



Faithfully yours,  
Henry Alexander White.

# Memorial Services

of

Dr. Henry Alexander White

Professor of New Testament Literature and Exegesis.

1903-1926



Born April 15, 1861-Died Oct. 10, 1926.



President, Richard T. Gillespie, Presiding



## Program

<i>Hymn 670</i> .....	“SERVANT OF GOD, WELL DONE”
<i>Prayer</i> .....	REV. W. M. MCPHEETERS, D.D.
<i>Address</i> .....	DR. G. A. WAUCHOPE
<i>Address</i> .....	REV. CHAS. P. COBLE
<i>Hymn 609</i> .....	“FOR ALL THE SAINTS, O LORD”
<i>Address</i> .....	REV. NEAL L. ANDERSON, D.D.
<i>Prayer and Benediction</i> .....	REV. R. T. GILLESPIE, D.D.

# Henry Alexander White: Christian Scholar By One Who Knew and Loved Him

By REV. NEAL L. ANDERSON, D.D.

I have been asked to speak at this memorial service of Henry Alexander White, from the point of view of one who knew him in his early manhood at Princeton Seminary, and has followed his career with sincere affection, and appreciation of the ever widening influence he exerted in the field of letters, and as a great teacher of God's Word.

I can never forget the first appearance on the old campus at Princeton Seminary of the already marked young man, with his laurels won in Virginia institutions still fresh. His quiet, courteous manner, with something of the reserve of the scholar, his soft, yet penetrating eyes, and erect bearing, made an impression on the student body, and won for him at once their respect. Somewhat shy, and too intensely devoted to his studies to seek social fellowship, I counted it a rare privilege to find my way into his heart, and the long afternoon walks we took over the hill around Princeton are among the most delightful memories of those days. These hours of fellowship stimulated and inspired me for the research work we did under that prince of New Testament Exegetes, Doctor Caspar Wistar Hodge, Senior, and, that greatest of English speaking champions of the Faith, Doctor William Henry Green.

In Henry White's class, were a number of men of exceptional ability, yet as I look back on that period, I can recall no one who made a deeper impression on the members of the faculty than the new man, who had come from two years work at Union Seminary in Richmond. Doctor Hodge repeatedly expressed appreciation of his mature scholarship, and critical insight into the meaning of the New Testament text.

It was doubtless due to this revelation of his gifts, while still a student at the Seminary, as well as his distinguished

service in Columbia Seminary, that Princeton Seminary conferred on Doctor White the honor in recent years of inviting him to deliver the Stone Lectures at Princeton.

Graduating from Princeton Seminary, with a reputation for exact and critical scholarship, Doctor Henry Alexander White was destined to attain recognition first of all as a historian and author. It is not too much to say that Washington and Lee University has never had a professor in the department of History, whose reputation has been more firmly established in the country at large.

Doctor White's biographies of Lee and Jackson are models of this department of literature, and Colonel Henderson, in his great monograph on General Jackson, pays generous tribute to the gifted professor of Washington and Lee University, and Columbia Seminary.

The Nation owes Doctor White a debt of gratitude for his History of the United States. A son of Virginia, and loyal with every drop of blood that flowed in his veins, to the land that bore him, there is no sectional bitterness in his writings, but a fine, balanced and discriminating treatment of all matters of controversy during the bitter years of civil strife. He revealed in this the fact that he had imbibed the spirit of the immortal Lee, who when the war was over devoted the remaining years of his life to teaching the people he loved the grace of Christian forbearance, and their duty to the land he loved.

During his busy years as teacher and writer, Doctor White never lost the true spirit of evangelism that burned within him, and gave power to his preaching. In demand as a preacher, he responded always to these demands with joyful willingness. Yet he was never what one might call a "Church-man." As has been said of his beloved former teacher, Doctor John D. Davis of Princeton, Doctor Henry White was "no maker of programs," and had no hankering after publicity. He lived out of touch with the machinery of church administration, and his spirit was alien to what is known as "church politics."

He was thus pre-eminently and at all times the scholar, doing quietly and unobtrusively the great work that in the

course of the years is most effective. He understood what Kepler meant when someone asked him who would read his Harmonies of the World, and he answered quietly "If God had to wait six thousand years for an observer, I can afford to wait a century for a reader."

The work of this gifted historian and author, however, was not without recognition by the Church, for when this Seminary needed a professor for the department of New Testament Exegesis, the Board of Directors turned almost at once to Dr. Henry Alexander White, who was at that time doing special post graduate work at the University of Glasgow.

At Columbia, Doctor White found his great life work, his appointed sphere of service. The sons of Columbia Seminary in this and other lands, who received their training here during the past quarter of century, pay tribute to his interpretation of the mind and heart of the Master in Gospels and Epistles.

Grounded in the faith of his fathers, with a broad grasp of the great doctrines of Calvinism, Doctor White was above all else the exegete, leaving matters of Theology to his distinguished colleagues in that department. I would pause to suggest that the interests of Christian Scholarship, in this trying era, would be conserved, if Theologians were as ready to wait patiently and reverently for the results of exact and scholarly research on the part of the trained exegete.

Loyal to the Word of God, Doctor White's sane, reverent and critical work gave evidence of the mind and heart of the great scholar, informed by the Truth, and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Conservative in his thinking, Doctor White never feared genuine progress, but always opposed critical Bolshevism that ignores or rejects the assured results of Christian experience, and scholarship. Thus early in his work at Columbia he became recognized as an authority in his department.

As a man, from his youth, he was characterized by a

spirit of modesty and sincerity that won the hearts of all who knew him, and his life gave evidence of a deep piety that reflected the altar fires that burned within his soul. His genuine idealism, was kept sane and practical, by a certain Greek sense of proportion, derived doubtless from his profound study of that language, as it was used to interpret the spirit of the Master and of Paul.

These traits, combined with an unfaltering loyalty to duty, made his life and ministry distinctive and of abiding influence, as that not only of the Christian scholar, but the faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ.