

James Laurie (- 18 Apr 1853)

Laurie. In this city, on the morning of the 18th inst., after a brief illness, the Rev. James Laurie, D.D., for half a century the pastor of the F Street Presbyterian Church. (Evening Star, April 19, 1853, p. 2)



Laurie. At his residence in this city, yesterday morning, the 18th instant, after a brief illness, and in the peaceful hope of a happy immortality, the Rev. James Laurie, D.D., for half a century the Pastor of F Street Presbyterian Church. His funeral will proceed from his late residence, in E street, at 3 o'clock tomorrow (Wednesday) afternoon, to the F street Presbyterian Church, where the services will commence at 3-1/2 o'clock. The friends of the family are invited to attend without further notice.

Evening Star, April 19, 1853, p. 2

Death of Dr. Laurie

It will be seen that the venerable Rev. Dr. Laurie, long known as one of the settled Pastors of the city of Washington, is no more. It was only the Sabbath before last that he officiated at the communion table of the church over which he has been placed for nearly half a century. The writer saw him a day or two since when on a visit to the sick bed of one of his parishioners, and afterward conversed with him twice respecting his own condition and feelings. The venerable gentleman appeared like a patriarch leaning on his staff just ready for his last journey through "the valley and shadow of death.

Such is the end of the good man.

The National Intelligencer, April 20, 1853

The Late Dr. Laurie

At a meeting of the Washington City Young Men's Christian Association, held on Monday evening April 18th, 1853, the death of the Rev. James Laurie, D.D. having been announced, a committee was appointed, consisting of the Rev. Mr. Samson, C.W. Schreiner, and R.L. Smallwood, to prepare resolutions expressive of the feelings of the Association at this dispensation of Providence. The following were reported by the committee and adopted:

Whereas it has pleased the great Head of the Church to remove from the sphere of his labors, on this day of our meeting, the Rev. Dr. Laurie, who for nearly fifty years has been pastor of a Christian church in this city, who has been foremost in every new enterprise for good, and who was one of the first life members of this Association; therefore

Resolved, That, while we express our deep sympathy with the bereaved family and with the church of which he was so long pastor, we feel the sad conviction that our whole religious community has in him lost a valued friend and fellow-laborer.

Resolved, That the members of this Association will in a body attend his funeral, and that for this purpose they will meet on Wednesday afternoon, at three o'clock, at the hall of the United Academy, 14th street and New York avenue, to proceed thence to the F street church.

A. Richards, President

Wm. J. Rhees, Secretary

The Evening Star, April 20, 1853, p. 3

Local Affairs

Rev. Dr. Laurie -- The funeral of this venerable clergyman took place this afternoon, at three o'clock, from his late residence on E street. Appropriate services were performed at the F street Presbyterian Church, of which he was so recently and for over forty years the esteemed pastor. Peace to his memory!

The Evening Star, April 22, 1853

Tributes to the Memory of Dr. Laurie

Washington, April 18, 1853

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church having heard with profound sorrow of the death of our venerable senior Pastor, the Rev. James Laurie, D.D., was convened at the call of the Moderator, to take suitable order in regard to this solemn dispensation of Providence.

Opened with prayer by the Moderator, Rev. Dr. Junkin, who with Elders M. Nourse, C. Stott, W.L. Walter, E. Myers, and F.A. Tschiffely, were the members of Session present.

The following minute was presented by the Moderator, which was unanimously adopted, viz.:

Whereas it has pleased an All-wise Providence to call from his earthly labors to his heavenly rest our venerable and beloved senior Pastor, the Rev. James Laurie, D.D., who has served this congregation in the holy ministry for a half of a century: Therefore,

Resolved, That this Session have heard with sincere sorrow of this afflictive dispensation of Divine Providence, by which this church is bereaved of a pastor so long and so well beloved, the family of the decease of an affectionate head, and this city of one of its oldest and venerated citizens.

Resolved, That we tender to the family of the deceased for ourselves and in behalf of the congregation which we represent, our most sincere sympathy and affectionate condolence.

Resolved, That the Trustees be requested to cause the pulpit and furniture of the church to be draped in suitable mourning; and that the members of Session will attend the funeral, and wear the customary badge of mourning.

Resolved, That the above minute be presented to the family of our deceased pastor.

A true copy from the minutes.

F.A. Tschiffely, Clerk of Session

The Presbytery (New School) of the District of Columbia being in session on the same day, the Rev. John C. Smith offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously agreed to:

Whereas it has pleased the Great Head of the church to remove from the scenes of his earthly labors the Rev. James Laurie, D.D., for many years a highly esteemed and valued minister of this Presbytery, and the senior pastor of the F street church, it becomes us as brethren of the ministry to take appropriate notice of the bereavement: Therefore,

Resolved, That, while we deplore this sad event, we enter on our minutes this testimonial of our high sense of appreciation of his exalted personal and ministerial worth. While in connection with us he was always a faithful, punctual, and laborious member of this Presbytery, and so we are assured he continued until the time of his death.

Resolved, As a mark of respect, this Presbytery will adjourn, to attend the funeral of our deceased father in Christ Jesus.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the family of our deceased brother, and that a copy of these resolutions be sent to Dr. J.C. Hall, son of Dr. Laurie.

The Evening Star, May 2, 1853

Tribute to the Memory of Dr. Laurie

Washington, April 29, 1853

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the F street Presbyterian Church, held on Wednesday, 27th, April 1853, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas it has pleased Him who doeth all things well to remove from this congregation its venerable pastor, the Rev. James Laurie, D.D., who for half a century has been its spiritual guide: and whereas it is proper that we, the trustees of this church, should express our sense of the loss of him who, in God's Providence planted, and nurtured, and guarded this vineyard of God: Therefore,

Resolved, That whilst we bow with submissive resignation to this dispensation of an all-wise Providence, we yet mourn the death of a beloved Pastor, whose long and faithful defense of the truth, whose affectionate and abiding interest in the members of his flock, and whose untiring and zealous devotion to all that is good, charitable, and benevolent, won the love and confidence of the congregation and the respect and esteem of the Christian community.

Resolved, That, whilst this bereavement is to us painful and afflictive, we feel that we have great reason for gratitude to God that he so long spared our venerable pastor to serve Him and His church, and we rejoice that, although the days of his years were more than three score years and ten, his sun went down in strength and peace only to rise again in the brightness of an eternal day.

Resolved, That, in token of our respect for the memory of the deceased, we will cause a tablet, suitably inscribed, to be erected in the panel on the right of the church pulpit, and that we will also shroud the church in the emblems of mourning for six months.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions, signed by the President and Secretary, be communicated to the family of the deceased, and that they be published in the papers of this city, and the authorized publications of the Presbyterian church.

Geo. Lowry, President

Jos. A. Deeble, Secretary