

## BELOVED BISHOP RONDTHALER CALLED TO FINAL REST

(Continued From Page One)

bilia, prepared each year, are typical to the close study and detailed care exercised in the preparation of each writing. He was a keen student and delighted in reading. "He found great men to be profitable companions. He thought their thoughts after them. He became conversant with the best in literature. He loved the classical and found recreation and joy in reading his favorite books again and again. Characters lived before him. They took on flesh and blood, and he entered into their experiences of joy and sorrow as though they were his very own."

His great love for children was referred to by Dr. Pfohl. "If he could win a child for the Lord, he had gained a life of service for Christ and he worked with that end always in view. He developed a pastorate around that idea, exerting himself to make the church attractive to children."

The memoir continued "The children's Christmas love feast, the service for little folk on the last afternoon of the old year, the service connected with the Children's Covenant Day were, under his direction and friendly and happy personality, made occasions of great blessing which in some manner seemed to have caught the very spirit of the Saviour's words 'Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.'"

But the chief secret of Bishop Rondthaler's life lay in the fact that he was a man of prayer and of painstaking Christian living, endeavoring to adorn the Gospel of Jesus Christ which he preached, declared Dr. Pfohl. "He was one of the kindest and most considerate of men in dealing with his co-laborers."

"It had long been the desire of our beloved Bishop and of his co-laborers in the work that he might continue in his service until the Lord should call him home. And this our Saviour most graciously granted him," said Dr. Pfohl.

The service at the church concluded, the body was started on its final journey. From the church it was taken back up Church street, past the home where the Bishop had known so many happy years. Past the very steps from which he had greeted and said "Good-bye" to countless thousands of friends who all through the years knew that a cordial welcome awaited them at the Bishop's house.

The cortege moved slowly and in deep reverence. It was similar to the processions that have moved

along Church street so many Easter mornins. Bishop Rondthaler has always led those happy and worshipful throngs. It was the Bishop who was in the lead of this procession, but only the earthly remains rested in that beautiful casket. His spirit had gone to the Heavenly Kingdom, from which it will watch with joy the continuation, by his fellowmen, of the great work he carried on while on earth.

There was not a vehicle in the procession. The body was born by ministers of the Southern Province, the bishop's co-workers. They took turns carry the casket, each deeply grateful for the privilege of having even this opportunity of supporting their beloved leader, even as they have found joy in serving with him while he was with them in person.

Through the entrance to historic Cedar avenue, that has known the footsteps of Bishop Rondthaler each Easter Sunday, as well as on countless other occasions when he walked to "God's Acre," the procession moved.

When the Moravian graveyard was originally laid out, there was only one entrance. It was beautifully significant that it was through this old gate that Bishop Rondthaler's body was borne Monday afternoon. His last resting place is just inside the gate, occupying the corner space of the square.

In the row in which his body rests are the remains of two other Moravian bishops. A short distance away is the abode of Bishop George Frederic Bahnson, who passed away September 11, 1869. At the other end of the square rests Bishop Emil A. DeSchweinitz who has been there since November 3, 1879.

Just a few spaces away, and in the same row as Bishop Rondthaler, lies John Henry Boner, one of the country's best known poets; "that gentlest of minstrels who caught his music from the whispering pines." He passed away March 6, 1903.

The rites at the graveyard were very brief and were conducted by Bishop Hamilton, Bishop Greider and Dr. Pfohl. Slowly and quietly, the body was lowered, benediction was pronounced and the huge congregation dissolved. The bishop is at rest.

TELEGRAM TO DR. RONDTHALER FROM GOVERNOR GARDNER

Raleigh, North Carolina.  
"I have always regarded your father among the noblemen of North Carolina stop His splendid life has been a benediction and blessing to our people stop I was always happy to call him my friend stop My family joins in deepest sympathy.  
O. Max Gardner."

## DEAD BUT LIVING

Bishop Edward Rondthaler was the sort of man his fellow citizens would have had live always. It is difficult indeed to write as if he were really dead. It seems as if the words that go down in the lines are telling forth something that must prove to be an illusion, a dream that will vanish when the dreamer awakens. And it will be many a day before the reality of his death dispels this feeling that it all must be a rumor, an unfounded report.

Of course those immediately associated with him in his home where his great age kept him closely will be first to understand that death has taken him. And then those in the community near-by will begin to sense the reality of his absence. Again in a few weeks thousands will listen in vain for his voice on Easter morning. And then a few weeks later a graduating class will pass from Memorial Hall, the first in many years not to have had the venerable bishop's benediction.

Sooner or later some epochal event signaling progress in the Southern Moravian Province will be held, but Bishop Rondthaler will not be there—as he was just a week ago at Calvary Moravian Church. It is going to take a long time for his world to know that he is dead.

But there is another side to the shield. Neither family, community, church nor world will ever forget that he lived. Objects of the ancient craftsman's skill are every now and again recovered from oblivion. Bishop Rondthaler has left a spiritual work that will never be hidden by any kind of debris. It will not only survive the rains of progressive changes but will be one of the brightest treasures to be used in the adornment of growing and widening civilization.

February 1, 1931.

My dear President Rondthaler:

Our beloved Bishop, your dear and honored father, and the friend of all men and women, has gone to his eternal rest, passing from life to more life and from peace to greater peace. While here, he dispensed the Lord's Bounty to countless souls. Where he is, he drinks "The new wine of the Father's Kingdom." We know your deep sense of loss. But we also know your triumphant sense of gain. You will be encompassed by our prayers during these days of separation. Our sympathy will flow toward you and your like a river. But above and beyond these manifestations is the strong assurance that the soul of this righteous servant is in the keeping of his God, and that you and all of yours shall meet him again.

Ever yours,  
S. Parkes Cadman.

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We are deeply grieved to hear of your great sorrow sincerest sympathy to all.

Charlotte Alumnae Chapter