

THE LATE DR. W. S. BIGELOW.

ASHES INTERRED AT MIIDERA.

At the Homyoin, one of the temples which stand in the extensive grounds of Miidera, lie buried the remains of Ernest F. Fenollosa. A grave has been made next to it, and in this have been interred the ashes of Dr. William Sturgis Bigelow. Dr. Bigelow, who died in 1926, left instructions that his ashes should be brought to Japan and interred at the Homyoin, and in February they arrived in Japan under the care of a friend. Mr. Masaki, President of the Tokyo Academy of Art, Mr. Hayashi Aisaku and other friends of the deceased, interested themselves in the matter, and through their efforts a suitable gravesone was erected. The late Dr. Bigelow visited Japan about 1891 and resided in Tokyo for some years, studying Japanese art. He was a friend of the late Prof. Fenollosa, and like him became a Buddhist. His desire to be buried next to his friend led to his request that his ashes be brought to Japan.

Yesterday (27th instant) a memorial service was held at the temple on the occasion of the unveiling of the grave, and a large number of Japanese and foreign lovers of art assembled to witness the ceremony. Among those present were Dr. Ebina of Doshisha University, and a number of other professors from Kyoto University and other institution. The service was conducted by the Chief Priest of the temple, assisted by all the other priests, and was of a very elaborate and solemn nature. Later the priests proceeded to the grave, where further prayers were said.

The graves lie upon the hill side immediately above the temple buildings, and command a full view of that beautiful scene over Lake Biwa which the two friends loved so well. On Dr. Bigelow's grave the following memorial notice appears:—

"Here, and in his native land, America, lie the ashes of William Sturgis Bigelow, a follower of the Buddha, known in religion as Gesshin Koji, a pupil of Sakurai Ajari, a supporter of the Homyoin, a doctor of medicine, a lover of and collector of the fine arts of Japan, a recipient of the Order of the Rising Sun. His life was distinguished by high thoughts and good deeds, by understanding and by the gift of sympathy. He was everywhere beloved and honoured most by those who knew him best.
April 4th, 1950. October 6th, 1926."

Opportunity was also taken to inspect the new stone fence which has been put round the grave of Prof. Fenollosa. The cost of this has been contributed by foreigners of French, British and American extraction.

Later refreshments were served in the temple grounds, the day being a very fine one, and the visitors were allowed to inspect some of the temple's art treasures.

Save this for me.

Bigelow, Wm. Sturgis



