A MEMORIAL ADDRESS ON THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF FRANKLIN B. HOUGH.

By B. S. HoXIE, Evansville, Wis.

Mr. President and Members of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society — Shortly after our summer meeting last June, I received the news of the death of that faithful worker and ardent lover of nature, Dr. Franklin B. Hough, who died at his home in Lowville, New York, June 11, 1885, in the 63d year of his earthly life.

Politicians, statesmen, and famous warriors have many to speak their praise and write the record of the lives and deeds; but as a private citizen in his own native state, devoting his life and energies for the benefit of mankind; of him and such a life I wish to speak.

Dr. Hough was born in Martinsburg, Lewis County, New York, July 20, 1822. In 1843 he was graduated from Union College, and in 1849, from the Cleveland Medical College, where he received his diploma as a practicing physician; but his love of nature led him into scientific study for practical results, and at his death his name appeared on the title page of over seventy volumes either historical, scientific or miscellaneous, and all of this time keeping abreast in his profession. In this brief address it is not my purpose to mention all of these, but only such as are more nearly connected or related to the interests of our society.

The first of these, so far as we know, was a catalogue of the plants of Lewis county, in 1847, while he was yet a student.

This was followed by a history of St. Lawrence and Franklin counties. In this same line of research we find "Essays on the Climate of New York," under the auspices of the State Agricultural Society. Again, we have a work of great value to the student of nature, titled, "Observations
upon Periodical Phenomena of Animal and Vegetable Life." This work was prepared from original returns and investigations throughout North America under direction of the Smithsonian Institute, and was published in 1862, being one of the most valuable on that subject in all that vast library.

In 1874 he published his first "Report on Forestry," under commission from congress, which was followed by a second and third report in 1878, 1879, and a fourth report in the year 1881 and up to 1883. During this time he was Special Commissioner to Germany, and his practical researches as Commissioner on Forestry in that country, published by congress, were and are of immense value to the United States.

In all of these years his active mind was employed with various other subjects as his published volumes show, and at no time in his life was his pen idle, and quite frequently he was engaged in writing and preparing for the press works unlike in character and research. This to him was rest, and in different rooms with different surroundings he took up the new labor and by this method escaped the mental pressure sure to follow.

Whatever subject came under his pen he handled it with the clear understanding of a vigorous mind, and often to complete some unfinished pages would he rise in the night so that he could take a new task in the morning. With all of this labor in writing and publishing, he not only found time for his practice, but wrote over one thousand newspaper articles besides many addresses in pamphlet upon historical and scientific subjects. He was a member of many literary and scientific societies, besides being an honorary member of others which were favored with his correspondence. And almost up to the hour of his death was his mind and pen employed for the benefit of mankind; leaving several works in manuscript and one or two of which are being prepared for the press by his sons.* Always too busy to write

* Historical and Statistical Record of the University of the State of New York during the century from 1784 to 1884. By Franklin B. Hough, M. D. Ph. D., 1885.

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of himself or his own labors; but when stricken with a fatal
disease which so soon ended his labor, did he make the
attempt to put in form something of his life-work or his
autobiography, and in a few hours' time had completed forty
pages of manuscript. In one chapter, referring to his mar-
riage, he says: "I have ever since regarded this as the most
fortunate event of my life. I have now a home as well as a
house." This word may convey it all, for his indeed was a
home of happy contentment. If not stored with boundless
wealth it was filled with ease and comfort.

It will thus be seen that in the death of Dr. Hough not
only his immediate friends are bereaved, but the whole
nation suffers the loss of a noble worker; for in the zenith
of his usefulness the conqueror of all earthly ambitions
claims his victim and with that unerring certainty which
spares none, Dr. Hough has passed from his earthly labors
to the reward of a perfect manhood.

Dr. Hough's public life and the record of his labors are
before us; they are ours, and in the record of that life we
trace a determined purpose, a wonderful memory, an in-
domitable will, and a perseverance which removed all
obstacles in the way of his work and duty.

Perhaps I should close my sketch here and say rest noble
worker, but my task would be only half done, my record
incomplete; the main spring of life, duty, and action would
not be revealed, and it is to this in living memory we wish
to turn. Inheriting a love for the beautiful, his home was
just out of the village of Lowville, overlooking a part of
the Adirondac forest, and in that home the wife and mother
was queen and counsellor, and in vacation days when the
sons were home from college and the father from his wan-
derings in the interest of science, they were all boys to-
gether and all eager to listen to the recital of some adventure
of the last journeyings; and none was more charmed than
mother and in her care and trust is all the property confided
to the use of grown up sons and daughters.

Dr. Hough left four sons and three daughters; one a widow
who died only a few weeks after the father, whose pure and
noble life endeared her to the whole community. Of the
sons, the oldest Franklin H., is a prominent lawyer in Washington and a graduate of Union College. Romazn B., is the second son, and a graduate of Cornell, is a Botanist and Naturalist, though choosing the practice of medicine for a profession. Elida the third son, is also a graduate of Cornell, and on him perhaps the mantle of his father has fallen, for he has taken up his chosen pursuits, and with the aid of the other brothers is completing the unfinished works commenced shortly before his death, as well as the autobiography of his life. The youngest, Lincoln, as well as the younger daughter, are yet to complete their education.

Dr. Hough was a true American citizen, but in no sense a politician. Love of country, love of home, and a desire to be right and do right were his predominating traits of character. His library embracing historical and scientific works with a large and varied collection of miscellaneous matter in books and manuscript with specimens rare and curious in art or science, occupied a separate building, and it was here that friends and neighbors found him when not engaged in outdoor pursuits, or absence from home demanded his attention; for labor was his repose and a change of subjects his rest.

His was eminently a religious life, and that religion was so pure and broad in its character that it reached out and embraced all humanity, and where truth and goodness established a shrine, there he was a willing worshiper.

He did not believe this earth to be man's only abiding place, or "that life was a bubble cast up by the ocean of eternity to float a moment on its waves and sink again into nothingness." Briefly, ladies and gentlemen, I have endeavored to place before you and upon record, my appreciation of a faithful and true worker; though not a member of our society, or making this branch a particular study, yet every horticulturist is benefited by his labors. If this obligation to the departed, and a duty to his family had fallen to worthier hands to perform, I should have been pleased more, but to me it has been only a just tribute to a useful life and as such I hope it will be received, finding an appropriate
place in the volume of our transactions, and in the home of the bereaved family.

The language of one of the poets is so appropriate to the subject of this sketch that I, in closing, will take his words as my thought.

"Shall I be left forgotten in the dust
When fate relenting, lets the flower revive;
Shall nature's voice to man alone unjust,
Bid him though doomed to perish, hope to live.
Is it for this fair virtue oft must strive,
With disappointment, penury and pain?
No! Heaven's immortal spring shall yet arrive,
And man's majestic beauty bloom again,
Bright through th' eternal year of triumphant reign.

I will add that Dr. David Murry, of Albany, New York, is preparing a memorial relating to the subject of this sketch, which is to appear in the publication of the board of regents of that state. Since his death the family have received memorial notices published in India, Spanish, Flemish, French and German languages as testimonials of his life and work.

On motion, the secretary was instructed to cause one of the volumes containing this memorial to be bound in special binding, such as is used in such cases, and presented to the family of Dr. Hough.

The convention now turned to the order of business, reports of committee on Observation.
Mr. Peffer then followed with a

REPORT ON WAUPACA SEEDLINGS.

G. P. PEFFER, Pewaukee.

1ST. WOLF RIVER.

The original tree stands near the bank of the Wolf river, on the east side, and about eighteen feet above low water mark. In high water part of the roots on one side of the tree are under water. The soil appears to be about twelve inches in depth, and is a clay loam, that seems to be firm