

IN MEMORIAM
MORGAN CALLAWAY

With profound regret did the faculty of the University of Texas learn of the death on April 3 of Morgan Callaway, Jr., a beloved member of the Department of English for nearly forty-six years and one of the most distinguished scholars in the University. It is bare justice to his memory to record in our Minutes the main facts of his life and our estimate of his services and character.

The son of the Reverend Doctor Morgan Callaway, an eminent minister of the Southern Methodist Church, and Eliza Mary Hinton, Morgan Callaway, Jr. was born in Cuthbert, Georgia, November 3, 1862. From Emory College, Georgia, he received the degrees of A.B. in 1881 and A.M. in 1884 from Johns Hopkins University the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1889, from Southern Methodist University the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in 1924. Immediately after graduation he became Adjunct Professor of English at Emory College and served two years. Leaving Emory College in 1883, he was for a year principal of a small academy at Chireno, Texas. From 1884-1886 and again for the year 1889-1890 he was Professor of English at Southwestern University, Georgetown. At Johns Hopkins University he was University Scholar 1887-1888, University Fellow 1888-1889, and in 1889 was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. At the Hopkins he was a member of the first seminar conducted by Professor James W. Bright, and the first student under Bright's direction to receive the doctorate. The friendship between teacher and pupil was intimate and was ended only by the death of Professor Bright in 1926. In 1890 he came to the University of Texas as Assistant Professor of English; in 1891 he was made Adjunct Professor in 1893 Associate Professor in 1898 Professor. In 1925 he received the honor of Research Lecturer in English, delivering a series of five lectures on the Historical Study of the Mother Tongue. For the year 1906-1907 he was President of Texas Alpha of Phi Beta Kappa. Twice he was Vice-president of the Modern Language Association of America. On the third of August, 1920, he was married to Miss Loru Hannah Smith, herself an English teacher of high reputation. From boyhood he was a member and earnest supporter of the Methodist Church.

By profession Dr. Callaway was a teacher, by sense of duty an administrator in his Department an efficient member of any committee to which he might be appointed, by the love of his heart a student of Old English syntax. He taught many phases of English, but his favorite fields were Victorian poetry and the history of the English

language. Clear, discriminating, precise, he strove to give his students not only the subject matter of the course but his own sense of the value of exact knowledge, always with sympathy and patience. Himself a scholar, he made many a scholar. Short cuts he detested, for he knew there was no democratic road to learning. To do a thing well no expenditure of labor was too much. In preparation for his lectures, in reading of papers, in conferences with students he so used up his strength that he was compelled to postpone his own research for a vacation, and he found his rest in change of work.

Administrative and committee work he did not love, but nobody ever did it more conscientiously. In particular, as chairman of the Catalogue Committee for years, he made the Catalogue a model of accuracy and clear statement. As Chairman of the Department of English and later Senior Professor his high standards both in teaching and scholarship made themselves powerfully felt.

To Dr. Callaway's achievements in research his publications are the strongest testimony. The following list includes those of greater importance. A complete bibliography would be tedious.

The Absolute Participle in Anglo-Saxon, Baltimore, 1889.

The Appositive Particle in Anglo-Saxon, Modern Language Association, 1901.

The Infinitive in Anglo-Saxon. Carnegie Institution, 1913.

Studies in the Syntax of the Lindisfarne Gospels, Baltimore, 1918

The Temporal Subjunctive in Old English, The University of Texas, 1931.

The Consecutive Subjunctive in Old English, Modern Language Associations, 1933.

This record covering forty-four years of active research and publication in the one field of Old English syntax shows rigid devotion to the highest standards of scholarship and consistent development of one line of attack. Professor Callaway's method from first to last was to read with minute care the entire corpus of Old English writing in the field of investigation, to collect statistics objectively, to analyze them, reach his conclusions on the basis of these statistics, read the opinions expressed by all other scholars on the problems involved, and then state his results modestly but clearly. He always preferred the understatement, and this habit sometimes obscured the real significance of his studies. But he had the satisfaction of knowing that the conclusions that he reached were accepted in practically every important instance with unanimity by European and American scholars of Old English. His interest in the interpretation of English literature was no less sincere than that in linguistics but led to little

publication. He edited with sympathy and grace a small volume of Select Poems of Sidney Lanier (1895) and served as assistant literary editor of the well-known Library of Southern Literature.

Dr. Callaway's most striking personal characteristics were perhaps his respect for authority, his devotion to justice, his sense of duty, his courage, his kindness. He expected loyalty from his subordinates, but he also accorded complete support to his official superiors even when their decisions seemed to him unwise. For justice he was a stickler, and his fighting spirit was aroused at the very suggestion of wrong to others. Though an ardent Southerner, he had a New England conscience, inflexible in matters that seemed to him important. An indication of his courage may be found in the remark of a friend that he would have enjoyed being burned at the stake for his convictions. His kindness was shown in unfailing courtesy, in unwillingness to think evil, in consideration for the rights of others, in the number and warmth of his friendships. Unknown to many, he had also a keen sense of humor and enjoyed a good story as much as a fine distinction in the use of the subjunctive.

Gentleman, teacher, scholar, friend, above all a man, Dr. Callaway's death brings heavy loss to the whole University and to his friends sorrow unfeigned.

(Signed)
W. J. Battle, Chairman
Robert A. Law
M. B. Porter