

now includes a large number of distinguished names. His accurate and enthusiastic scholarship peculiarly fitted him for the work in which he was now engaged, and in 1852, he was appointed professor of ancient languages and literature, which position he filled with marked ability and success until 1858. His mind was thoroughly imbued with the classic spirit, and his teaching was no dull routine of drudgery, but with keen relish he led his pupils back to drink at the refreshing springs of early literature, and showed them amid the ruins of the past many of the foundation stones of our modern civilization. His acquaintance with his department was not superficial and perfunctory; he lived amid the very scenes of which he taught. The Roman Forum and the Athenian Acropolis were as familiar to his mind as the capitol park; Plato and Virgil were intellectual comrades with whom he held delightful converse. This enthusiastic delight in the language, history, literature and influence of the two classic races that have powerfully affected modern life and thought, remained as a life long passion, and his late turning aside from the exhausting duties that had worn out his strength, to find rest and refreshment in study and exploration in his beloved Athens, was very characteristic.

In 1858, in one of the periodic revolutions that marked the early history of the university, he passed out of its faculty, and devoted himself to other pursuits. But the remembrance of his work was such, and his temperament and habit of mind were so pre-eminently that of the scholar, that the title of "professor" was that by which he was commonly called, until his eldest son became entitled to it, when to prevent confusion, Dr. Conover was called by the honorary title so worthily bestowed by the institution he had so faithfully served.

But his interest in the university and labor for it, did not cease with the termination of his professorship. He became a member of its board of regents, where his wise counsel and far-seeing plans and indefatigable efforts for its success were esteemed of great value. He filled this position of important trust till 1867, sustaining thus an offi-