

**A DISCOURSE  
COMMEMORATIVE OF  
HON. SAMUEL WILLISTON**

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A Discourse Commemorative of Hon. Samuel Williston by W. S. Tyler

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**W. S. TYLER**

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# A DISCOURSE

COMMEMORATIVE OF

HON. SAMUEL WILLISTON,

DELIVERED IN THE

PAYSON CHURCH AT EASTHAMPTON,

SEPTEMBER 13, 1874,

AND ALSO IN

THE COLLEGE CHURCH AT AMHERST, SEPTEMBER 20.

BY W. S. TYLER,

WILLISTON PROFESSOR OF GREEK IN AMHERST COLLEGE.

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## DISCOURSE.

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As we gather in this sacred place and come under the shadow of this solemn occasion, the very air we breathe seems to be full of voices. And it is not the noise and tumult of the world—it is not the speech of men or of angels—it is the voice of God that speaks to us. And as we listen and strive to hear and learn what He would say unto us, I seem to hear, uttered as distinctly almost as with an audible voice, such words as these: God only is great; God only is wise; there is none good but one, that is God. All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away; but the word of the Lord endureth forever. Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might; let not the rich man glory in his riches, but let him that glorieth, glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me; that I am the Lord which exercise



loving-kindness, judgment and righteousness, in the earth. The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; that delighteth greatly in his commandments. Wealth and riches shall be in his house, and his righteousness endureth forever. A good man showeth favor, and lendeth; he will guide his affairs with discretion. He hath dispersed; he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth forever; his horn shall be exalted with honor. There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth, shall be watered also himself. Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down and shaken together and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal, it shall be measured to you again. It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful. Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household. Blessed is that servant whom his lord, when he cometh, shall find

so doing. Of a truth, I say unto you, he will make him ruler over all that he hath. Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters. Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days. If thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity and thy darkness be as the noon-day. And the Lord shall guide thee continually and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden and like a spring of water whose waters fail not. And they that be of thee shall build the old waste places; thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The Repairer of the breach, The Restorer of paths to dwell in.

All these Scriptures are naturally suggested by the occasion which has called us together. They are all more or less strikingly illustrated in the life, or impressed upon us by the death of our departed friend. God who, at sundry times, and in divers manners, wrote them in His word, now repeats them, as it were, in our ears by His Providence. May He also, by His Spirit, write them in our hearts. Either of them might furnish a suitable and profitable theme for our special medi-

tation at this hour. Each of them has occurred in rapid succession as a proper text for this discourse. But none of them, perhaps, expresses in so few and fitting words the characteristic life-work of Samuel Williston—the mission which he seems to have been sent into the world to accomplish—as a part of the last passage which I have read. It is found in the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah, and the twelfth verse.

*“Thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations ; and thou shalt be called, The Repairer of the breach, The Restorer of paths to dwell in.”* Isa. lviii. 12.

And the lesson which the providence and the word of God commend to our especial consideration at this time is, The honor which is due to the founders of institutions, especially institutions of education and religion, for the benefit of many generations.

The honor which is due to such men is seen,

1. In the high estimation in which they have always been held, both by God and by mankind.

The two names, most honored of God in the history of the church and the world, are Moses and Christ. And these are the names of the *founders* and *lawgivers* of the Jewish and the Christian church.