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C. C. Canan

From time to time some of our readers, who have heard of the skillful work of C. C. Canan, ask questions regarding him. We are, therefore, printing his photograph and a few facts regarding this unusual penman.

He was born in Pleasantville, Vanaga County, Pennsylvania, in 1873. He died in 1904 at Bradford, Pennsylvania, from the effects of an operation for appendicitis. He was confined to his bed for some time before his death. During which time he did considerable writing. Specimens were received a few days before his death.

Mr. Canan was a product of the Zanerian, having attended in 1893. He was then 20 years of age and showed special talent. With the ability to stick to a job enabled him to climb to a high position in the penmanship profession, equaled by very few. He taught penmanship in the Cleary College, Ypsilanti, Michigan for two years, following this he was employed to teach penmanship and pen art in the penmanship department of the Cedar Rapids Business School in Iowa. Later he taught penmanship in the Shissler College, Norristown, Pennsylvania.

He was a man born with a weak constitution, having been affected with appendicitis for many years, yet by persistent effort and thorough training, he reached an enviable position in the penmanship profession. He was classed by many with the famed A. D. Taylor. He was not only a fine penman, but an artist as well. He made pen and ink sketches of various kinds and did work in oil and watercolors. He was also a poet and an efficient teacher.

Those who knew him marveled at the fine work that he turned out even when greatly weakened by sickness. The life of C. C. Canan, though brief, should be inspiring to students of penmanship. In spite of his handicaps and the brief period he was privileged to live, he accomplished more than most people accomplish in a longer period of time.

We shall run in our columns some of C. C. Canan's specimens so that you may judge for yourselves the ability of this unusual penman.