

## Reminiscences about Dr. Oswald Thompson Allis

My first contact with Dr. Allis came in the summer of 1924 in Los Angeles. Paul Joseph Leavens, a friend of mine at Occidental College and a graduate of Princeton Seminary, lived in Santa Paula, about 40 miles from my home. ~~One~~ One day I received a call from Dr. Paul in which he said, "I will drive Dr. Allis to San Fernando. [about half-way between our two homes] Meet him there and take him on to your home."

I had never heard of Dr. ~~Allis~~ Allis but had known B.J. ~~(?)~~ P.J. for years as the most ~~hospitable~~ hospitable and universally friendly man I had ever met. He had been a guest in our home a week or two earlier and I do not remember any other time in which he gave me a sudden call like this. He knew that both of us were free at the time, it being at that part of the vacation time. I drove to San Fernando to the hotel where that Paul had designated and found a short fairly slender man sitting on the porch. I discovered that he was the one who had given Paul the small amount of Hebrew learning that Paul possessed. (Paul was not a particularly good student, although quite good in many practical areas.) Eventually he became chief chaplain at the Pensacola Naval Station during a considerable portion of ~~the~~ World War II, holding the rank of captain, and the whole atmosphere of that bustling center of military activity was greatly affected by his leadership and activity.) I believe Dr. Allis stayed with us a day or two and then he said that his close friend, Dr. Clarence Macartney, who was ~~the~~ that year moderator of the ~~the~~ General ~~assembly~~ Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S.A., having been elected by the conservatives against strong liberal opposition, was in northern California but ~~he~~ planning soon to meet Dr. Allis and have a month's trip together. Dr. Macartney wrote, suggesting that he meet him at Mojave at in the middle of the night and where they could get another train north into Owens Valley at the edge of the Sierra Nevadas. Since Paul had told them a good deal about my experiences in the mountains and Dr. Allis suggested I go with them--which I would have been very glad to do. However, it proved that the train Dr. Macartney would take south from San Francisco would arrive at Mojave two hours before the one train