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GEORGE V. SCHICK

Dr. George V. Schick

To write a *Nachruf* in honor of Dr. George V. Schick is a sad task as well as a pleasant assignment.

It is painful to put the immutable fact down black on white that in this life we shall no longer be able to greet and see this friend and colleague.

This grief is shared by all who had occasion to know him and to be associated with him in one way or another.

There is the host of his former students who sat at his feet at some time during the fifty years of his teaching career.

There is the large group of those who for a shorter or longer period knew what it meant to have him at their side as their colleague. Among these, the writer has particular cause for grieving because it was his good fortune to be Dr. Schick's associate for twenty years in the same area of instruction, the Old Testament.

But not only those who knew him professionally feel the pain of his departure. He endeared himself to people of every walk of life with whom he came into contact in various capacities and situations.

It is indeed an occasion of sorrow to record that this friend of so many, this teacher of thousands, this colleague of a privileged number is no longer available to them at his accustomed place.

At the same time, it is a cheering task to call to remembrance the rich legacy that he has left us. In his case there is no need to hesitate in complying with the directive: "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the Word of God; consider the outcome of their life and imitate their faith." (Heb. 13:7)

His was a faith to emulate. He knew and confessed unreservedly that it was itself an undeserved gift of God and that through it he was enabled to lay hold on the unmerited mercies of his heavenly Father through Jesus Christ, his Redeemer and Savior from sin and death.

And how clearly and beautifully his life gave evidence of that faith!

We have reason to imitate his faith, for it made him a man of great humility. One of the greatest linguists, as one of his colleagues called him at the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his service to the church, he never paraded his vast learning or acted superior to those who could not match it.

We have reason to imitate his faith, for his great learning did not undermine his implicit and childlike trust in the authority of Scripture as God's infallible message to him. He resolutely rejected all theories and hypotheses which might create doubt about his conviction: Thus saith the Lord.

We have reason to imitate his faith, for it brought forth in him a serene cheerfulness. An irrepressible smile was his greeting to all who met him or came to him. And it did not give way to frowns even under trying circumstances, although he, too, had crosses to bear.

We have reason to imitate his faith, for it came to the surface in a spirit of kindness and a willingness to be of help under all circumstances. No one hesitated to ask his help or counsel. It was a foregone conclusion that he would respond affably and good-naturedly. So often there would be a twinkle of pleasantry in his eyes, as he salted the conversation with an effervescent sense of humor.

Thanks to God for this man in whom the power of His mercy wrought such great things!

WALTER R. ROEHRS