the announcement of the sudden death of Rev. Dr. Schmucker during the night. For some years Dr. S's health had been impaired, requiring cessation of mental labor. More recently he suffered from organic disease of the heart, creating more or less apprehension among his friends ; but he continued to move about cheerfully, exchanging social visits, and attending to ordinary business. He frequently called at the *Star and Sentinel* office to read the papers and exchange opinions upon current events, and spent an hour or more with us on Friday, conversing cheerfully on general topics, and particularly in regard to the approaching special meetings of the boards of the college and seminary. On Saturday evening he entertained some

friends at his residence, and accompanied them to the door on their leaving. At a later hour, while sitting in his study he complained of pain in his chest. About eleven o'clock, as he was preparing to retire for the night, he was seized with a severe spasm of pain in the region of the heart, sharper than usual. The family physician, Dr. C. Horner, was at once sent for, but when he reached the house, Dr. S. was already in the article of death. The spasm of pain was of short duration, and was followed by a peaceful calm, in which his spirit went home to God. Conscious of his condition, among his last audible utterances were the assuring words, 'I have lived, and am dying, in the faith of Jesus.'

"We forbear further expression to the thoughts and feelings that involuntarily suggest themselves on this occasion. Dr. Schmucker had reached a ripe age, and was ready to be gathered to him whom he had so long and faithfully served. In view of his age and known physical infirmities, his removal hence at any time was to have been expected. Yet death came after all, with unexpected suddenness.

"His familiar form and friendly counsel will be missed in this community, where he had gone in and out for nearly half a century. He will be missed in the church, in the development of which he so largely participated. Many of his co-laborers have preceded him to rest. Many who received the benefit of his counsel in preparing for the Master's service, will lovingly recall the memories of his pleasant Christian intercourse and friendly counsel.

"The funeral services were attended in Christ church, on Tuesday evening, July 29th, at 5 o'clock. The church was appropriately draped in mourning, and a large number of personal friends and acquaintances of the deceased, and also a goodly number of the neighboring ministers, nearly all formerly his students, had assembled to do reverence to

the memory of a distinguished and truly good man before his mortal body would be committed to the grave.

“After an appropriate funeral chant by the choir, Rev. D. P. Rosenmiller, of Lancaster, read the Scripture, selected from 1 Cor. xv. and 1 Thes. iv. Rev. Dr. Valentine offered prayer, and the choir sang ‘Rest Spirit, Rest.’

“Rev. Dr. Hay, pastor of the church, made the opening remarks as follows :

“‘A father in Israel has fallen !

“‘The sad news has been flashed across the land, carrying deep sorrow to many homes whose connecting link has thus been suddenly broken.

“‘The church, too, of which the deceased was so distinguished a member, has felt the sudden shock, and from far and near have come his ministerial brethren, most of them his former pupils and ever attached friends, to pay the tribute of mournful respect to his memory by sharing in the solemnities of his burial.

“‘It falls to my lot, as at present pastor of the church with which the deceased stood in immediate connection, to speak the first word in this necessarily brief commemorative service, opening the way for others, whose official relations render it fitting that their voice should be heard in this hour of public as well as of private bereavement.

“‘In the death of Dr. Schmucker this church has lost not only one of its founders but the one who probably first conceived the idea of its organization, and who never ceased to take a lively interest in all its affairs ; rejoicing most of all when from time to time the Holy Spirit was poured out upon it in regenerating and sanctifying power, converting multitudes of the precious youth here pursuing their studies and leading them to consecrate themselves to the work of the holy ministry.

“‘Of that noble band of devoted and self-sacrificing men

who so many years toiled together in laying the foundation and in rearing the superstructure of the literary and theological institutions of this place, Dr. Schmucker was the first to appear upon the ground and the last to leave it. He outlived them all. And now that they are all gone, and their places are supplied by others, let our prayers ascend to our heavenly Father in their behalf, that they may be enabled to emulate the zeal and fidelity of those who have preceded them, and have grace and strength to carry on successfully the noble work entrusted to their hands.

'The death of Dr. Schmucker, though sudden, was not unexpected. He was not left without repeated and unmistakable warnings of its approach. Not merely did the ordinary infirmities of age give token to him of coming change, but increasingly frequent and severe attacks of the incurable disease with which he was afflicted were distinctly recognized by him as divinely directed premonitions of its approach. Nor did this at all alarm or distress him. He calmly set his house in order and made ready for his departure. He died just as he would have chosen to die. He died *at home*, in the bosom of his family. Beloved friends cannot, indeed, go with us through the dark valley, but it must be a great comfort to have them accompany us to the margin of the river and bid us God-speed as we enter its dreaded waters. The nature of the disease, with which our departed father was afflicted, rendered it probable that he would be called away suddenly, and it was feared by those dearest to him that he would be fatally attacked whilst upon a journey or when amid strangers. But it pleased the Lord long to withhold the summons to spare him to breathe out his soul peacefully in the arms of loved ones, and amid the comforts of his quiet home.

'He died, too, *in a good old age*. He was gathered, as a shock of corn fully ripe, into the garner of the Lord. He

passed the limit of threescore years and ten, nor was his eye dim or his natural force much abated until within a very short time prior to his decease.

'He died, too, in the full consciousness of the change through which he was passing, and in a state of cheerful readiness to meet his Lord and Master whom he had so long served, his loving Redeemer in whom he had so long confidently trusted.

'We are not disposed to attach undue importance to the last words of the dying; still, it is a source of great satisfaction to us, and a ground of devout gratitude to our Heavenly Father, when we are permitted to hear from their lips such testimony, in that most solemn hour, as fell from the deceased on the eve of his departure: '*I have lived, and am dying, in the faith of Jesus.*' Precious testimony! Name above every name! O that this dear name may ever be to our hearts the choicest treasure, and may it be the last upon our dying lips as it was upon his!

'This is not a fitting time to dwell at length upon the multiplied and manifold services which our venerated Father has rendered to the church of his love. Indeed, he needs no eulogy at our hands. 'The work praises the master.' On every hand we see the traces of his workmanship;—in our literary and theological institutions, in the establishment of which he, more than any other individual, took a controlling part;—in the zealous spirit and earnest evangelical orthodoxy of the hundreds of ministers whom he trained for their work; in the formula of government and discipline of our church, that is from his pen; in the framing of our synodical and congregational constitutions; in our books of devotion; in our text-books of theology and catechisms for the young; in our church periodicals and church literature generally; in the benevolent operations

of our Zion, and in all the general, philanthropic movements of the age, and of the country at large.

'When these days of mourning, of personal grief and sorrow, shall have passed away, and we come to consider calmly the true character of the departed, and the influence of his life's labors upon the development of our church in this country, we are much mistaken if he does not then rank second only to Muhlenberg, the Patriarch of American Lutheranism, as instrumental in giving tone and character to our church life and in winning for our beloved Lutheran Zion a place of honorable distinction in the advancing hosts of Israel in this western world.'

"Rev. Dr. Lochman, of York, for many years a friend, and in church work a noble associate of Dr. Schmucker, said: 'The announcement of his death came like a flash of lightning in a clear summer sky. As once was said on earth in sweetest tones, so now we may hear the consoling utterance, 'our friend sleepeth.' We may reply as was done then, 'Lord if he sleepeth he shall do well.' Cherished friends, cherished landmarks may pass away, but never can the heart's cherished memory forget the revered names of Krauth, Baugher, Stoever, Jacobs, Schmucker.

'He did much to raise the standard of education, giving to the church men qualified for her ministry and equal to those in any church in the land.

'Though dead, he is still laboring. To have left such a record as he has done is worth living for; to set up landmarks for all time, to utter sentiments that will thrill the hearts of thousands in the Master's work. Death is a silent and powerful preacher, which here eloquently speaks to us through the departed friend.'

"Rev. Dr. Morris, of Baltimore, related several interesting reminiscences of his early and since then constant and intimate intercourse with Dr. Schmucker, first as his instruc-

tor in the York Academy, where Dr. S. taught, then of the first year of Dr. S. as Professor in the Seminary at Gettysburg; the class numbered fourteen, of whom five are now alive. All who had known him could say with a former fellow-citizen of Gettysburg, 'The more I know of Dr. S. the more pleased I am with him.' Though men might not agree with him in all things, yet they were compelled to respect and revere him. He filled a larger space in this country than any other Lutheran clergyman, and was everywhere the representative of our church, and a worthy one he was. Many years ago the speaker had heard Dr. King, an eminent dissenting clergyman of England, in a public address in London, ascribe the fraternity of the evangelical alliance to Dr. Schmucker. The objects of this alliance Dr. S. ever held dear, and only a few weeks ago—speaking of the approaching meeting in New York—had said to the speaker; 'I will go there to carry out, if I can, by God's help, my own sentiments.' Who will be his biographer? To recount his life will be to give the history of the Lutheran Church in America.'

"The successor of Dr. S. as chairman of the Theological Faculty, Rev. Dr. Brown, in a few remarks, bore witness to the kindly sympathy and hearty support which Dr. S. had ever given him in his official position, everywhere with cordial kindness, speaking even flatteringly of him, thus affording him much comfort and support in his laborious position. \*

"Rev. Dr. Baum, of York, chairman of the seminary board, in behalf of the board said: 'We thank God for the life and ministry of Dr. Schmucker. During all the nearly forty years of the active connection of Dr. S. with the Sem-

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\* Dr. Brown broke down in the midst of his address; he was very much affected; his feelings overcame him, and he ceased speaking.  
—ED.

inary, fullest harmony had existed between him and the board. Hardly a measure he had proposed but had met with their approval. Few had filled such a place as he had done.'

"The choir then sang 'Asleep in Jesus,' after which the body was borne to its last resting place, followed by a number of relatives and many friends. At the grave the solemn funeral service was read and the last service of love for the body of Dr. Schmucker was performed, but his memory will ever be held dear to loving hearts. The pallbearers were Revs. L. A. Gotwald and A. H. Sherts, of Chamberburg, P. Anstadt, of York, S. Yingling and G. Parsons, of Hanover, and C. L. Keedy, of Waynesboro."

The following Tribute was passed by the Board of Directors of the Theological Seminary:

"This board feels called upon by the promptings of the feelings of the heart, and by a sense of duty to pay their tribute of respect to one of their number, so long associated with them in the management of the affairs of their institution, and so much endeared to them by his christian courtesy, and by his lifelong devotedness to the interests of this cherished institution of the church.

"We shall ever fondly cherish his memory as the founder of our seminary, for so many years its able head, devoting the eminent talents of his mind, and all his physical energies to its welfare.

"Though for some years relieved from active duties as professor, the board felt constrained from a high appreciation of his eminent services, to retain his name as Professor Emeritus, and until his death, his interest in the institution has never abated, laboring and praying with us for its success. With the whole church we mourn his (for us) too early and sudden departure.

"We would feel recreant to duty and untrue to our-

selves, did we not bear testimony to our high appreciation of his moral worth, his attainments as a scholar, his christian character and eminent usefulness.

“Whilst we mourn his departure, we nevertheless bow with submission to the will of our heavenly Father, grateful that He spared him to us so long.

“We rejoice that his sun has set so radiant and bright, illuminated with the christian’s hope; that the excellency and power of our holy religion was so clearly displayed in his dying hour, giving to us and the church the glorious testimony, as a rich legacy ‘I have lived and am dying in the faith of Jesus,’

“To his bereft and mourning family, we tender our heartfelt sympathy and condolence.

AUG. H. LOCHMAN,  
GEO. PARSONS,  
DANIEL EPPLEY.

Committee.”

“Minutes adopted by the Board of Trustees of Pennsylvania College, at their meeting, August 6, 1873:

‘*Resolved*, That this Board has heard with emotions of profound sorrow, the announcement of the sudden death of Rev. Samuel S. Schmucker, D. D., the senior member of this Board, and an active and influential member from its organization to the day of his death; and that, in justice to the dead, as well as ourselves, we record our high sense of the fidelity and value of his great services, which extended over a period of forty years.

‘*Resolved*, That to his sagacious, efficient and arduous labors in establishing the college, we bear willing and grateful testimony, as well as to the careful anxiety, ending only with life, with which he watched over all its manifold interests.

‘*Resolved*. That a copy of these resolutions be trans-

mitted by the secretary to the family of the deceased, and be published in the church and Gettysburg papers.

F. W. CONRAD,  
CHARLES A. HAY,  
E. W. MCPHERSON.'"

We transfer the following tribute to the memory of Dr. S. S. Schmucker, from the *Lutheran* of August 7, a General Council paper :

" We regret to be called upon to announce the death of this venerable and widely-known minister and teacher of our church. He died in Gettysburg, on the 26th inst., in the 75th year of his age. He may, with some propriety, be called the father of the Theological Seminary of the General Synod at that place, of which institution he was, at the time of his death, an Emeritus Professor.

" A ready writer, an able teacher, with a naturally vigorous mind, the Dr. early in life, took rank among the leading theologians of the country. Than he, few men in the church were more widely known, or more highly esteemed, even by those who felt compelled to dissent from some of his opinions.

" When our church in this land first after the waves of a fanatical rationalism had passed over her, began to strive after the attainments of a clearer consciousness of her true faith and life, the doctor occupied the commanding position of a theological professor, in the only Lutheran theological seminary in the country, and with the native strength and activity of his mind, soon, as might be expected, became involved in the controversies, which have ever since more or less agitated the church. He was by all odds the ablest of the co-workers of the late Dr. B. Kurtz, then editor of the LUTHERAN OBSERVER, and did, perhaps, the most solid and thorough work of any man who took the new, or so-called American Lutheran, side of the con-

troversy. But with all the polemical battles in which the doctor was engaged, and some of them were quite bitter, we believe he never could be charged with any want of courtesy towards his opponents.

"He was an earnest, faithful man, ever true to his convictions, and in his death, we may say, that a great man has fallen in Israel. Among the children left to mourn his death, are Revs. B. M. Schmucker, D. D., of Reading, G. W. Schmucker, late pastor in Pottstown, Pa., and the wives of Rev. A. T. Geissenhainer, Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Synod, and of Rev. B. C. Suesserott, of Lancaster. We sincerely sympathize with the bereaved family and unite with his numerous friends and former students in cherishing his memory."

Under the heading, "A GOOD AND A GREAT MAN DEPARTED," the *Lutheran Visitor*, in a draped column, notices the death of Dr. Schmucker in the following tender and befitting terms:

"The memory of no man deserves to be held in greater reverence by English speaking Lutherans than Dr. Schmucker's. He entered the ministry of our beloved church at a time when the faithful laborers were few. Neology, rationalism, indifference to distinctive Evangelical Lutheran doctrine and order prevailed, while godliness and spirituality were almost extinct. With the loss of the form the substance had also disappeared. Dr. Schmucker devoted the freshness of his youth, the vigor of his manhood, and the ripeness of his old age to the restoration of a living faith, and the promotion of the higher and spiritual life within the church, and as professor and president of the Theological Seminary of the General Synod, he trained and sent out hundreds of devout, earnest and self denying laborers.

"The doctor was eminently qualified for the work the

Great Head of the Church called him to perform. He was endowed with talents of high order, which education developed, study enriched, intercourse with society refined, and grace sanctified. But his life's work is done. He has gone to his rest. He departed in a good old age, and is with the Lord he served so long and so diligently.

"We do not mourn him. We do not have tears to shed over him to whom the Lord says, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant,' but we hope that our Synods will render him the tribute of respect due his memory and his distinguished services, for he was a great and good man, and he is more than any other man entitled to be called the father of the English speaking Lutheran Church. But for him the church would not this day occupy the prominent position, nor wield the influence it does.

"We knew him well in former years, and esteemed him highly; the war parted us, and the later church developments, the return of the church to the ancient Lutheran landmarks, made us strangers, but death unites. Now we but remember the faithful servant of Christ, whose faith was evangelical, whose church love was fervent, and whose praise is in all the church."

Over his grave near the centre of the Citizens' Cemetery at Gettysburg, is a plain shaft of white marble, about seven or eight feet in height, and bearing the simple inscription :

REV. S. S. SCHMUCKER, D. D.,

Born

February 28, 1799,

Died

July 26, 1873.

Next to this monument, in the same lot, a white marble slab, placed horizontally on the ground, marks the resting place of the body of his second wife. It bears the

following beautiful Christian sentiments, prepared probably by Dr. Schmucker himself:

Sacred to the Memory  
of

MARY C. SCHMUCKER,

daughter of

Wm. and Elizabeth Steenberg,

and wife of

S. S. Schmucker,

Born Feb. 7, 1808; Died Feb. 11, 1848.

She was an affectionate wife, a devoted mother,  
an eminent christian.

"She is not dead, but sleepeth—we know that she will  
rise again in the resurrection at  
the last day."

*She came to the cross when her young cheek was blooming,  
And raised to the Lord the bright beam of her eye;  
And when o'er its beauty death's darkness was glooming,  
'Twas the cross that upheld her, the Saviour was nigh.*

MEMORIAL TABLET.

A memorial tablet has been placed on the rear wall of  
the chapel in the new Seminary building, with this in-  
scription:

To the Memory of  
SAMUEL SIMON SCHMUCKER, D. D.  
Founder through the General Synod  
of this Theological Seminary.  
Professor: 1826-1864.

*Held in Honor by the Lutheran Church for his Eminent  
Scholarship, Enlightened Zeal and Organizing Talent. By  
His Students.*

One should think a grateful church would have  
reared an imposing monument over his grave. But in re-  
ality he needs no monument of stone to perpetuate his  
memory and extol his name. The General Synod is his  
enduring monument; the Seminary and College at Gettys-  
burg are his monument. He rests from his labors, and  
"his works do follow him."

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