

M E M O I R

SHERMAN GRANT PITT, D.D.

Only a Godly life, tranquil and courageous in the present tense, obedient to Christ's will from day to day, can afford such a translation as befell Sherman Grant Pitt in the night watch of December eighth, 1928. With Mrs. Pitt he had just returned from Chicago, from attending a meeting of the Deans of Epworth League Institutes. He was very tired, but with usual self-forgetfulness he hastened on an errand of love, then sought the sleep of exhaustion, and found sudden and abundant entrance into the tireless life. These last hours were characteristic. The diligent performance of duty, unstinted service to loved ones and friends, unsparring dedication of his gifts to his high vocation, at last found their crowning in "the rest that belongeth unto the people of God". "He giveth his beloved sleep."

Dr. Pitt was born near Canton, St. Lawrence County, New York, September ninth, 1864.

From his youth, by disposition and by practise he was a student, possessed of an analytical mind, thorough-going in all his processes of thought and habits of work. Following his public school training, he graduated from the State Normal School at Potsdam, New York. He matriculated at Rutgers College, graduating in 1888~~X~~ as Bachelor of Arts, later receiving his Master's degree from the same institution of learning.



It was during his early student days that this young Christian made the decision to dedicate his life to the Christian ministry, inscribing this high resolution on the fly leaf of his Bible, December tenth, 1880, following a meeting in the Potsdam Methodist Episcopal Church. During his Rutgers days he was encouraged in this life purpose by a family of choice friends who recognized his personal worth, and in many practical ways inspired him ~~to~~ seek the best possible preparation for his vocation. Dr. Pitt never tired of paying tribute to Mr. and Mrs. John Lawrence of New Brunswick, New Jersey. It was their daughter who later was to become his faithful and capable helpmeet.

His career at College was marked by many campus activities and high honors. A member of the Varsity football team for two years, he also excelled in public speaking, and in his Junior year was elected to Phi Beta Kappa Fraternity.

His preparation for the ministry was made at Drew Theological Seminary, from which he received his B. D. in 1891. He was ever an ardent alumnus, <sup>and ed</sup> ~~serv~~ as president of the Drew Alumni Association in 1926. Many young men have turned their feet toward his beloved Alma Mater under his encouragement and direction.

The New Jersey Conference received Sherman Grant Pitt into membership in 1891, ordaining him Deacon by the hands of Bishop Fitzgerald at Trenton, New Jersey, March twenty-second of that year. From Bishop Merrill, at Burlington, New Jersey, he received ordination as Elder, March twenty-fourth, 1895. Then began a series of pastorates notable for their industry, their conservation of youth, their



emphases upon vital Christian experience. They included Englishtown, Spring Lake, Lakewood, Lambertville, Central Church, Atlantic City, Central Church, Bridgeton, Merchantville, and Vineland. During the World War (1918-1919) Dr. Pitt served the Young Men's Christian Association as Religious Work Secretary, stationed for thirteen months at Camp Lee, Petersburg, Virginia, and for six months in France. In 1925 he was appointed Superintendent of Trenton District, which post he held with distinction until the time of his death.

It was for the religious direction of youth that Dr. Pitt was peculiarly fitted, and it was in this connection that he exercised his finest leadership. From 1908 to 1925, as Chairman of the Conference Board of Examiners, he labored consistently to establish higher educational standards for the Conference, and inspired a host of young preachers to strive for better educational equipment. His name is memorably engraved on the hearts of this numerous company.

Since 1920 our Brother has given aggressive and popular supervision to the summer Institute of the Conference Epworth League at Pennington Seminary. There hundreds of adolescent lads have been quickened by his Christly spirit and understanding counsel. The confidence of the young people in their Dean and his wife, affectionately known to the Institute student body as "Pa" and "Ma", the common admiration for their character and Christian wisdom, provide a covetable tribute.



Beside his membership in Phi Beta Kappa, Dr. Pitt was also a member of Delta Upsilon Fraternity; Junior Order of United American Mechanics (Goodwill Council, New Brunswick); and the Free and Accepted Masons, being Past Master of Amwell Lodge, Lambertville, New Jersey, and at the time of his death a member of the Lodge at Vineland, New Jersey.

On June third, 1891, Sherman Grant Pitt and Ella B. Lawrence were united in matrimony. The vows, joyously taken that day laid the foundation of a home life beautiful for its devotion and happiness. A significant tribute was paid these home-makers of the Methodist parsonage when both their boys volunteered for life service in the Church of their parents' love. These sons now perpetuate the memory and ministry of their father in important fields of service. J. Lawrence Pitt is a member of the New Jersey Conference, serving as <sup>Avenue</sup> pastor of Greenwood Church, Trenton; Malcolm Slack Pitt renders distinguished service as Professor of Islamics and Greek at the India Methodist Theological College, National English School of Theology, Jubulpore, Central Provinces, India.

Memorial services were conducted in the Greenwood Avenue Church, Trenton, Wednesday afternoon, December twelfth. That auditorium, banked with profusion of flowers eloquent of love and hope, was taxed to its capacity by sorrowing friends, ministers, laymen, youth. Dr. Herbert J. Belting, Superintendent of the New Brunswick District, presided, while the Cabinet was represented by appreciative words of affection from the Superintendent of the Camden District, Dr. Charles I. Fitzgeorge. A letter of condolence was read from Bishop



Ernest G. Richardson. A. A. Parker, D.D., President of the India Methodist Theological College, spoke glowingly of the character of this father as reflected in the spirit of the son in India. Doctor Tuck represented the Board of Foreign Missions in extending sympathy to the bereaved family. J. Purman Shook, D.D., read resolutions of sorrow and praise from the Trenton District Preachers' Meeting. During the services the quartet of Greenwood Avenue Church sang favorite hymns of consolation and faith. At the close of the hour the brethren of the Conference gathered about the casket to sing "Shall We Gather At The River?" Interment was made in the family plot at Elmwood Cemetery, New Brunswick, New Jersey, the last words fittingly pronounced by J. Lawrence Pitt.

So lived and died one whose spirit God had redeemed, beautified, and empowered by faith in Jesus Christ. The record of his resurrection is written opposite his name in the Book of Life, the seals of which may be broken only by Him who "hast made us unto our God kings and priests."

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"



Pennington Institute sets the ideals, furnishes the motive power and supplies the training for all the League's activities. The churches which send their young people to Pennington are rewarded with a quickened spiritual life and a corps of leaders which make for greater efficiency. The Institute is a recruiting station for the ministry. From this center have gone young men into our ministry and young women into our parsonages. They have also gone into the various mission fields of the world.

This important institution was built from the foundation up by Sherman Grant Pitt. He gathered its faculty, he shaped its policy and breathed into it his own deep spiritual life. While Dr. Pitt was superintendent of Trenton District; yet, by reason of his work and the greatness of his heart, he belonged to the New Jersey Conference and to all Methodism. Ere the silver cord was loosed and the golden bowl was broken, he had poured forth his life of deep devotion, of unassuming zeal and constructive character building upon the youth of the Conference, setting before them an example of high ideals and sacrificial service. The years made no change in his youthful spirit. He was like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brought forth his fruit in his season, his leaf did not wither and whatsoever he did for Pennington Institute prospered. The years may dim his name upon the pages of the Conference Minutes; but his radiant life, like the warm Gulf Stream, shall flow on through the youth whom he served, helping to change the cold spiritual climate of this world and causing it to yield more abundantly of the fruit of the spirit.



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ERNEST E. TUCK  
INDIA AND BURMA  
SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

# Board of Foreign Missions Of the METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

150 Fifth Avenue  
NEW YORK CITY

CABLE ADDRESS, MISSIONS

PHONE, CHELSEA 2130

December 15, 1928.

PRESIDENT  
BISHOP LUTHER B. WILSON  
TREASURER  
MORRIS W. EHNES

Rev. Malcolm Pitt,  
58 Rest Camp Road,  
Jubbulpore, C.P., India.

My dear Malcolm:

Yesterday I was at Trenton attending the funeral of your father. Your family seemed so appreciative of my coming and took me right into the inner circle. I told your mother I would write you today.

The service was in Lawrence's church in Trenton, and the auditorium was packed to the doors. The New Jersey Conference preachers were there in large numbers. The townspeople also crowded into the church and everywhere there seemed to be a general recognition of the fact that Trenton had lost one of its notable citizens. The service was simple and yet impressive. You will be hearing the details from the family, but I wanted to write you to say that I have not attended a funeral in recent years where such widespread and genuine affection was expressed as was done for your father.

Two of the District Superintendents spoke, then Dr. A. A. Parker followed, representing you. He was quite brief but spoke beautifully of your appreciation of your father and how he knew Sherman G. Pitt and his fine christian spirit because he knew Malcolm Pitt. It was a very happy coincidence that Dr. Parker was in New Jersey when we got word of the sudden passing of your father.

I had a small part in the service also, and was privileged to go with Lawrence and his family to the cemetery in New Brunswick, where your father is buried.

Your mother seemed to be holding up pretty well. She did not go to the cemetery as it was a long drive. Fortunately the weather was fine and clear. I think Lawrence was wonderful in his attitude. He actually read the committal service at the cemetery with a strong clear voice. Of course there were several references made to you during the service. Altogether, I think it was a splendid tribute to the influence of your father and the respect for him in the community.

We know how hard this has been for you and we pray that you may have strength and courage as well as an increase of faith because of this sad experience which has come to you. Please accept the very deep sympathy of the Board and of your friends here in the office.

Cordially yours,

*Ernest E. Tuck*



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JOHN R. EDWARDS  
RALPH E. DIFFENDORFER

SECRETARY - COUNSEL  
FRANK MASON NORTH

# Board of Foreign Missions

## Of the METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

150 Fifth Avenue  
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CABLE ADDRESS, MISSIONS TELEPHONE, CHELSEA 2130

ACTING PRESIDENT  
BISHOP FRANCIS J. MCCONNELL  
TREASURER  
MORRIS W. EHNES

December 15, 1928

Mrs. Sherman G. Pitt  
236 Chestnut Avenue  
Trenton, N. J.

My dear Mrs. Pitt,

Mr. Tuck from our office and Dr. Parker from India officially represented us at the funeral service of Dr. Pitt and we were very glad that they could both be there, especially Dr. Parker since he was able to stand up and say that he took the place of Malcolm at this service.

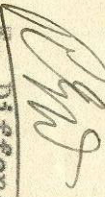
I was preaching in Asbury Park on Sunday morning, when Dr. De Maris, after we had gone to the pulpit and a few minutes before I started preaching, told me of Dr. Pitt's sudden death on Saturday night. It was a very great shock as you may well know. On Sunday evening I preached in Lakewood and found myself in one of your old parishes. I took occasion there to speak of Dr. Pitt's interest in our work, especially regarding Malcolm.

We want you to know how very much you have been in our minds and on our hearts in recent days and I desire to add to the other messages that must be coming to you from many quarters, my own testimony of many years of loyal friendship with Sherman Pitt and my appreciation of that which made him an unusual Christian leader.

We know how much of a pride he took in Malcolm and his work and we rejoice that his children continue to bear their witness. It must be a great comfort to you.

With full assurance of our sympathy  
and prayers for you, I am

Sincerely yours,

  
R. S. Diffendorfer.

ABG



CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES

JOHN R. EDWARDS  
RALPH E. DIFFENDORFER

SECRETARY - COUNSEL

FRANK MASON NORTH

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ACTING PRESIDENT

BISHOP FRANCIS J. MCCONNELL

TREASURER

MORRIS W. EHNES

December 15, 1928

The Reverend Malcolm S. Pitt  
India Methodist Theological College  
Jubbulpore, India

My dear Malcolm,

The enclosed copy of a letter which I have just written to your Mother cannot begin to express how much you have been upon my heart and mind in the last few days. As you probably have known, your Father and I have been good friends for many years. We were more than just official friends. We were the kind that could sit down and chat together for a long time without looking at the clock and without having points, one, two and three to check off. We loved to share each others things and points of view.

I cannot tell you how many times he would come into the office here, since you have gone to India, just to inquire if we had any recent word from you, or to share with me some recent letter from you. He was tremendously interested in what you are doing and was eager for your success.

His passing is lamented by all of us, but how we rejoice in the memory that he has left behind.

Sincerely yours,

R. E. Diffendorfer.

ABG



Know all Men by these Presents, that  
I, James N. Fitzgerald

ONE OF THE BISHOPS OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church,

under the protection of Almighty God, and with a single eye to his glory, by the  
imposition of my hands and prayer, have this day set apart Sherman G. Pitt,  
for the office of a Deacon, in the said Methodist Episcopal Church, a man who, in the judgment of the  
New Jersey Annual Conference, is well qualified for that work, and he  
is hereby recommended to all whom it may concern, as a proper person to administer the ordinance of Baptism,  
Marriage, and the Burial of the Dead, in the absence of an Elder, and to Feed the Flock of Christ, so long as his  
spirit and practice are such as become the Gospel of Christ, and he continueth to hold fast the form of  
sound words, according to the established doctrines of the Gospel.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of my  
office this Twenty second day of March in the year of our Lord, one  
thousand eight hundred and ninety one  
Done at Trenton  
New Jersey

J. N. Fitzgerald





Know all Men by these Presents, that

I, Stephen M. Merrill,

ONE OF THE BISHOPS OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church

Under the protection of Almighty God, and with a single eye to his glory, by the imposition of my hands and prayer, being assisted by the Elders present, have this day set apart Sherman G. Pitt for the office of an Elder in the said Methodist Episcopal Church, a man who, in the judgment of the New Jersey Annual Conference, is well qualified for that work, and he is hereby recommended to all whom it may concern, as a proper person to administer the Sacraments and Ordinances, and to Feed the Flock of Christ, so long as his spirit and practice are such as become the Gospel of Christ, and he continueth to hold fast the form of sound words, according to the established doctrines of the Gospel.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of my office this Twenty-fourth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Ninety-five.

Done at Burlington,  
New Jersey.

S. M. Merrill.





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Mrs. Garrison, St. Pitt.

London

St. Louis

Mo.

HOLY BIBLE.



To night Dec. 10 1880  
I pledged myself for  
life to serve God.

Sherman Bell

In the presence of  
C. Church  
N. Y.

THE

# HOLY BIBLE,

CONTAINING THE

OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS:

TRANSLATED OUT OF

THE ORIGINAL TONGUES;

AND WITH THE

FORMER TRANSLATIONS DILIGENTLY COMPARED  
AND REVISED.

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NEW YORK:

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY,

INSTITUTED IN THE YEAR MDCCCXVI.

Agate, 24 mo.]

1870.