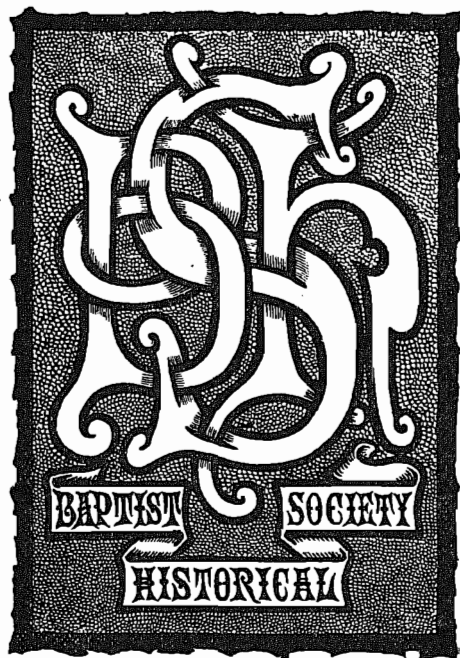


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In Memoriam.

The Baptist Historical Society, in the entirety of its membership, has mourned the death of two men who were not only stalwarts of the faith, but likewise keenly interested in the investigations to which these pages are devoted.

The Rev. James Stuart was a Member of Committee, and His Honour Judge Willis was a Vice-president of the Baptist Historical Society.

The Rev. James Stuart, who studied at Rawdon College and Glasgow University, had been in the pastorate for the long period of forty-five years; for two-thirds of that time at Watford, where he exercised a deep and lasting influence. In the larger world of denominational interest—including the Committee meetings of the Baptist Historical Society—Mr. Stuart proved himself a counsellor of great value; and being a man of literary taste, with a happy facility as a writer, he made a decided impression upon the journalistic enterprise of the Baptist body. He was for many years editor of *The Baptist Magazine*; also a contributor to *The Freeman*, and its successor, *The Baptist Times*. Mr. Stuart combined intellectual culture with a singularly genial disposition; and he was “a man greatly beloved.” Among the various works which he gave to the world, many will treasure “Beechen Grove Baptist Church, Watford: Memorials of Two Hundred Years and More”; for therein they will continue, in some measure, to have fellowship with “Stuart of Watford.”

His Honour Judge Willis, K.C., B.A., LL.D., though held in high esteem throughout the Baptist denomination, had also a distinctive reputation in the legal and political worlds. He was called to the Bar in 1861, when already a graduate of London University. Later on he took the degree of LL.D. in the same University, and for several years was Examiner in Common Law. In 1877 he became Queen's Counsel, and for a time had a seat in Parliament. He wrote books on legal questions; and from 1897 to the time of his death he was Judge of County Courts. His

Honour was not only a man of law: his life was profoundly dominated by the Christian verities, and he was peculiarly interested in Baptist history. His large heart was ever stirred by stories of persecution, ancient and modern, and he was not slow to express his indignation at the wrongs which, from time to time, have been visited upon witnesses for Christ; whose great crime has consisted in a conscientious refusal to accord to state-devised forms and ceremonies the homage and obedience which are due to New Testament ordinances. His Honour had an unsurpassed acquaintance with the writings of John Milton, and was a great admirer of the hymns of Dr. Isaac Watts. Another favourite author was Thomson, of "The Seasons" fame; while on the Shakespeare-Bacon controversy the judge expressed his views in volumes which manifested great critical acumen. He was President of the Baptist Union in 1907, having been a personal member for over thirty years. As a Vice-president of the Baptist Historical Society, he was ever ready with sound advice and practical encouragement.

J. W. THIRTLE.