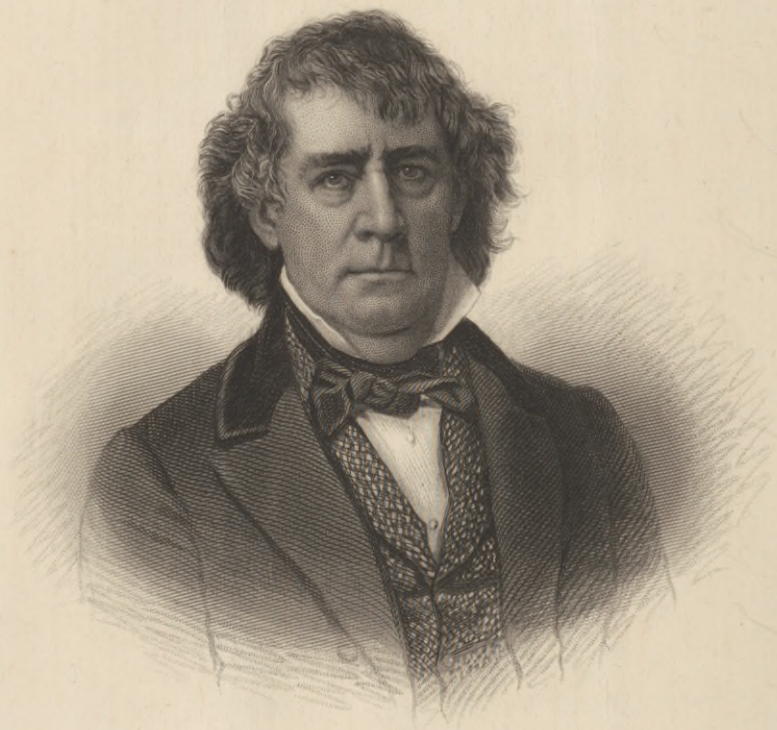


Van Deusen (E.H.)





J. Roney Betch

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A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF

T. ROMEYN BECK, M.D., LL.D.

BY

E. H. VAN DEUSEN, M.D.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

INTIMATELY connected with the later history of nearly every department of scientific literature, in this State, is the name of Dr. Theodric Romeyn Beck. His family were of English descent, but so long settled at Schenectady, that by intermarriages there they had become incorporated with the Dutch inhabitants. In the probate of the will of his great-grandfather, proved at Albany, in 1733, he is described as "Caleb Beck, of the County of Albany, Gent., having, during his life and at the time of his death, goods, rights, and credits, in divers places in our provinces." His grandfather was admitted an attorney at law, to practice in all the courts at Albany, in the year 1751. His own father, who died very early, left his children to the care of his widow, the only daughter of the Rev. Derick Romeyn, D.D., then pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church at Schenectady, and well known as a Professor of Theology in that church.

The Romeyn family came from Holland and settled in New York about the middle of the seventeenth century; and among those of them who became distinguished may be mentioned the Rev. John B. Romeyn, D.D., who died much lamented in New York, in the year 1825, and Dr. Nicholas Romaine, one of the founders, and first President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, and President of the New York State Medical Society in 1808-9-10-11.

Dr. T. R. Beck was born at Schenectady, New York, on the 11th day of August, 1791, and was the eldest of five sons, all gifted in no ordinary degree. By the death of his father, his early care and education, and that of his four brothers, devolved upon their widowed mother. In the brilliant future and distinguished usefulness of her youthful charge, we see the fruit of the piety, intelligence, and energy of this truly excellent woman; and as the reward of all her care, we find her, in advancing years, the honored mother of one of the most talented families in the State. Of these five sons, two died early—one a lawyer of great promise, at St. Louis, and another, Nicholas F., who deceased while holding the office of Adjutant General under De Witt Clinton. Of the surviving brothers, Dr. John B. Beck, the distinguished author and physician, was for many years Professor of *Materia Medica* in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, and died in that city in 1851. The remaining brother, Lewis C. Beck, was no less eminent, and, at the time of his decease, two years since, was Professor of Chemistry in the Albany Medical College, and occupied the same chair in Rutgers College, New Jersey. To the general as well as professional reader the writings of both these brothers are well known, while the name of the latter is prominently associated with the preparation of the "Natural History of the State of New York," to which he contributed a valuable volume.

Dr. T. Romeyn Beck acquired the rudiments of his education in the Grammar School at Schenectady, under the more immediate supervision of his grandfather, and was graduated at Union College in 1807. Making choice of medicine as a profession, he soon after commenced his studies with Drs. McClelland and Low, at Albany; but, induced by the superior advantages offered in the city of New York, he subsequently proceeded thither, and entered the office of Dr. David Hosack. He attended the lectures of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, then recently established, and re-

ceived from that institution, in 1811, the degree of Doctor in Medicine, on which occasion he presented an inaugural thesis on the subject of Insanity.

This dissertation was immediately published, and received much merited attention. Although written at a time when but few in this country had devoted themselves particularly to the study of Insanity, it exhibits, on the part of its author, a full appreciation of the importance of the subject, and a very intimate acquaintance with its literature. It is now out of print, the limited edition published soon finding its way into the hands of permanent possessors. The pamphlet contains thirty-four closely printed pages, and is inscribed to his uncle, Dr. John B. Romeyn, and Dr. David Hosack, and presented to his early preceptors, Drs. Low and McClelland, "as the first-fruits of an education commenced under their care." After an introduction, with a brief detail of earlier investigations, and the various theories advanced by older writers to account for the phenomena of diseased mental action, follows a condensed history of the disease, its symptomatology, etiology, pathology, prognosis, and treatment. In subsequent pages the medical jurisprudence of insanity is considered, in reference both to the security of the public and the proper treatment of the patient.

This little volume, from the pen of "one whose opportunities of viewing the disease had been scanty, and whose information was derived principally from books," exhibits an intimate acquaintance with the literature of the subject, and the then only partially acknowledged wants of the insane, alike creditable to his character as a scholar and to his correct judgment,

Soon after his graduation he returned to the city of Albany, opened an office, and commenced the practice of his profession. His cultivated taste and studious habits soon brought him into intimate relation with the scientific men of his day; and as early as 1813 we find his name upon the list of Counselors of the "Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts,"

in connection with that of De Witt Clinton and others equally eminent. This association at that time held a high rank in the scientific world, and had enrolled upon its list of membership some of the most honored names in the State. It was a re-incorporation of the old "Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, Arts, and Manufactures," first organized in 1791, after the expiration of its charter in 1804. Among his earlier and most successful efforts in this new and honorable field, is the annual address, delivered by appointment before the Society, at the Capitol, in the city of Albany, on the 3rd of February, 1813. This production was more particularly directed to the public, its object being the more perfect development of the mineral resources of our country, or, as is stated in the preface, to exhibit at one view the mineral riches of the United States, with their various application to the arts, and to demonstrate the practicability of the increase of different manufactures whose materials are derived from this source. It is well calculated to awaken an increased interest in this important matter, and was received with great favor throughout the Union.

His valued service in still another field, is beautifully acknowledged by Prof. Emmons. In dedicating the Fifth Volume of the Natural History of the State of New York to Dr. Beck, he remarks :

"There is more than one reason why the concluding divisions of the present work, undertaken to explore and illustrate the Natural History of the State of New York, and conducted under Legislative patronage, should be dedicated to you. You were among the first to foster the enterprise, and remained its consistent advocate in times when adverse circumstances seemed to jeopardize its continuance : much more than this, your whole life has been assiduously engaged in promoting the advance of science, and the spread of popular education ; and the published results of your scientific and literary labors, may be referred to as reflecting an honor upon your native State. Would, that the merits

of the present volume were such as to render it more worthy its dedication."

In 1814, he married Harriet, daughter of James Caldwell, Esq., a well-known citizen of Albany, who died in 1823. He has left no son to inherit his name, and only two daughters.

In 1815, Dr. Beck was appointed Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, and Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence, in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of New York, an institution then in the third year of its existence. The proximity of the College to the city of Albany enabled him to discharge his professional duties, and, at the same time, retain his medical practice, which he continued to do for some time.

Notwithstanding his many arduous duties, his interest in the progress of scientific investigation seems to have been unabated, and, in the spring of 1819, he read before the Society for the Promotion of the Useful Arts a most elaborate paper on Alum, which will be found printed with the transactions of the Association. A short time previous, he found his strength unequal to the laborious duties of his profession; and, on account of his apprehension of ill health, and, perhaps, in indulgence of his increasing taste for literary pursuits, he abandoned the general practice of medicine entirely, and, in 1817, was appointed Principal of the Albany Academy, an institution collegiate in character, and occupying a high literary standing. Teaching was especially adapted to his taste; and under his enlightened management, for more than a quarter of a century, the Academy unvaryingly maintained a most elevated rank, among similar institutions. Dr. Beck continued a Professor at Fairfield until the College was dissolved, and, in 1841, became a Professor of *Materia Medica* in the Albany Medical College, the chair of Medical Jurisprudence being already filled. This professorship he resigned in 1853, and was then appointed Emeritus Professor.

In 1829, Dr. Beck was elected President of the Medical

Society of the State of New York, and, at the meeting of the Society, at Albany, delivered the annual address, on the subject of "Medical Evidence." Continuing in office several years, he pronounced, on similar occasions subsequently, two addresses—one upon "Medical Improvements," and the other upon "Small Pox," all of which will be found in the volume of "Transactions" for the respective years.

Since 1851, he has filled the honorable situation of Secretary to the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York; and, beside the multiplied duties connected with that position, has had devolving upon him, as *ex-officio* Secretary to the Trustees of the State Library, a large share of its management. The complete and well-arranged catalogue of the Library, and the interesting and comprehensive reports of the Board of Regents, bear the impress of his untiring application and devotion to the important interests over which that distinguished body presides.

Dr. Beck has always been a man of great and enlightened public spirit, ever ready to countenance and promote whatever tended to secure the highest interest of the community. This spirit and his natural benevolence have enlisted him ardently in the great public charities, either in their establishment and organization, or in the subsequent management of their affairs. His "Statistics of the Deaf and Dumb," read before the Medical Society of the State of New York, was the fruit of this philanthropy, and was most powerful in directing the attention of the public to the wants of this afflicted portion of the community.

Dr. Beck was appointed one of the Managers of the New York State Lunatic Asylum, by the act of its organization, in April, 1842; and has been re-appointed by the Governor and Senate, at the expiration of each successive tri-annual period until the present time. Upon the death of Mr. Munson, in the spring of 1854, he (although a non-resident member), was unanimously elected President of the Board. The institution has, at all times, had the advantage

of his wise counsels, efficient aid, and ardent devotion, and of his presence and immediate co-operation with his associates, whenever demanded by matters of unusual or special importance. Here, as well as in all other similar positions, he has ever consulted the highest and most enduring good of the interests committed to his charge, without regard to the prejudices or the more apparent benefits of the hour or the day, or any mere personal claims or advantages. His wisdom and experience, his independence, decision and energy, and his unflinching integrity, have made him a most valuable guardian of all the affairs of this great public charity.

It is, however, with Dr. Beck, as a writer, that we have at present especially to do, and we will close this sketch by a notice of his editorial connection with the *Journal of Insanity*, and his great work on Medical Jurisprudence.

In April, 1844, the first number of the *American Journal of Insanity* was issued from the press, occupying an entirely new field in the medical literature of this country. The generous motive which led Dr. Brigham, its founder and first editor, to assume, in addition to his onerous duties as Superintendent of a large asylum, the labor and responsibility of its establishment, is well known to most of our readers. To many of his colleagues and professional friends he was largely indebted for encouragement, in his undertaking, and for much valued and gratefully acknowledged assistance: among them, Dr. Beck, who, deeply interested in the attainment of the ends at which the Journal aimed, warmly seconded his efforts, and, amid many other engagements, found sufficient time to contribute frequently and ably to its pages. After Dr. Brigham's death, the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum, aware of the importance to any specialty, of a periodical devoted to its advancement and interest, assumed the entire responsibility of its publication, and, by their unanimous request, induced Dr. Beck to edit the ensuing volume. He gave his consent, hoping at the close of the year to be relieved of a care which, with his other numerous duties, was a heavy tax; but, in the

absence of any other arrangement, he continued to conduct it until the close of the last volume, when "advancing years and more imperative duties" compelled him to relinquish his editorial connection.

In the theme of his inaugural dissertation at the Medical College, and in the subject of many of his literary efforts, we perceive how early and closely his attention has been drawn to insanity and its legal relations. From a knowledge of his character, it is very natural to suppose that this interest was awakened, not only by the intrinsic merit of the subject, but, also, by the then very general feeling that this department of medical literature was indeed most barren. How well he succeeded in his effort to supply this deficiency is evidenced by the multiplied editions of his *Medical Jurisprudence*, which have already been called for. Since its first issue from the press, in 1823, in two large octavo volumes, of nearly two thousand pages, it has passed through five American, one German, and four London editions. The favorable reception of this work in foreign countries, at a time when national feeling in the medical world was stronger than at any previous or subsequent period, shows how completely its merits disarmed every prejudice. Says a bibliographer, in a notice of the German edition: "Among the numerous and unequivocal evidences of the very high estimation in which Dr. Beck's *Elements of Medical Jurisprudence* are held by the profession in Europe, their translation into the German language must be regarded as the most flattering and decisive indication of their true value. In no country has this interesting and varied science been prosecuted with such unabated zeal, or have so much research and learning been elicited on its several curious topics, as in Germany. From the time of Zacchias, indeed, to the present day, it has been the favorite object of study with German physicians, and their opinions of the merits of any treatise on the subject are, therefore, entitled to the highest weight and the most respectful consideration. Proud are we, therefore, to see them prize the performance of our learned countryman so

highly as to deem it worthy of transfusion into their vernacular tongue. In his native language his work is as yet without a parallel."

His labors in this field did not cease with the publication of his great work, but, for many years afterward, besides the emendation and supervision of subsequent editions, he contributed largely upon the same subject to various medical periodicals. A distinguished writer, in reviewing a copy of the tenth edition, for Hays' *American Journal of Medical Science*, remarks: "The pages of this Journal, for years past, have borne constant evidence of the untiring and invaluable research of Dr. Beck, whose observations and extracts from foreign and domestic sources have filled that portion of it devoted to medical jurisprudence; and the writer of the present notice bears his testimony to the same effect; for, having taken much interest in the subject, and consequently had occasion to examine the journals, he found it impossible to furnish a single novelty to this department in which he had not been anticipated by Dr. Beck." In both the medical and legal periodicals of the day there have, from time to time, with successive editions of his work, appeared many and varied notices and reviews—flattering evidence of its merit, and the high estimation of both professions. From some of these it would give us pleasure to extract; but the work has already received the stamp of worth, has taken its place as high authority, and acquired for itself and its author a most extended reputation.

The greater portion of the preceding sketch of Dr. Beck's professional life was prepared for the *American Journal of Insanity*, on the occasion of his retirement from the more active discharge of public duties connected with the specialty to which that periodical is devoted. Thus restricted, it is necessarily, as a biography, incomplete. In other departments of science, his investigations have been no less extended, and to other schemes of benevolence, he has as generously devoted his energies and rare practical attain-

ments; and though these services, so valuable and so widely appreciated, may not be enumerated here, they have found a far more enduring record than these pages could afford.

To Dr. Beck was allowed the gratification of witnessing, in a measure at least, the attainment of the important ends at which his labors aimed, and the consummation of many of the projects to which he had looked forward with happy anticipations.

He has lived to see the claims of the deaf-mute, so ably urged by himself, and so warmly advocated by his friend, the lamented Gallaudet, recognized in almost every State of the Union; and the institution of New York bearing a high reputation as one of the most successful schools for deaf-mute instruction in the world. He has witnessed the adoption in this State, of a public system of education, elementary and collegiate, alike thorough and successful; and as the crowning effort in the field of his severest, yet most congenial, labor, a "State Library" which, for completeness of organization and beauty of arrangement, stands unrivaled, and for which, it may be remarked, the State of New York is almost entirely indebted to his extended and complete knowledge of the history of Literature and Science, in which he had no equal in this country, if indeed anywhere.

He has had the satisfaction of seeing the *American Journal of Insanity*, a periodical in the success of which he was so much interested, firmly established, and gradually extending its field of influence and usefulness. The State Lunatic Asylum, at Utica, an institution with which he has been officially connected since its organization, and over whose interests he has so ably presided, has attained a rank among similar institutions alike creditable to its judicious management and the State; and his untiring devotion to the study of Medical Jurisprudence, has enabled the profession in America to point with pride to an American author, at the head of the literature of one of the most important departments of medical science.

Dr. Beck's constitution, naturally strong and vigorous, at

length yielded to this long-continued and unremitting mental toil, and, during the spring of 1854, he himself became conscious of failing strength, and, at the earnest solicitation of his friends, was induced to restrict the circle of his labors. The summer of 1855 was spent at Lake George, in the hope that entire freedom from care, might recruit his impaired health. Of his last illness, little is to be said. Paroxysms of dyspnoea, with nausea and other distressing symptoms, from which he occasionally suffered, had been attributed to an organic affection of the heart. Physical examination, however, failed to confirm this diagnosis, and from the later history of his disease and the absence of important pathological lesion, as subsequently ascertained, it would seem that his death was the result simply of exhaustion. Thus, on the 19th of November, 1855, in the sixty-fifth year of his age, the last member of this talented family ceased from his labors.

Actuated by the highest motives, Dr. Beck has been an untiring laborer in every field of science and philanthropy, and most truly may it be said of him, that he was one of those, "in whose death mankind has lost a friend." His life was one of great practical usefulness, and such, as every good and wise man, in advancing years, would desire to look back upon; and he has left behind him a name, around which cluster more delightful and enduring recollections, than the crumbling honors, for which ambition toils, could ever have afforded.

NON OMNIS MORIAR.

THE various institutions and organizations with which Dr. Beck had been prominently connected, on the occasion of his decease expressed their appreciation of his virtues and talents, and the great general loss sustained in his death, in the following proceedings and resolutions.

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.--At a meeting of the Regents of the University of the State of New York, held Nov. 19th, 1855, it was ordered that the following record be entered on their minutes:

"The Regents, in recording the death of their late Secretary, Theodor Romeyn Beck, unanimously express their high appreciation of the excellences of his character, distinguished by its modesty, simplicity, and integrity,—of the extent and variety of his acquirements,—of his eminent, long-continued, and efficient labors for the promotion of education and science,—of his faithfulness and diligence in the discharge of the laborious and varied duties of his office,—and of the great value of his services in the several departments belonging to it."

Resolved, That, in testimony of their respect for the deceased, the Board, together with its officers, will attend his funeral on Wednesday next, and that on that day the State Library be closed.

Resolved, That the Regents tender to the family of the deceased the assurance of their sincere sympathy with them in their bereavement, and that a copy of this record, attested by the Chancellor, be transmitted to them.

JOHN H. HICKCOX, Secretary *pro tem*.

MANAGERS OF THE NEW YORK STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM.—At a meeting of the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum, held at Utica, on the twenty-first day of November, 1855, it was—

Resolved, That the intelligence of the death of Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, the President of this Board, has been received with deep regret

and sorrow; that this Institution, from its commencement, has been greatly indebted to him for his wise counsels, his judicious and efficient action, his integrity and independence in pursuing the path of duty, his warm sympathy with its officers and the afflicted subjects of its care, and his prompt and hearty devotion to all its interests; and that, in his removal, it has suffered a loss which is painfully felt, and which can hardly be repaired. And that the individual members of this Board, remembering his great private as well as public worth, and having in mind the unbroken kindness and harmony which have prevailed in their association with him, feel his death to be a severe personal affliction.

Resolved, as a token of respect to his memory, that his funeral be attended by the Superintendent of the Asylum, and so many of the Managers as shall be able to accompany him to Albany.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of Dr. Beck.

CHARLES A. MANN, Chairman.
E. A. WETMORE, Secretary.

TRUSTEES OF THE ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—At a special meeting of the Trustees of the Albany Medical College, held Nov. 20, 1855, on the occasion of the death of Dr. Theodric Romeyn Beck,—

Resolved, That we have learned with deep regret the death of Dr. Theodric Romeyn Beck, who for forty years past has been identified with almost every leading measure, in this state, for the promotion of education and of medical and general science and letters, and who for many years was one of the most laborious and distinguished professors in this institution. That, while his varied attainments and his able and learned contributions to medical science, and to almost every department of liberal knowledge, have reflected honor upon himself and upon his country, he has endeared himself to us by his general and estimable qualities as a man, and by the example of a pure life devoted with great energy and singleness of purpose to objects of lasting interest and usefulness to the whole community.

Resolved, That we tender to his family our earnest and respectful sympathy.

Resolved, That as a mark of our respect we will attend his funeral in a body.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased, and be also published in the several daily papers.

A. J. PARKER, President *pro tem*.
O. MEADS, Secretary *pro tem*.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FACULTY OF THE ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE, at a meeting held Nov. 20, 1855:

The Faculty have heard with deep regret the death of their beloved and honored associate Professor, T. Romeyn Beck, and wish to express their sense of his excellent qualities and eminent services.

By his labors in science he was a benefactor of mankind, and an honor to his country; by his teaching and influence he elevated the character of our profession and extended its usefulness; by the purity and honesty of his life he has commanded the respect, and by his noble and generous temper, won the love of all who knew him. Therefore,—

Resolved, That to mark our respect we will attend his funeral and wear the usual badge of mourning.

Resolved, That we offer to his family our sincere sympathy in their affliction.

Resolved, That these proceedings be entered on our minutes and communicated to the family of the deceased.

HOWARD TOWNSEND, Secretary.

ALUMNI OF THE ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.—At a special meeting of the Albany Medical College, convened on the occasion of the death of the late Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, on Tuesday evening, Dr. W. H. Craig, President of the Society, arose and remarked as follows:

Gentlemen of the Society, it becomes my duty to announce to you the decease of Prof. T. Romeyn Beck, and the object of meeting at this time is one of a painful nature.

The alumni of the Albany Medical College owe, in part, their celebrity and prosperity to the teachings and influences of Prof. T. Romeyn Beck. We have indeed occasion to mourn his loss. Identified as he was with a department of medical instruction requiring ripe scholarship, profound and accurate analysis, he was preëminently qualified to impart knowledge, and lead the pupil through the labyrinth of scientific research. His name will ever be associated with the science of medical jurisprudence.

We have, in the present instance, opened up anew a train of sorrowful recollections. It is but a short time since a vacant chair in the Laboratory told of the loss to us of another instructor and guide. It is rare to meet, united by kindred, two nobler or more illustrious in social or professional life than the brothers Beck. In their decease, in the meridian of their usefulness, education has lost noble advocates, and we worthy exemplars. I trust that the recollection of the many virtues of the deceased may be to us, in the pursuit of a noble profession, a guiding and inspiring remembrance. Hoping that the Society will adopt some suitable mode of expressing their sorrow for this bereavement, I leave the subject with you.

Dr. U. O. Bigelow, President of the Albany County Medical Society, also paid a feeling tribute to the memory of the deceased.

Prof. Quackenbush, of the Albany Medical College, made a few remarks, after which he presented the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the alumni and members of the Albany Medical College have received with sincere sorrow and regret the announcement of the death of their former teacher, Theodric Romeyn Beck.

Resolved, That while this announcement occasions deep sorrow, the memory of his great attainments, his extended usefulness, his world-wide reputation, his kind and generous qualities, and his noble virtues, affords consolation in the hour of bereavement.

Resolved, That we respectfully tender to the family of the deceased our heartfelt sympathy in their affliction.

Resolved, That we will attend, as a Society, the funeral of the deceased.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family.

WM. H. CRAIG, President.

LEVI MOORE, Secretary.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY.—At a meeting of this Society, held in the Common Council Chamber, on Tuesday, November 20th, at 12, P. M., the meeting having been called to order by the President, Dr. Bigelow, in consequence of the death of Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, who has been a member of the Society since 1811—Dr. James McNaughton rose and spoke of his long and intimate relations with the deceased, and that upon him now, as the oldest member present, devolved the melancholy privilege of presenting for the consideration of the Society the following :

Whereas, it hath pleased God to remove by death our associate and much-esteemed friend, Theodric Romeyn Beck ; and

Whereas, it is meet and proper, that when men, who have been eminently useful in their generation, are called from their labors, their decease should be followed by a public expression of a sense of the loss sustained by the community to which they belonged ; and

Whereas, our lamented brother was not only distinguished for his social and private virtues, but for great public services, which rendered him a benefactor to the human race ; therefore,

Resolved, That, as a mark of respect to the memory of our deceased brother, we will attend his funeral in a body, and wear the usual badge of mourning.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the family of the deceased in their affliction, and offer our sincere condolence.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted, and the Society adjourned, to meet at 3½ o'clock, P. M., Wednesday, at the Common Council Chamber, preparatory to attending the funeral.

SYLVESTER D. WILLARD, Secretary.

ALBANY INSTITUTE.—At a meeting held at the Albany Academy, Monday Evening, Nov, 19th, 1855, the following was unanimously adopted:

The members of the Albany Institute, assembled on the occasion of the death of Theodric Romeyn Beck, their President, desirous of paying to his memory those tokens of respect which are prompted by their sincere affection for him while living, and their sorrow at his death, and which are due to his large attainments in letters and science; to his labors for many years in the advancement and diffusion of sound learning; to his practical wisdom in the discharge of the many duties which have been imposed upon him; to his kindly temper, to his benevolent heart, to his unstained integrity in all the relations of a long life, do resolve,—

1. That they tender to the family of the deceased their respectful sympathy in the affliction that has fallen upon them.
2. That they will, in a body, attend the funeral of the deceased.
3. That the record of these proceedings be entered upon the minutes of the Institute, and that a copy thereof be delivered to the family.

Members will assemble at the Institute Rooms at 3½ P. M.

JOHN E. GAVIT, Recording Secretary.

TRUSTEES OF THE ALBANY ACADEMY.—At a meeting of the Trustees of the Albany Academy, held Nov. 20, 1855:—

This Board having learned with deep sorrow the decease of their honored friend and associate, Theodric Romeyn Beck, M. D., LL. D., who for more than thirty years was the Principal of the Academy, and for the last seven years has been the President of this Board, deem it proper to record their sense of the eminent services rendered by the deceased to this Institution, and to the cause of science and education. And especially would they bear witness to the simplicity, frankness, and elevation of his character,—to the respect and affection with which he was ever regarded by his pupils,—to his large and varied literary and scientific acquirements, and to the disinterested zeal and faithfulness with which he labored through the whole course of his life to advance the interests of sound learning.

Resolved, That as a manifestation of our esteem and respect for the deceased, we will attend his funeral in a body, and wear the usual badge of mourning; and that the Faculty, with the former and present students of the Academy, be requested to join us.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased, and be also published in the several city papers.

R. Y. DE WITT, President *pro tem*.

W. A. MILLER, Secretary.

ALPHA SIGMA.—At a special meeting of the Alpha Sigma, held Nov. 20th, 1855, the President having announced the death of Dr. T. Romeyn Beck, on motion the following were appointed a committee to draft resolutions expressive of the feelings of the Society: John E. McElroy, W. H. Haskell, E. B. Miller, E. J. Miller, and J. C. McClure; who reported the following, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The Alpha Sigma, composed of the former students of the Albany Academy, have heard with profound sorrow of the death of their much-beloved Principal, Dr. Theodric Romeyn Beck; and

Whereas, The members of this Society individually can testify to his care and devoted exertions as Principal of that Institution, and of his good-will and friendship to each and every one in later years; therefore, in testimony of our grief for his loss, be it hereby

Resolved, That in the death of Dr. Beck, we recognize the inscrutable providence of an all-wise Jehovah, in the removing from our midst a bright and shining light, distinguished alike for the brilliancy of his genius, and the simplicity and honesty of a refined and generous heart.

Resolved, That this Society unite with the other students of the Academy in testifying our veneration for the memory of Dr. Beck, and that we hold his life to be an exemplary criterion for our fellow young men here and elsewhere.

Resolved, That this Society attend the funeral of Dr. Beck in a body, and that a copy of these proceedings be transmitted to the family of the deceased, and be published in the city papers.

A. McCLURE, Jr., President.

R. V. DE WITT, Jr., Secretary *pro tem*.

MEETING OF THE OLD PUPILS OF THE ALBANY ACADEMY.—Pursuant to the published notice, a very large attendance of the pupils of the late Dr. Beck was held yesterday at the Academy.

Mr. Miller, Principal of the Academy, called the meeting to order and nominated J. V. L. Pruyn, Esq., as Chairman, and the nomination, being confirmed, Mr. Pruyn, on taking the chair, made a few appropriate remarks in reference to Dr. Beck, and concluded with the sug-

gestion that an appropriate testimonial should be erected in memory of the deceased.

On motion, Lewis Benedict, Jr., was nominated as Secretary.

Mr. Meads moved that the Chair appoint a committee of nine to draw up resolutions expressive of the feelings of the meeting. He prefaced his motion with an eloquent tribute to the character of the deceased, briefly reviewing his life as that of one whose example and whose works rendered his demise a public loss. He, too, cordially seconded the suggestion of the Chairman that a permanent and enduring memorial should be erected.

The Chair appointed the following Committee on resolutions; Orlando Meads, Andrew Brown, Henry L. King, Carlton Edwards, Robert H. Pruyn, Gilbert H. Wilson, Rev. Sylvanus Reed, George W. Carpenter, George Ten Broeck.

The following resolutions were thereupon submitted and unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The graduates and old pupils of Albany Academy are desirous of expressing in some public manner their affection and esteem for their former Teacher, Dr. T. Romeyn Beck; therefore be it—

Resolved, That in his death they mourn the loss of an instructor who devoted the best years of a long and useful life to the young, and whose unremitting and laborious efforts in their behalf should enshrine his memory in the hearts of all the friends of the noble cause of education.

Resolved, That the Albany Academy owes much of its reputation and success to the protracted and systematic regulation of Dr. Beck, who, for a period of over thirty years, was its head and principal, and whose wholesome advice and judicious discipline gave it an honored and respected position among similar institutions throughout the land.

Resolved, That his old pupils desire to pay, in the same simple and unpretending spirit which was one of the noted traits in the remarkable character of their former Teacher, a tribute to the excellence of his life, his unselfish and self-sacrificing disposition, to the soundness of his judgment, the sagacity of his intellect, and to the generous and genial graces which made Dr. Beck a universal favorite among his pupils.

Resolved, That we mourn in his loss a devoted friend to the young and middle-aged men of Albany, and find in his death another link broken in the chain which unites the past with the present, and a fresh severing of old ties and cherished associations connected with the earlier and happier moments of life.

Resolved, That we attend his funeral obsequies in a body, and that the family and more immediate friends of the deceased have our sympathy and condolence in an event which has bereaved them and inflicted a loss upon our own city and the world at large.

Resolved, That the chair appoint a committee of ten who shall be charged with the duty of procuring some suitable memorial of the deceased, to be placed in the Academy or its grounds.

The appointment of the Committee under the last resolution was left with the chair to report, and publish hereafter.

The meeting then adjourned.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.—At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the State Normal School, held at the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 20th, 1855, the following preamble and resolutions were offered by the Superintendent, and ordered to be entered upon the minutes :

The Executive Committee of the New York Normal School, in recording the decease of their Secretary, T. Romeyn Beck, M. D., take occasion to declare their deep and earnest consciousness, that the spirit of a good and useful man has withdrawn from the earth; that from society has been taken one of its brightest ornaments; that this department of science has lost an efficient laborer and zealous teacher, and that the School of which this Committee have charge has been deprived of an able and constant friend. In consideration, and as a befitting acknowledgment of this afflictive dispensation, it is therefore hereby—

Resolved, That, in testimony of veneration and respect for the memory of the deceased, and with a desire to emulate his virtues, this committee will attend his funeral on Wednesday next, and order that on that day the State Normal School shall be closed, and its exercises suspended.

Resolved, That we tender to his bereaved family the assurance of our sympathy with them in the loss which they have sustained, in the dissolution of relations, the duties of which were performed by the deceased with the most constant rectitude, affection, and fidelity; and that a copy of this record, certified by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, be transmitted to them as an evidence thereof.

CHAS. L. AUSTIN, Secretary *pro tem*.

At a special meeting of Master's Lodge No. 5, of Free and Accepted Masons, held at Masonic Hall, on the evening of Wednesday, Nov. 20th, the Worshipful Master, having announced the decease of Brother Theodric Romeyn Beck, on motion, a committee of three were appointed to draft resolutions suitable to the occasion, who reported the following :

Resolved, That Master's Lodge has received with great regret the intelligence of the decease of one of its earliest and most eminent members.

Resolved, That while the members most sincerely sympathize with the family and friends, in their sad bereavement, they are consoled by the reflection, that the life of their cherished brother has been spent in the exercise of all that is great and noble, and that his whole career has been distinguished by an earnest endeavor to render himself useful to his fellow-men.

Resolved, That, as a tribute of respect to his memory, this Lodge will attend his funeral in a body, and wear the usual badge of mourning.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be communicated to the family of the deceased, and also published.

CORNELIUS GLEN, Secretary.

JOHN JACOB WENDELL,	} Committee.
STEPHEN CLARK,	
CHAS. D. RATHBONE,	

FUNERAL OF DR. BECK.

The funeral of Dr. Beck was very largely attended on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 21st, from the house of his son-in-law, Hon. William Parmelee. Rev. Dr. Campbell conducted the services, and paid an eloquent and appropriate tribute to the distinguished character and virtues of the deceased.

The funeral *cortège* moved from the house at half-past four, in the following order :

- Clergy of the City.
- Bearers.
- Mourners.
- Regents of the University.
- Officers of the State Lunatic Asylum.
- Officers and Members of the Medical Society.
- Free and Accepted Masons.
- Trustees and Faculty of the Albany Medical College.
- Trustees and Faculty of the Albany Academy.
- Former Students and Graduates of the Albany Academy.
- Present Pupils of the Albany Academy.
- Citizens.
- Officers of the Police Department.

