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During the greater part of his career as a student Dr. Paton had the great advantage of the friendship and influence of the Rev. Dr. Walter C. Smith, of the Iron Church, Glasgow, who has been called the poet preacher of his church. After he had been licensed by the Free Presbytery Dr. Paton preached for two or three months at Cardross, on the Clyde, and was then appointed to the charge of the church at Garelochhead, where he remained for about two years. He was ordained at Duntoon Free Church, Dumfriesshire in 1873, and remained there until 1877, when he accepted the call to Chalmers Church. In a letter to a friend written some time ago, Dr. Paton referring to his student days, said "Of my professors at the University, the teacher of logic initiated me into the habit of thinking, and Lord Kelvin of testing, &c. Professor Islay Burns, at the theological hall, impressed me much with the beauty of his spirit. But the man who helped me most by helping me to make the most of myself was the Rev. W. C. Smith, D.D., LL.D., the poet preacher (as he has been styled) of the Free Church of Scotland. Whilst these names represent the formative forces of my life, there are many others who in a less degree have contributed to make me what I am. As in duty bound I have been trying to pass on the good influences to others."

Dr. Paton, in response to an invitation to the pastorate of Chalmers Church, reached South Australia on September 29, 1877, and about 18 months after his arrival he was appointed to succeed the Rev. P. MacLaren as professor of Hebrew, Old Testament history, and theology in Union College, afterwards adding the subjects of Biblical criticism and the humanities. The institution was dissolved in 1887. In 1886 he received the degree of D.D. from Glasgow University, the subject of his thesis being "The relation between the Old and New Testaments." Since 1886 he had been a member of the University Council, and at different times had acted as co-examiner with Professors Boulger and Mitchell, and the late Rev. W. Roby Fletcher, in mental and moral philosophy. He was Moderator of the General Assembly of South Australia in 1888, and of the Federal Assembly in Melbourne in 1896. He was a member of the Board of Governors of the Public Library, as also, of the committees of several philanthropic institutions in the State. He had labored successfully at Chalmers Church, and had enjoyed splendid health until a few months ago. Indeed he had only once before been laid aside by illness, then only for three weeks. Dr. Paton was one of the most eloquent speakers in the Christian ministry, a delightful conversationalist and companion. He had a most equable temperament, and it can be truly said of him that he was one of nature's gentlemen. Chalmers Church has lost a faithful pastor, and the cause of education has been robbed of a powerful advocate by his death.

Dr. Paton was in many respects a typical Scotch minister. He possessed a particularly genial disposition, and he had the happy faculty for making friends and for binding them to him by life-long ties. He was a man of wide sympathies, as well as of great culture. While he loved his own church with a fervent affection, he was quick to see and ready to acknowledge the good work done by other communions, and was always ready to hold out the brotherly hand to those who were working in the cause of Christianity and humanity.

Dr. Paton was married in 1877 to a daughter of Mr. John Robson, of Lochnaben, Dumfriesshire, and he has left a widow, two sons—both of whom are graduates in science of Adelaide University—and a daughter. One of the sons is in England.

On Friday morning the funeral of the Rev. Dr. Paton took place. A service was held in Chalmers Church prior to the departure of the funeral for the Payneham Cemetery. It was conducted by the Revs. George Davidson, F. H. Bardwell, A. C. Sutherland, and J. McIntyre. The church was crowded. A large cortege proceeded to the cemetery. Among those composing it were representatives of public bodies and institutions and many prominent citizens. The University was represented by the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way) and members of the council and staff. The board of governors of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery was represented by Dr. Rogers, and Messrs. J. R. Fowler, R. Johnston, W. J. Vandenberg, L. W. Stanton, and E. Davies. The staffs of these institutions were represented by Mr. J. R. G. Adams, the chief librarian and secretary. Ministers from various denominations were also present, and the church elders and managers accompanied the cortege. The chief mourners at the grave were the deceased minister's two sons, Messrs. Ernest and Walter Paton. The following elders of the Chalmers Church acted as pallbearers at the church:—Professor Rennie, and Messrs. W. Hamilton, J. J. Gordon, W. Congreve, C. L. F. Fornachon, and S. Mills. At the cemetery the coffin was carried by the church managers, Messrs. J. R. G. Adams, E. C. Clucas, G. Gay, C. Lodge, W. A. Paterson, and W. D. Paterson. The Revs. J. Spittal and G. C. Love officiated at the grave. At the meeting of the Public Library Board on Friday the president (Sir S. J. Way) made sympathetic reference to the death of Dr. Paton. He said that at their last meeting a letter of thanks was received from Dr. Paton for the leave of absence that had been granted to him. They were then sanguine of his rapid recovery. Although Dr. Paton had not completed the allotted three score years and ten, he had compressed into his career a amount of intellectual effort and public service which fell to the lot of few people to accomplish. By sheer merit he had attained the highest distinctions. The deceased became a member of the board in 1893, and his conspicuous knowledge of literature had been most useful to the library committee, of which he was chairman. A happy feature of his career was the fact that his sons were following in his footsteps, and were likely to attain distinction in their respective professions. The president moved that a letter of condolence be forwarded to Mrs. Paton. The motion was seconded by Sir Charles Todd, and carried.

The funeral of the late Rev. Dr. David Paton, who for a great many years was pastor of Chalmers Presbyterian Church in this city, took place on Friday. A short service was conducted at the late residence of the deceased minister on North terrace by the Rev. A. C. Sutherland, B.D., before the body was conveyed to Chalmers Church. There the Rev. George Davidson, M.A., opened an impressive funeral service. The building was crowded with friends and ministerial comrades of the deceased, including representatives of probably every religious denomination and members of many city churches. The Revs. F. H. Bardwell, M.A. (Moderator of the Presbyterian Assembly), A. C. Sutherland, and J. McIntyre took part in the service. Hymns were sung by the congregation, and the "Funeral march" was played upon the organ by the choirmaster (Mr. L. W. Yemm), who conducted the choir at the graveside. Messrs. Ernest and Walter Paton (sons of the deceased) were the only relatives present at the service. The coffin was borne from the church by six of the elders of Chalmers Church—Professor Rennie, D.Sc., and Messrs. W. Hamilton, S. Mills, C. L. F. Fornachon, J. J. Gordon, and W. Congreve. The cortege to the Payneham Cemetery was a long one. Among those present was the Chief Justice (Sir Samuel Way), who was present in his capacity of Chancellor of the University of Adelaide and as President of the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery (of both of which bodies the deceased was a member). There were also a large number of members of the University Senate and staff, members of the Public Library Board, and of the staff of the three associated institutions. At the cemetery the coffin was borne to the graveside by six of the church managers—Messrs. E. C. Clucas, G. Gay, C. Lodge, W. A. Paterson, W. D. Paterson, and J. R. G. Adams. The last ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. Spittal (who for some time has occupied the pulpit of Chalmers Church). He was assisted by the Rev. G. C. Love, M.A., of St. Athabyn. At a meeting of the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery on Friday afternoon the President (Sir Samuel Way, Bart.) voiced the feelings of deep regret which the members of the board felt at the irreparable loss of the late Rev. Dr. Paton, who had been connected with the work since 1833, and for many years had filled the position of Chairman of the library committee. In the latter capacity the deceased gentleman, with his conspicuous knowledge of literature, naturally found his place. To his scholarship and other gifts he had added unsurpassable care and untiring interest in the work. Dr. Paton compressed into his period of life an amount of intellectual effort and service to the public which it fell to few men to accomplish. It was pathetic to reflect that at the previous meeting of the board a letter had been read from the reverend doctor, thanking them for the expressions of sympathy towards him in his illness. On that occasion they had granted him leave of absence, and looked forward to seeing him back among them after he had taken a change of air. Dr. Paton's was a useful, blameless, and complete career. A happy feature was afforded in the fact that his sons were following in their father's footsteps. On the motion of Sir Samuel Way, seconded by Sir Charles Todd, it was resolved to send a letter of sympathy to Mrs. Paton.

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Members of the Senate of the University and staff are invited to assemble at the University at 11.15 a.m. to-day to attend the funeral of the late Rev. Dr. Paton. Academic dress, without hoods, will be worn. The Public Library, Reading Room (in Institute Building), Museum, Art Gallery, and School of Design will be closed until 1 p.m. to-day as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Rev. Dr. Paton, who was a member of the Board of Governors.