

264 South 16th Street.
Philadelphia, Pa.

October 14, 1930.

Dear Folks:

No doubt you have read in the papers of Dr. Wilson's death. When I wrote you last week he had been ill for a few days but it did not seem to be serious. The turn for the worse came quite suddenly. We thought at first that it was simply a bad cold but it seems more probably to have been a weakening of the heart that was coming on for some time. He had said a few words at the opening of the Seminary, and had conducted one class before he was taken ill. He was in bed about four days and seemed to have trouble with his breathing, a thing that had never bothered him before. Monday evening Mrs. Wilson phoned me rather later and asked me to come over. He was having a spell of hard breathing and imagining that some one was choking him. I succeeded in quieting him and he seemed to recover completely. But the next day the doctor had him taken to the hospital. After three days of comparatively little trouble there he suddenly took a turn for the worse. He was unconscious from Friday afternoon at three until Saturday afternoon at five. Mrs. Wilson, Dr. Allis, a few others and I spent the whole of Friday night with him, expecting the end at any moment. But he was unconscious and I do not believe that he suffered a great deal. The funeral is to be this afternoon at four o'clock.

It is a blow to the Seminary and a great loss to me in particular. I had looked forward to working with him a great deal this year. But when I think of the great amount that Dr. Wilson accomplished in his life and of the tremendous help that he gave the Seminary by his testimony and his personal assistance during its first year, I feel that we should rather rejoice in his great usefulness.

He was very cheerful and happy right up to the last. In the hospital he was joking and making light of his suffering when I last talked with him. He always had an unusually genial spirit.

The relatives of Dr. Wilson and of Mrs. Wilson have been arriving one after the other during the last three days. I have met some of them at the train and have tried to do anything I could to help. Both of them are members of large families. Dr. Wilson had five brothers and four sisters. The youngest of the brothers to die was fifty-seven and he and the other who has passed away were along in their seventies. His oldest brother, who is two years older than he, is here now. They are all very fine people and several of them have been very successful in various lines of work. The brother who died at fifty-seven was a missionary to Persia and died as a result of his treatment in a

Turkish prison during the war.

After the funeral this afternoon they will all go out to Indiana, Pennsylvania, where Dr. Wilson was born, and where he wished to be buried. They will return tomorrow evening.

Mrs. Wilson has asked me to go over all of Dr. Wilson's books and papers. It will be quite a task but I am sure I will find a great deal of valuable material. Just before he went to the hospital he handed me the manuscript of an article that he had been working on during the summer and asked me to go over it. She has also asked me to go over the financial things with her. She will appoint herself executrix, but she would like me to help her in determining what to do. She has had very little business experience, in her life. He was never in a position to save very much, so it is important to conserve for her what he left.

I have been very busy since arriving in Philadelphia. I have been getting my work started in the Seminary and getting information about the work in the University, which is really just starting now. This last week I have spent most of my time outside of classes back and forth between the Wilsons and the hospital.

My class in "The Old Testament in the Light of the Monuments" is being very well attended. So far we have had a number of visitors at every meeting of the class. The last five or six students to come to the class have had to get extra chairs from another room almost every time. From now on I believe arrangements will be made to increase the number of chairs in the room.

My course in Beginning Hebrew is also new work to me as yet, since I have not yet reached the point at which Dr. Wilson turned the class over to me last fall. A year ago I was still on the ocean. I am finding it very interesting trying to make the elementary points of Hebrew clear to beginners. There are so many points that are different from anything in our Western languages, all of which have to be learned more or less at once before a real start can be made. Last year the class was fairly well used to these elementary points before I took charge.

I thought a little of going out to Indiana tonight with the Wilsons, but it would be a long and tiresome trip, and there will be so many relatives there that I could be of practically no help. After a day or two when the relatives have all gone, my help will be much more needed.

We all feel very seriously the importance of doing our best to carry on the work at the Seminary in the spirit in which Dr. Wilson has done his part. We have a wonderful example of Christian consecration and devotion in his life and labors. The Seminary has made an excellent beginning and the prospects are for a fine year this year. I have had some lovely letters from Mother lately.

Very lovingly,
[Allan A. MacRae]