

# TWYMAN HOGUE,

OR

## EARLY PIETY ILLUSTRATED.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH  
By W. W. HILL, D. D.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION  
By L. W. GREEN, D. D.  
PRESIDENT OF CENTAR COLLEGE.

"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise."

PREPARED FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

PHILADELPHIA:  
PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION.  
NO. 321 CHESTNUT STREET.

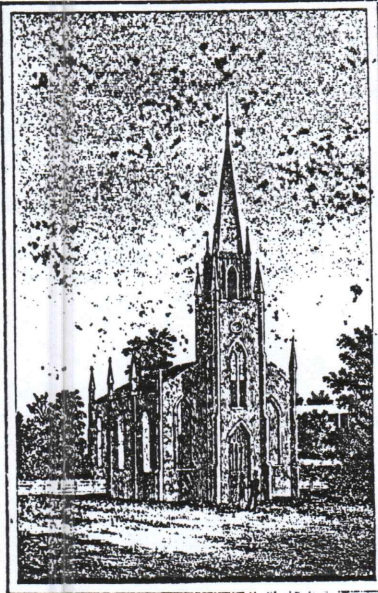


TWYMAN HOGUE,  
taken when he was seven years old.

### 48. TWYMAN HOGUE, OR

months from the time he was eight years of age. They are given just as he wrote them, as he never sought aid from any one. They are to be viewed as childish productions, and not as specimens of elegant poetry.

As it was his fixed purpose to preach the gospel, if he ever recovered, he formed the purpose in his ninth year, of becoming a classical scholar. He commenced the Latin grammar with that object in view. He recited his lessons in grammar to his mother, as he lay upon his couch. He soon was able to read easy sentences in that language. But as his great object in learning, was to be able to make himself acquainted with the sacred Scriptures, he soon threw Latin aside, intending to bend his energies to the Greek and the Hebrew, in which the Scriptures were originally written. As he afterwards expressed himself to the writer, he desired to get at *God's thoughts in God's own words*. He had not yet been admitted, by his father, to the ordinance of the Lord's supper, though he had earnestly desired to remember his Saviour in



The Church of which Twyman Hogue was a member.

commenced writing on several topics, but his pains became so severe, that he left them in an unfinished state. The opiates administered so constantly, by the physicians, to alleviate his sufferings, obscured the brightness and clearness of his intellect. We saw him on two or three occasions after this, but he always appeared to be but the wreck, in body at least, of what he had been; and his mind, though at times still very active, and far exceeding in its intellectual developments those of any child of his age that we had ever seen, yet could not wholly resist the influence of disease and bodily decay, and he always fell below himself. Others who saw him for the first time were astonished at his words and ideas, as they flowed from his lips; but those who had known him in his brightest days, could but feel that his wonderful intellect was feeling the effects of his bodily suffering. He himself felt that he was gradually approaching the eternal world, and he became more thoughtful and silent. His hold upon life

I renounce all my aims and  
fleeing earth with the world  
the flesh and the devil,  
which formerly have  
had dominion over me  
amen. Hallelujah!  
Twyman Hogue  
October 9, 1858

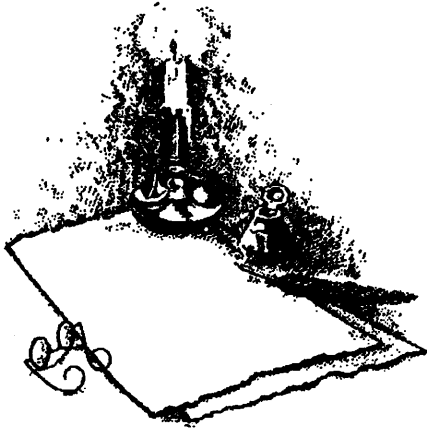


years of his brief existence were spent upon a bed of suffering—a spinal affection and disease of the hip. His disease first made its appearance at the early period of three years of age. The last two years of his life he became so very feeble and nervous as to be unable to read or write as much as formerly. He was endowed with an extraordinary mind. He made rapid progress in his studies during the short time he was allowed to attend school, but had not time to attain to anything more than the first rudiments of an English education. He loved his books, and became a devoted student. While upon his sick bed he acquired a considerable proficiency in the French language, also studied in part the Latin, and knew enough of Hebrew and Greek to consult, by the aid of Grammar and Lexicon, the original texts of the Old and New Testaments. He was impelled to these hard and dry studies, almost without the aid of a teacher, by a pure love of God. This was the direction which his mind took at a very early age. The Bible was his chief study and delight, and next to that those authors most competent to shed light upon its sacred pages. He experienced a change of heart when about eight years old, and united with the people of God two years afterwards.



TWTMAN HOGUE, before his death, after his death

BARREN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
201 EAST MAIN STREET  
LEBANON, KENTUCKY 40033



## **TWYMAN HOGUE**

James Twyman Barret Hogue, son of Rev. Aaron A. Hogue was born in Lebanon, Ky., November 19, 1843.

Twyman was a remarkable instance of precocious intellect, early and rapidly developed under affliction, a veritable child-man. At the age of six months he repeated words distinctly; at nine months framed short sentences and showed that he understood their meaning; before he was three years old, began to "preach" in a childish way, to his little playmates—mingling broken texts of Scripture with his own simple comments; taught himself to read by learning one letter at a time, and notwithstanding the physicians forbade his mother to teach him—he all the time wondering why to learn to read should make him sick; by copying on a slate printed letters, then written letters, and then comparing them, taught himself to write, and wrote his mother's name upon her workbox before he was five years of age; started to school at six years of age, and began in the Union spelling-book, in two weeks was advanced to the second reader, and in four weeks more stood at the head of a fourth-reader class, some of the members of which were 14 years old; in six and a half months, being all the time he remained in school, he mastered spelling, reading, geography, and arithmetic. When seven years old, a fall from a swing alighting upon a limb already afflicted with hip disease, and increasing his spinal affection, made him for life a cripple and emaciated invalid, confined generally to his room and bed. Shortly after this fall, he read Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, which was blessed to his conversion; and on April 1, 1854, joined the Presbyterian Church, his examination exhibiting a comprehension of the plan of salvation and knowledge of the doctrines of the Bible seldom found in persons under 18 years of age; he was fond of the richest devotional works; at eight years, he carefully read Josephus' History, noting down what was added by Josephus that was not in the Bible; at this age, also, he began his diary, and wrote for the Lebanon Post newspaper several pieces of poetry, simple in language but exact in rhyme. He began to study Latin, but soon abandoned it, being anxious to read the Bible in the languages in which it was originally written; and bent his energies to the Greek and Hebrew, saying he desired to get at God's thoughts in God's own words. He objected to the Bible translated into Latin, the Vulgate, that it "was not written by God himself, but was man's work, and no better than our English Bible to enable us to understand the meaning of God." When eleven years old, he read the Greek testament with some fluency, and with his Hebrew grammar and lexicon could see whether the commentaries which he read upon Hebrew words were correct. Seeking to be useful, he began a series of articles over an unknown signature for the Louisville Presbyterian Herald, one of which occasioned a controversy with a venerable D. D., who was greatly astonished upon learning that his opponent was "that little bit of a baby!" as he called him. No wonder, for his body had scarcely grown any since he was seven; he was a mere child, lying in his crib, with his head propped up. He published a series of articles upon prayer, and

eight letters to a young minister—saying that when he wrote them he conceived himself as having entered the ministry, and was addressing himself. They are full of mature thought, beautiful experience, wise advice, and earnest entreaty. He wrote a number of skeletons of sermons, such as he intended to preach, if spared to enter the pulpit. But though his greatest study was the Bible and religious books, he was far from being a child of one idea. He read French with fluency, and books of travels, history, astronomy, natural philosophy, chemistry, mythology, logic, rhetoric; had no taste for mathematics; was quite skilled in drawing and landscape painting, learned to knot and to sew, had his pet birds and squirrels, and in other ways sought recreation in the tedious hours of his confinement. When at school, was remarkable for his declamations, which gave promise of great oratorical power in future manhood. All this before he was thirteen; during the last two years of his life, he was so feeble and nervous as to be unable to read or write as much as formerly. It is curious to contemplate how vast his store of learning, if he had been blessed with vigorous health and long life. He was frequently visited by the Rev. Drs. Thos. Cleland, Robert J. Breckinridge, Edward P. Humphrey, Wm. L. Breckinridge, and other great ministers of the Presbyterian church. Though a child, and although a helpless invalid, he was indeed a preacher of righteousness; his influence, and conversations, and writings were instrumental in a number of conversions, and many others derived from him spiritual instruction and consolation; the Christian experience of his declining months, preserved in his diary, was rich and delightful. He was indeed a wonderful child. He died Feb. 20, 1859, aged 15 years and 3 months.

"Copied from: COLLINS' HISTORY OF KENTUCKY by Lewis Collins, revised by Richard Collins, c1877." [Collins' source: Twyman Hogue, or Early Piety Illustrated. by Rev. Wm. W. Hill. Phila., 1859.



The Lebanon Enterprise

Friday, January 19, 1934 page 6 columns 2 & 3

J. Emmet Graves Tells Of Lebanon's Child Prodigy

Editor of the Enterprise:

In a recent communication pertaining to the one hundredth anniversary of our county, reference was made to the many material matters and human factors we had at hand justifying our celebration during 1934, our centennial year. Not only to arouse interest but because the world at last seems to be thinking more in terms of human kind than of other values, we promised to submit a brief biography of one whose accomplishments would challenge the State to equal.

THE BIOGRAPHY

His was a remarkable instance of precocious intellect early and rapidly developed, under affliction; a veritable child man. At the age of six months he repeated words distinctly; at nine months framed short sentences and showed that he understood their meaning. Before he was three years old he began to "preach" in a childish way to his little playmates, mingling broken texts of Scripture, with his own simple comments; he taught himself to read by learning one letter at a time, and notwithstanding the physicians forbade his mother teach him, he all the time wondered why to learn to read should make him sick.

By copying on a slate printed letters, then written letters; then comparing them, taught himself to write, and wrote his mother's name upon her work box before he was five years of age. Started to school at six, beginning in the Union spelling book; in two weeks was advanced to the Second Reader and in four weeks more stood at the head of a Fourth Reader class. Remaining in school only six and a half months, he mastered spelling, reading, geography and arithmetic.

When seven years old, a fall from a swing, alighting upon one of his limbs already affected with hip disease and increasing his spinal affliction, made him for life a cripple and emancipated invalid, confined generally to his bed and room. Shortly after this fall he read Bunyan's Pilgrim Progress, and on April 1, 1854, joined the Presbyterian Church. His examination exhibiting a comprehension of its doctrine of the Bible seldom found in persons eighteen years of age. He was fond of the richest devotional works; at eight years he carefully read Josephus' history, noting down what was added by Josephus that was not in the Bible. At this age also he began his diary and wrote for The Lebanon Post several pieces of poetry simple in language but exacting rhyme. He began to study Latin but soon abandoned it, being anxious to read the Bible in the language in which it was originally written, bent his energies to Greek and Hebrew. When eleven years old he read the Greek Testament with some fluency and with his Hebrew Grammar and Lexicon could see whether the commentaries which he read upon Hebrew words were correct. He read French with fluency, books of travel, history, chemistry, logic and rhetoric; was skilled in drawing. When at school he was remarkable for his declamations, which gave promise of great oratorical power. All this before he was thirteen. During the last two years of his life he was so feeble he was unable to read or write as much as formerly. It is curious to contemplate his vast store of learning if he had been blessed with vigorous health and long life. He was frequently visited by able men of the time including Dr. Cleland, Robert J. Breckinridge, Edward P. Humpries, W.L. Breckinridge and others. He was indeed a wonderful child.

His name, Twyman Hogue, born in Lebanon November 19, 1843, died February 20, 1859, age 15 years, 3 months; the son of Rev. A. Hogue.

*I renounce all my sins and  
fleshy lusts with the world  
the flesh and the devil,  
which formerly have  
had dominion over me  
Amen. Hallelujah!  
Twyman Hogue  
October 9, 1858*



TWYMAN HOGUE. Deceased from pneumonia, suffered his death.