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WALTER W. MOORE.

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A Sketch of His Life and Achievements.

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Walter W. Moore was born at Charlotte, N. C., June 14, 1857. He was a descendant of sterling Scotch-Irish strains. His father was Isaac Hudson Moore, a grandson of Alexander Moore, of Lincoln, who, together with three brothers, one of whom, John, attained to considerable military distinction, fought through the whole of the war for American independence. Walter W. Moore's mother was Martha Parks Moore, a woman of uncommon mentality and high moral and Christian character, eminently worthy to have such a son. She was left a widow with three children, two sons and one daughter, when her second son, Walter, was only six years of age. She struggled bravely to bring her children up to be honest, useful and honored Christian citizens. Thus we find that between 1869 and 1875 she taught a mission school at a salary of \$20.00 per month, meantime had her eldest son, Charles C., in employment in a book store at \$12.00 per month, had him and Walter serve also as carriers of the morning Charlotte Observer for three years, 1868-1871, at \$1.00 per week each, had Walter working in the afternoons three hours a day folding pages of the "Land We Love" a magazine published by General D. H. Hill, of Charlotte; and yet kept Walter in the school of the Rev. R. H. Griffith and Captain Armistead Burwell.

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SERVANT OF CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.

BY REV. A. M. FRASER, D. D.,
Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Staunton, Va.

(This article is composed of extracts taken from Dr. Fraser's noble address on Dr. Moore at the Memorial Service held by the Synod of Virginia September 16, 1926, in Schauffer Hall, Union Theological Seminary. The whole of Dr. Fraser's address is published in the Minutes of the Synod of Virginia, 1926.—Editor.)

In the death of Dr. W. W. Moore the Synod of Virginia and the whole Church has suffered a loss that is unspeakable. He was invaluable to the cause of education and religion throughout the South, a counsellor of schools and churches, a man of God, a molders of men, who in turn guided religious thought in countless communities throughout the land. Along with this record of his death and of the salient facts of his life, Synod would hereby express its profound sorrow at his death, mingled with emotions of wonder at the man and gratitude for his varied and far-reaching usefulness.

Dr. Moore's natural endowments were rare. He had a unique combination of gifts and each one of many of those gifts was of singular excellence and lustre in itself. This generation has not seen another instance of a blending so extraordinary of so many elements of attractiveness and power.

His manly beauty of form and figure always made him an object of respectful curiosity and irrepressible admiration in any group. He was tall, broad shouldered, perfectly proportioned, easy and graceful and unaffected in every movement. His face was exquisitely molded. He had large mellow, glowing gray eyes, and his countenance gave the impression of large reserves of thought and feeling. His voice was strong and full, but gentle and musical, "never unpleasant or uncontrolled or overstrained, no one ever heard him scream or tear his throat". His intonations were peculiar to himself, delightful and inimitable. His ability to acquire, to retain, to recall with accuracy, his association of ideas, the faculty he displayed

in the felicitous use of widely gathered literary treasures, would alone have made him distinguished. God speaks of the peculiar talents of individuals as His gifts to them. "Every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that." These gifts are not the objects of ambition or of jealousy. Dr. Moore's ensemble of natural gifts made him so superior that he was at once the despair of imitation and a rebuke to envy. All alike accorded him a whole-hearted and unjealous admiration. God also speaks of His specially endowed servants as in turn His gifts to the Church. Christ "ascended up on high and gave gifts to men". These gifts, we learn, are gifted men. Dr. Moore was with us like a fadeless sunset, not to reproduce, but to accept, to admire, to enjoy, and as one through whom we might open our souls to God's sense of the beautiful and the elevating.

By assiduous application to study, his scholarship became thorough, genuine and broad. He acquired a diction that was remarkable for its purity of Anglo-Saxon style, its simplicity, its force and its positive enchantment. Withal there was a spice of daring in his use of words and imagery that piqued your admiration and challenged your undivided attention. When he had finished a discourse you felt that it was complete. He had said all that needed to be said. He had said it in the most pleasing and satisfying way. And yet it all seemed so easily done that you did not realize how much power was involved till you tried the same thing yourself with some familiar and easy theme.

At the time of his graduation from the Seminary, one or the other of two brilliant, gracious and useful careers seemed ready to claim him, with probabilities evenly balanced between them. He might become a great pastor and preacher, or he might become a great scholar and teacher of religious teachers. The controlling hand of Providence and the guidance of the Holy Spirit soon decided the question. Within two years he was called back to teach in Union Theological Seminary, from which his connection was not to be severed again but by death.

He had a clear genius for teaching. One of his students remarks, "You never knew Dr. Moore if you never sat in his

classes. He could make the dry and insignificant facts of Hebrew appeal to you as if they were the most wonderful tales of fiction." Another of his students says, "His first year as teacher, he agreed to give the Junior class of that year a special course in the study of the Gospel of John. * * * The popularity of this course was shown from the fact that for those lessons the Junior class, numbering sixteen, was increased to forty by the attendance of members of the other classes."

Under his administration Union Seminary has grown to be the largest Presbyterian Seminary in the South. It has the largest student body, the largest faculty, the best equipment of buildings, grounds and appliances. The sustaining constituency has grown, noble gifts have been poured into it, and the interest-bearing endowment has increased to nearly a million dollars. The curriculum has been enlarged by the addition of regular courses on Sabbath School Work, Christian Missions and Christian Sociology. Fellowships for post-graduate study, courses of advanced graduate work leading to the degree of Doctor of Divinity, mid-winter courses for ministers, and the James Sprunt Lectureship, which every year brings distinguished lecturers to the Seminary, are some of the fruits of his progressive administration.

Probably his most valuable service in connection with the Seminary was the personal impress he made on the thousands of students who have come under his influence and who have felt the benediction of his presence, the wisdom of his counsel and the resistless effluence of his high-mindedness and piety. One student says, "The first lesson in Hebrew brought me into the very presence of God." The quotation he applied to Dr. Moses D. Hoge was pre-eminently applicable to himself, "He ever wore the white flower of a stainless life." He once said of Dr. Theron Rice, "His walking across the campus was like a benediction." No less was it true of himself. No suggestion of what is unworthy ever attached itself to the thought of Dr. Moore. Charitable without false sentiment, he was judicial in his estimates of men. He understood students when their motives were challenged by others, and put iron in their blood by his confidence in them. He encouraged the despondent,

chided the careless, counselled the foolish, helped the needy, cheered to their greatest achievement those who were aspiring, and held aloft before all the purest and most exalted ideals. Many a minister, rejoicing in a congenial and fruitful pastorate, owes his opportunity to Dr. Moore's friendly commendation of him to the church he serves. Many a church has Dr. Moore to thank for its pastor. On the occasion of the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the beginning of his work as a teacher, innumerable letters of congratulation and gratitude from his former students came upon him like an avalanche. These letters have been bound in two volumes and for generations will be a precious and priceless heirloom.

But while by an act of God he was turned aside from the pastorate to the calling of a teacher and administrator, he was by no means excluded from distinguished public speaking. When as a recent graduate he took the work of an evangelist in Swannanoa Valley, the fame of his preaching rang out through the church. The memory of that preaching lingers there today as a dream after nearly a half-century. A venerable lady delights to tell of one reminiscence. A slender stripling came into the pulpit; he announced his text, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me". Then followed the most wonderful sermon she ever heard, and it "seemed to verify the text itself". Similar memories of him are kept alive to this day in the Millersburg Church in Kentucky.

When the General Assemblies of the Northern and Southern Presbyterian Churches held a joint session in Horticultural Hall, in Philadelphia, in 1888, celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the organization of the first Assembly in America, Dr. Moore, then thirty years of age, was one of the few speakers chosen to represent the Southern Church. When he came on the platform to deliver his address, his youthful appearance so contrasted with that of the venerable and distinguished men who had preceded him, long-time leaders in the Churches, that the effect on the audience was startling, and the question was freely asked why one so very young should have been put on the program. Some resented it. An eye-witness gives this account of the scene:

“He followed a speaker more profound than popular. The audience was leaving, as Dr. Moore described it, ‘in solid platoons’. He arose and began his speech amid much confusion. I was in the gallery and watched the audience. In a very few minutes the rout ceased. Old men began leaning forward and put their hands to their ears. He held his audience spellbound. When he closed the applause was thunderous; the applause began again and again. With that inimitable grace of manner he arose, lifted up his hand and quoted a verse or two from the Bible. Then sat down again amid applause that was almost deafening.” No more effective or pleasing address was delivered at that meeting.

On special occasions innumerable, commencements, celebrations, installations, dedications, etc., he was invited to speak continually. He received many calls to the pastorates of commanding churches and he was called to places in theological seminaries. Perhaps the most noteworthy of all the invitations came from the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. No pulpit in America could offer a greater or more assured reputation, and he was still young and had his name to make. The salary offered was the largest paid by any American church, and it was equivalent in those days to a small fortune, while the place he held had only a small salary attached to it and with little hope of much increase. His declining all such calls, to Princeton Seminary, and to the Fifth Avenue Church, etc., shows how loyal he was to his own people and to the Seminary and how little he was affected by ambition or gain. He had espoused the Seminary and had dedicated his life to it in the spirit of a holy consecration. In the success of the institution God has seemed to place the seal of His approval upon his self-denial, his consecration and his faith. His name will be enrolled for posterity along with the eminent constructive leaders of our Synod in the past, John Holt Rice, Robert L. Dabney, Moses D. Hoge and others whose praises he delighted to celebrate.

Dr. Moore was also an author. It is the Church’s misfortune that he did not write more. Besides occasional articles in periodicals, he published three books. “A Year in Europe”

is a collection of letters prepared for children in the homeland while he was traveling in Europe. It is charming for grown people as well as children and a delightful and useful companion for any one who goes abroad. "The Indispensable Book" is a discussion of the supreme and indispensable importance of the Bible and an invaluable collection of quotations from the greatest men on various aspects of the Holy Book. A third volume bears the name of "Appreciations and Historical Addresses", articles he had written about distinguished men and addresses delivered by him on notable occasions. Each is a masterpiece of literature. Could he have given a true picture of his own life, it would have been his greatest masterpiece.

When death came "he was so near the pearly gates he just entered". Such is the beautiful account of the end by one who waited for it with the fullest heart of all.

Carefully survey our whole ministry and weigh this sentence and see if it does not tell the truth: In the death of Dr. Walter W. Moore the church has lost her most distinguished, most useful and best beloved son.

SOME PERSONAL REMINISCENCES OF DR. MOORE.

By REV. FRANK T. McFADEN, D. D.,
Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Winchester, Va.

The news of the death of Dr. Walter W. Moore brought profound sorrow to the whole Church of which he was an honored and beloved minister. When the telegram was received announcing his death there came into my mind the words of Elisha as he saw his friend and brother departing: "My father, my father; the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof." The prophet recognized, as we all must recognize, that the bulwark of the nation as well as that of the church lies in her righteous men.

To some men one talent is given: to others, five; and to still