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APPRECIATION NUMBER

Dr. Ayres Gives Half Century of Retrospect

I have been requested by Acting President Meredith to write a retrospective article for the "Bulletin". As we are soon to be in our Centennial birth year, it seems very natural to look back over the one hundred years; so I started a number of times at the beginning, and though I made a different selection of material each time, the space allotted me was used in dealing in very brief form with events that were back beyond my personal observation—beyond my rear horizon-line, hence were retroretrospective.

We, not Editorial, but Dual

Now I am attempting to make the subject matter more truly a personal retrospect. This will make it necessary to use the prependicular pronoun frequently, and if I shift sometimes from "I" to "we" it is not really an editorial "we" but the "we" of companionship: for in this long period of service of almost a half century, we walked and worked and planned and made decisions as one—to the time of her homegoing two and a half years ago; and the counsels of her thought, her intuitions, her attitudes, her sacrifices and courage still carry over into this remainder of my life.

Intangibles: Motivities, Motives

If the story of the merging of our lives into the life-stream of Taylor is to be made meaningful in this backward look, it is necessary to give the rootage—the motivities—that together entered as the motive of our decision. In my education I had looked toward teaching as a vocation. After graduation from the Hartford City High School, I had taught one term of rural school, and had attended DePauw University three years. I then married, taught another term of rural school, and for the next four years became successively the principal of the public schools of Redkey, Montpelier, and Warren, Indiana. For good reasons, which brevity requires me to omit, in 1893 I turned aside from teaching, en-



tering business life as a bookkeeper for the Dunkirk Lumber Company.

It was in the third or fourth year of our residence in Dunkirk that we met Dr. T. C. Reade, President of Taylor. Our pastor had invited Dr. Reade to supply for him one Sunday. We had a very aggressive group of Prohibitionists in Dunkirk, who spelled the name with a capital "P". Most of us, being loyal Methodists, were simple-minded enough to take seriously the statement in our Book of Discipline at that time: "The liquor traffic cannot be legalized without sin." Learning that Dr. Reade was a voting Prohibitionist, and that he would be coming Saturday for Sunday's engagement, we rented the Opera House for a meeting with Dr. Reade as

Becoming acquainted in this way with a number of Dunkirk people, he later stopped between trains and solicited funds for Taylor. When I sent in the payment of a pledge, I mentioned the fact that I had been a teacher and that sometimes I felt that I should return

to the profession. I had no thought of a place on the Taylor faculty. Just at this time my employers were negotiating the purchase of a lumber yard at Warsaw, Indiana and it was at the time when the Winona development was just opening up, and was a tempting prospect for building trade, and they were asking me to take the management with salary and some shares of stock to be paid from the dividends of the company. As a Christian I had, from the time of my conversion as a high school student, sought to know and to do God's will. In my last public school position I had had pressure from my pastor and from some of my School Board to give up my ballot-box convictions on the liquor question. From pastors and some higher up I had treatment in my present location that was not easy to take. But here was a college president, a prince of culture, a sober-minded thinker, a man heading a school, teaching and leading young men to a full con-secration of life, standing for a sanctification that goes into every avenue of life, who was ready, if need be, to suffer reproach for Christ's sake. Now he offers me the privilege of working with him and under his leadership, in a situation where I can live my ideals and speak the truth, and have the opportunity of influencing many young people for strong, courageous living. My decision is to be between these eternal values, and material values.

An Issue - A Decision

Mrs. Ayres and I faced the issue together. We decided to return to teaching, beginning in September, 1897—salary \$50.00 a month for nine months; and (as it turned out later) an extra \$50.00 for teaching in the summer sessions, and looking after the President's office in the summer time while he travelled for the school. But this \$500.00 for the year must not be evaluated by present standards, because rents were low; cost of fuel and light (natural gas) almost negligible; food stuffs very cheap. The trying part of the salary

factor was the irregularity with which it came. While Dr. Reade had a Board of Trustees which met as a full board once a year, at Commencement time, and an Executive Committee, known as the Local Board, he had to be personally responsible for all operating expenses and really for upkeep of buildings. Besides he did get together monev to construct the original wooden dormitories and some small cottages on certain lots which he purchased from the owners with tuition scholarships.

Since the salary item has been brought into this view, I should probably state that at this time Dean Clippinger was on a salary of \$800.00; men teachers not boarding with the school, \$450.00; women teachers boarding with the school \$300,00, and board and room, all of these for the nine months of the academic year.

Transmutation of Values - Divine Chemistry

Since this decision day forty-eight years ago. Mrs. Avres and I have faced many issues that were very trying, but at no time have we wished that we had chosen the other alternative. Some of the hardest things to bear at the time have meant the most in spiritual enrichment. "It is glory just to walk with Him." So ends one narrow flash of retrospect.

From Class of 1905

The history of Taylor University is the record of the direction, the dynamic and the deposits given by the Godfearing persons associated with the institution from its beginning. The great terms of our Christian faith, and the great Christian principles for which Taylor University has stood across the century of its existence, in the final analvsis, have no meaning apart from living personalities. The greatest values and realities of this world in which we live can have their existence only as they are incarnated in human personality. Life, love, labor, faith and fellowship, in the high realms of reality, can be predicted only of persons. Nothing less than humanity can qualify to be the expression of these exalted truths.

Among those who have been called to a place of leadership in Taylor University Dr. Burt W. Ayres has a record which is unique. No other person has served the institution so long as he. He has been connected with Taylor nearly one half the time of its existence. But his value to the leadership of the institution has had a significance far beyond that of the time element. He has been the living embodiment of those high Christian principles for the promulgation of which the school was founded and has been maintained. He has been not only tall of physical stature, but he has been overtowering in the masculinity of his mental, moral and spiritual strength. His whole life has been beautifully characterized by

INFLUENCE

a humility and sincerity, which indeed have "adorned the doctrine of God our Savior in all things." His service has been unselfish; his ethics have never been called in question; and the garments of his Christian character have been kept, by the grace of God, without spot or wrinkle. What a bulwark of strength he has been in safe-guarding the high reputation of Taylor University during the long years of his splendid service!

In what finer fashion could the constituency of Taylor express their gratitude to Almighty God for the superb life and labors of Dr. Ayres than by a renewed endeavor and determination to build the Memorial Library, just as soon as money and material may be had for the same? Every alumnus who has had the high privilege of being enrolled in a class taught by Dr. Ayres, ought to be inspired by this worthy proposal of a library building and do his or her full share to make this dream soon to become a visible reality. By a united effort, on the part of the alumni and friends of Taylor University, this building ought and may be erected as one of the major objectives in the celebration of the century of service by the institution. Let every one of us make this matter a subject of prayer, and then help to answer our prayer by making a generous, and even a sacrificial, gift for the realization of this goal. In these times, when the American people are blessed by a superabundance of money, all the lovers of holiness and righteousness should put forth a special effort to enlarge and strengthen an educational center like Taylor; that from her halls there may continue to go an increasing stream of young life to bless the continents of the whole earth. Without a doubt, the best days of Taylor University are ahead; the prospects were never brighter; the proposals of its leadership were never bigger; the needs for such an institution were never greater; and the opportunities were never more golden than now. For the glory of Christ and for the spreading of scriptural holiness thoughout the whole world, let us give our whole-hearted support to Taylor for the realization of the immediate proposals before us.

> S. H. Turbeville Winona Lake, Indiana

From Class of 1915

This beautiful morning in late July, I am rethinking my appreciation for what Dr. Burt W. Ayres has meant to me since I first met him when I enrolled as a freshman in Taylor University. I knew him best as a teacher, both in the University and of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday School class of Upland, of which I was a member.

His personality, a happy balance of intellect and emotion, has always radiated the Christian's attitude toward Thus, his personality has been wholesome and helpful. His executive ability, sincerity, time for friendliness, his kindness and spirit of quiet joyfulness, voiced by his characteristic chuckle and smile, are testimonials of his ability and accomplishments.

Memory has kept fresh some incidents of that freshman year when Dr. Ayres (then Dean Ayres) was my instructor in college algebra and trigonometry. Did I elect those subjects? No, indeed! But because they were required subjects for graduation, I promptly wrote "College Algebra" on my registration blank. My slowness in mathematics and consequent anxiety about this course subtracted from my enjoyment, but it was not long until the sympathetic, understanding and skillful guidance of my instructor created an interest even in those "unelected" subjects.

In addition to the fact that Dr. Ayres himself possessed these admirable qualities, he was able to inspire me with the determination to "go and do likewise." I owe so much to the influence

which he had upon my life.

Lena E. Chalfant

From Class of 1925

It is with enthusiasm that I write these lines in tribute to Dr. Burt W. Ayres, whom I have known as counselor, teacher, and employer. It was he who helped me to register for my first year at Taylor. He impressed me then as being scholarly, wise, and kind. As I went to him for advice on other occasions, I found that my first impression was correct. Though he was always a busy man, he was never too busy to manifest interest, kindness, and courtesy toward a student who appealed to his wisdom for guidance.

As a teacher, Dr. Avres seemed to me to be scholarly, thorough, and versatile. Two of the subjects that he taught, for example-logic and poeticsare indicative of the range of his knowledge and interests. Whether we were delving in reason with Aristotle or soaring in the heights with Milton, there was never a tense moment in his class. I have often thought of the genial smile with which he overlooked a class "boner," and of the witty remark he would sometimes make in connection with the lesson. I am thankful for the pleasant and profitable hours

ACROSS the DECADES!

spent in his classroom.

Effective and inspirational as his teaching is, however, it is his patient, consistent living, more than his words, that makes a life-long impression on his students. He lives what he teaches. He demands of himself what he expects of others. He is a good example of the "still water" that "runs deep." I had the privilege of doing steno-

I had the privilege of doing stenographic work for "Dean Ayres," as he was then known, and never have I had a better employer. He was courteous and kind in that capacity, as in all others. He was not a "driver." He was never impatient. He was quick to praise whenever praise was due.

If I may presume to evaluate Dr. Ayres in his relation to Taylor, I believe, to use a homely figure, that he has been, for approximately a half century, the "backbone" of the school. He has helped to hold it together and to give it support, always filling a place of vital importance, whatever his office happened to be. It is Taylor, and not Dr. Ayres, for whom he has labored faithfully through the years, expecting no commendation and seeking no temporal reward.

There are the proverbial big little man and the little big man, the second adjective in each case referring to stature. I think of Dr. Ayres as a big big man,—big in stature, big in mentality, and big in his love for, and service to, Christ and his fellowmen.

Ethel M. Buffington Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

From Class of 1935

It is said that a little boy one day came to his father and asked, "Daddy, what is a Christian?" The father went to some length to explain to his son all of the things involved in the Christian life and when he had finished the little fellow rejoined, "But, Daddy, did I ever see one?" Those of us who have been so fortunate as to be touched by the life of Dr. Burt W. Ayres have no question but that we have "seen a Christian," for he embodies to us everything that we have a right to expect a Christian to be.

Taylor graduates hold endearing memories of Dr. Ayres for many reasons. Some of us will be eternally grateful to him because we think of him as the man, under God, who gave us a chance. Many of us came to school without sufficient funds to see us through, but he was always more than willing, often at great personal sacrifice, to leave no stone unturned in an earnest effort to help us plan a way through.

We remember him as a strong Chris-

tian scholar, humble in spirit, wise in judgment, kindly in manner, unquestionable in integrity, untiring in devotion and constant in faithfulness. He has been the light house in Taylor's storms, the foundation for Taylor's new births, the pilot in Taylor's new ventures and he is the ideal for Taylor's future. May God bless him and spare him for many years of spiritual joy and leadership!

Blaine Bishop Tipton, Indiana

From Class of 1945

As a member of the class of 1945 and a student of Dr. B. W. Ayres for two years, I have felt the impact of this great teacher's life and have received from him a challenge that will be with me through the remainder of my life. My fellow students and I saw in him the embodiment of that truthloving spirit that will be required of the man who will give this world its most vivid vision of Eternal Truth.

In many ways his life and teaching have ingrained within us that conviction that it takes to stand before the world and its false ways of life. Yes, his teaching and exhortation have had a great influence upon our lives, but all of this would have been set at nought had it not been for his own possession of those qualities which he wished to see in us. As I now look back to the time when we were so near to him there at T. U., I see many beautiful attributes that stand out in his personality.

His insight into all life, including his own, coupled with a sense of humor, showed him to be a humble man. Praise or position were never his aim. Those things which he thought he wasn't, though he might have been, he readily admitted that he wasn't. His humility, a goal yet not a goal, served as a gateway to service. So for us that same humility is the essential for a life of service in Christ.

Many experiences from his life naturally came by way of illustration into our class sessions. Few men have lived life to its fullest as has Dr. Ayres. His home background and early acceptance of Christ along with his devotion to the right have providentially guided his steps into the right paths. All through his life he has weighed the values of every experience. How could such a devoted life do otherwise than challenge us to weave only the best of life into our eternal record?

As a philosopher Dr. Ayres has correlated inductive truth with the revealed truth of Jesus Christ. Though winds of doctrine may beat at the foundations of our faith, yet because of the view of

life which we received from our beloved teacher we shall stand fast in face of all of it.

Another thing that Dr. Ayres possesses which so many of us are unable to claim is an unswerving devotion to the "moral ought." We often suppose small things can be slighted with no resulting damage, but even these things were heeded by our good teacher. This to us should be a challenge to live the purest and most consistent lives for Christ.

Evening has now fallen upon the life of our guide; but, as countless others, this life was not lived in vain. Nor will his life here cease, when he is called to his rest up there, but through us he will live on to spread the truth of the Gospel to all the peoples of the earth. Blessed are we for having been heirs of the knowledge and wisdom of this great saint of God.

William Siktberg New York City

NEW ALUMNI OFFICERS

At the annual spring meeting of the Taylor University Alumni Association, an amendment to the constitution was passed providing for the election of nine directors, three to be elected each year and serve for a period of three years. This replaces the former board of seven members, all of whom were elected annually. The directors for the year 1945-46 are:

Terms to expire in 1948: Milo A. Rediger (1939) Dr. Gerald Wesche (1930) Miss Ruth Flood (1928)

Terms to expire in 1947: George Lee (1931) Mrs. Melvin Blake (1940) Wayne Mitchell (1941)

Terms to expire in 1946: Garfield Steedman (1937) Mrs. Robert Gorrell (1929) Ernest W. Hamilton (1928)

Alumni representative on Board of Trustees of William Taylor Foundation

Rev. Hazen Sparks (1930)

Watch for an official presentation of these new officers in the first issue of the Taylor Alumni News— next month.

ATTENTION, ALUMNI

Watch for the first edition of the new TAYLOR ALUMNI NEWS in September. The paper will be edited by Ted Engstrom of the class of 1938. It will be newsy — news about Alumni, news from Alma Mater.

Prayer Day

Thursday, August 30th, has been designated as Taylor Day of Prayer. What a great day it can be! And what results it can precipitate! Let there be a studied effort to make this day a red letter day in our own lives, as we remember this great monument to Christian Education. Taylor remains "An Effective Christian College" because she has resorted to prayer and has experienced the power of Christ in her program. The year ahead of us should be the great year of her history thus far. May I suggest some items worthy of mention as we pray together on August 30th?

Let us pray that Taylor shall remain both evangelical and evangelistic in her school life in all the spheres of preparation to which her students are subiected.

Let us pray that funds, ample funds, shall be forthcoming to carry out the projects outlined for the Centennial Year.

Let us pray for the Faculty, both new and old members, that they shall enjoy God's special favor upon their lives as they seek to direct the thinking of the student body this year.

Let us pray for the students, new and old, who shall make up our student body this year. Let us petition God for an increase of students-a substantial increase.

Let us pray for the new administration, that in every way the responsibilities resting there shall be adequately

Let us pray for each member of the Board of Trustees that in his relationships with our school there shall be given all the wisdom and courage needed in working for a greater Taylor.

Let us remember the various members of the staff associated in any way with the work of Taylor, the Business Manager, and others invested with specific responsibilities necessary to the success of the school year ahead.

Furthermore, I believe it would be a splendid thing for members of the Taylor Family, particularly those holding pastorates, to enlist the prayers of their churches for Taylor on this day. Preach on Chistian Education and present Taylor on the Sunday previous to the Taylor Day of Prayer. Let those who have a chance, say a word publicly for Taylor. As many as can should welcome the opportunity of getting together with others to pray for Taylor University.

Finally, let us determine to pray definitely, and in faith. Then, when the answers come, let us exalt the Christ who has undertaken for us, and share these results to the extent that they shall glorify God and encourage others.

TAYLOR UNIVERSITY BULLETIN

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NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Mrs. Mayme English-Lillotte, who comes to Taylor this year from the public school system of Auburn, Indiana, has been engaged to head the Speech department, and assist in the Department of Engish. Mrs. Lillotte has her A.B. and A.M. degrees in Speech from Rutgers University. She comes to Taylor with a background of several active years in the Redpath Chautauqua circuit, besides college experience in New Jersey and Kentucky. She will coach dramatics and direct Forensic activities as well.



Miss Martha Bantle, who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Houghton College and a Bachelor of Library Science degree from Geneseo State Teachers College, Geneseo, New York, will take up the work from which Miss

President's Appreciation

The August number of the Bulletin is in no sense a Memorial number for Dr. Ayres, but in a very real way it is hoped that the readers will appreciate the attempt to make it an "Appreciation" number. There is bound to be a shadow thrown into view when the bright sun shines upon an object above the ground level. In a true parallel, Dr. Ayres' walk has been above the ground level across the years, and surely he has walked in the light of the Son of Righteousness. Consequently, his influence on Taylor's campus has been both seen and felt. For more than a half century this man has been known to Taylor. For the most of those years the impact of his Christian instruction has been felt in Taylor's classrooms. No student has come and gone without the benefit of this great man's vision. Perhaps there is no man living who can gather up into his own activities as much of Taylor's life and success as can Dr. Ayres. The warmth of his Christian testimony, the worth of his counsel, the winsomeness of his personality have been assets upon which the administrations have drawn, from one year to the next.

It is the desire of the present President of Taylor to pay tribute to the worth of this great man. His retirement from the active teaching life of Taylor will provide him with some opportunities, I trust, to place his instruction in permanent form. His unwaning interest in the future of Taylor will be centered now in the Centennial Drive. In giving himself to this work, Dr. Ayres is in no sense aggrandizing himself. He has been asked thus to serve Taylor because he, more than any other person, knows the alumni, former students and friends of the University. In a gesture of appreciation, let everyone who can conribute anything at all make this contribution now so that he can enjoy richly his continued relationship to Alma Mater.

Ivel Guiler was so recently taken by death.

Miss Bantle attended Taylor University 1934 to 1936 and was graduated from Houghton College in 1938. For two years after her graduation she taught English, history and Latin in secondary schools of New York state. For the past five years, she has served as librarian at Eden Central School, Eden, New York, which is one of the most outstanding schools of New York state. Miss Bantle has also spent two summers at The University of Chicago working toward her Master of Library Science degree.

Both by training and experience, Miss Bantle is well qualified for the position of librarian at Taylor University. Her coming will be a credit to the faculty and a contribution to the life of the

school.