OBITUARY

REV. SAMUEL HALL YOUNG, D. D.

It is with unfeigned sorrow that the Editor records the death on September 2, 1927, near Buckhannon, West Virginia, of his honored friend, the Rev. Dr. S. Hall Young. Dr. Young was born at Butler, Pa., September 12, 1847. He was therefore at the time of his death nearly eighty, though full of vigor and enthusiasm. His name is indelibly associated with the early development of Alaska. He was known as "The Presbyterian Bishop of Alaska." During his extended journeys in Alaska he made many collections of insects, which now are under the roof of the Carnegie Museum, including the types of a number of species new to science at the time of their discovery by him.

The writer became acquainted with Dr. Young when the latter was a student in the Western Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh in the year 1878. In June of this year (1927) I had the pleasure of entertaining Dr. Young at luncheon during the sessions of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. The company at table included besides Dr. Young, three of Dr. Young's Alaskan Indian friends, who were attending the sessions of the General Assembly. The conversation at table turned to the butterflies of Alaska, and Dr. Young urged the writer to 'go with him to the flowery north' where he said that he would guide me to spots, which 'in July would be swarming with butterflies.'

The career of our dear friend was one of distinguished usefulness. In 1878 Dr. Young organized the first Presbyterian Church in Alaska at Fort Wrangell. He established missions at Dawson, Skagway, Eagle, Rampart, Nome, and Teller. He built the Presbyterian Church and manse at Cordova, and for a while had charge of the church at Fairbanks. All over Alaska he was known as the "mushing parson." In order that his young family might enjoy proper educational advantages he left Alaska for a time and served as pastor at Long Beach, California; Cedar Falls, Iowa; Cabery, Ill.; and Wooster, Ohio. When the rush for the Klondike took place, he returned to Alaska, going in with the gold-seekers. He preached in saloons, tents, or in the open. He cooked and "toted," slept under the stars, and
rendered to the rough men about him every kind of human service. In 1901 he became the Superintendent of Presbyterian missions in Alaska. After twelve years, in 1913, he moved to New York City, where for a time he represented Alaska on the Presbyterian Board of Missions. In more recent years he made his home in Seattle with a daughter and her family, but continued to give his time to the Presbyterian Board of National Missions, writing and speaking in the interest of Alaska. Almost every year he repaired to the north to investigate the land, to the exploration and civilization of which he had devoted so many of his earlier years.

Dr. Young was a friend of John Muir and accompanied him on his Alaskan journeys. He is the author of several books and many articles upon Alaska published in daily and religious newspapers. At the time of his death he was on his way to New York to see through the press his last book, the title of which is "Hall Young of Alaska, The Mushing Parson." The word "mushing" is a verb used in Alaska, which means to travel by dog-sleds.

The death of Dr. Young was accidental. He was riding in an automobile. The car had stalled near the track of a suburban railway; as he stepped out of it, he was struck and instantly killed by a passing trolley-car. He often had said that he 'did not fear the wilds, but dreaded civilization.' He had scaled high mountains, had helped John Muir to map glaciers, had shot rapids in canoes, had gone on long journeys over the snowfields with the thermometer from forty to fifty degrees below zero, had hunted bears, wolves, and walruses, and had experienced many hairbreadth escapes. By the irony of fate he died the victim of a so-called "civilized mode of transportation."

It is with feelings of sorrow, tempered by the thought of his noble and fruitful life, that we here record the death of this friend of the Carnegie Museum, in which many things recall him to memory.

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