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PROFESSOR JOHN HAYWOOD, L.L.D.

By Dr. T. J. Sanders

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Professor John Haywood graduated from Oberlin College in 1850. He came to Otterbein University in 1851. He was professor of mathematics and natural science 1851-58; mathematics, 1858-62, 1867-93; connected with the college for over a half century. He was a scholarly, cultured, Christian gentleman of the "old School". He was modest, retiring, unassuming - never trying to put himself forward. He surveyed the streets of Westerville and when the village was incorporated in 1858 he was the first mayor.

For thirty-six years he reported to the government the weather conditions in this vicinity - temperature, rainfall, barometer, wind velocity, humidity.

He taught astronomy - was an astronomer of the first rank. With his sextant he took time from the sun and stars, regulating the time for this community. He invented astronomical instruments.

I took astronomical mathematics under him. Sometimes he would talk of astronomical numbers, distances and speeds until he would make our heads swim and we were dizzy.

An incident: One evening when the planet Venus was very bright in the southwestern sky I took my son Ernest, then

about eleven years old - over to see the planet through his telescope. He set it up on the square-topped gate-post just west of his house. Then placing a chair by the side of the post, Ernest stepped up on it and looking through the telescope at the planet said "What makes the star move so?"

To which Professor Haywood, in a most matter-of-fact way, replied "Why, sonny, that is the diurnal motion of the earth." He said it in such a way that I could almost feel the earth turning under my feet!

The year that I studied astronomy under him, the Planet Venus was to make a transit across the sun's face - a rare phenomenon - occurring only once in about 300 years.- Professor Haywood said to the class "If any of you would like to know how the astronomer calculates such an event, I will gladly guide you through." Four of us decided to undertake the work. After several days we came through and our work talked with the astronomers. When the time came, there was Venus, touching the Sun's edge at about 3 P.M. and for nearly an hour passed across the Sun's face, as a black spot about the size of a walnut.

Venus, bright as she was, was black with the brilliant Sun as a background. So, I have said to students, the best of us would look black with our Lord as a background.

While speaking of him as an astronomer, I will add that at his funeral I said, "He surveyed the streets of Westerville and was perfectly familiar with them, but he was as

familiar with the heavens as he was with the streets of Westerville."

In my college days he introduced the "metric system" - a decimal system, hoping that this country would join with other countries then using it. He supplied himself with books, meters, liters, scales, kilograms. He furnished our merchants with meters for measuring cloth and with liters for selling coal oil. He gave lectures on the subjects. One day he was about to give a lecture to a group of us sitting on the front seats in the center of the chapel. Just as he was about to begin and standing before us, some one stepped up and said something to him, evidently calling him elsewhere. To which he replied, "Humph! Lecture will keep." And he dismissed us.

Now, I regard Professor John Haywood as a typical college professor - reading and studying not only in his own field but widely outside of it - always a student - always a growing man. He did not have the means for advanced schooling, but spent his vacations in reading and study. As an example of what I am trying to say: When Dr. W. O. Fries was our pastor he asked members of his congregation to rise in their places and tell what book or books had made a great influence on their lives. After several had risen and spoken, Professor Haywood arose and said: (I can repeat his words almost verbatim) "When I was a young man Butler's Analogy fell into my hands and I read it with

pleasure and profit. Then when I went to college I took it in my regular course. After that I made it my practice to read it once a year. In these later years it has become my handbook."

When I came into the Professorship of Philosophy, it was my privilege to teach Butler's Analogy. Knowing, as I did, Professor Haywood's knowledge of Butler, I asked him to appear several times before my classes and discuss a chapter or chapters. He would come "dressed in his Sunday best", his hair white as snow, neat and clean, and discuss with seeming ease in a masterly way the chapter of the day.

I had him also to conduct chapel a good many times and he did it in the same simple and dignified way, reading a select portion of Scripture and making the prayer.

"Professor Haywood was a man of that type which has made the American College great. To him science was an avocation, as well as a vocation. He was more deeply interested in students than in science." -- Bartlett.

In the days of his retirement, he was known as the "Grand Old Man of Otterbein". With his snow white head, his pleasant greeting and his modest bearing, he inspired all with a feeling of reverence for him.

I quote from President Bookwalter, "During his service in the early history of the institution he was in fact the man who gave it the real form and standing of a college and throughout all his long career his high scholarship and

eminent ability as a teacher were to the college a tower of strength. Prof. Haywood was a stirring example of what the higher Christian education and the Christian graces together can produce. His pure, beautiful private life and his distinguished, unselfish public services have left their impress and fruits as an abiding benediction to thousands and perpetual enrichment to the college."

These quotations have my hearty approval.

This a brief picture and appraisal of Professor John Haywood as I knew him. A man who gave more than half a century of faithful and unselfish service to Otterbein College and the cause of Christian Education.

-- T. J. Sanders.