

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
RAYMOND M. ALDEN
(1873-1927)

By the untimely death of Raymond Macdonald Alden the university loses a man of uncommon character and uncommon breadth of endowments. An a man of letters and a scholar his outstanding trait was versatility. His original research work and his writing were thorough and judicious; his literary criticism showed sympathy and finesse, grasp of fact, human insight and a constant sense of values. Besides this he showed talent and won success in imaginative writing, by his cleverness and feeling in fiction, and his skill, sense of beauty and sincerity in the writing of verse. He was also well-trained and able as a musician on both piano and organ. His teaching was highly valued especially by more mature and discriminating students, particularly for its earnestness, patience and discrimination. He was willing in an emergency to teach any part of the field of English literature, but he was less inclined toward that historical study which ignores values than to the interpretation of the greater spiritual masters. In university administration he was interested, experienced and successful, owing to his foresight, grasp of essentials, patience, appreciation of other points of view than his own, and above all moderation. In all things his view was fixed on ideals. These traits he showed both in the University of Illinois, where he was for three years head of a very large department, and at Stanford, where he was for two years the more constitutional executive, and for many years before one of the chief moving forces of his department. This combination of powers made him one of the most capable and harmoniously developed academic men whom we have ever known.

His powers and his success were, in a striking way, the result of his character, which combined strength and fineness. His tastes were simple and domestic, and harmonized with his heavy family responsibilities. He could enter with vigor and spirit into occupations and amusements to which he was not used, and among his friends he was free-and-easy and showed a droll humor. His self-control and courtesy were combined with a strong sense of duty and responsibility. One of the chief moving forces of his nature was strong religious convictions and emotions, and he was a conscientious and orthodox, though liberal, Christian. None of his qualities were more conspicuous than his courage, which was put to a severe test during the suffering tedium and discouragement of long and distressing illnesses.

He was born in 1873, received the degrees of A.B. and Ph.D. at the University Of Pennsylvania, and that of A.M. at Harvard. After holding minor appointments in several institutions, he came to Stanford in 1899, and except for his absence of three years at the University of Illinois he has rounded out a quarter of a century of varied service to our university, besides receiving many signs of recognition from other institutions and organizations.

RESOLVED: That the Academic Council of Stanford University hereby expresses its deep sense of loss to the university and its personal loss in the death of Professor Alden; and that copies of this memorial be transmitted to his family and to the president of the Board of Trustees, and be entered on the minutes of the Council.