

THE UNION SEMINARY REVIEW

VOL. XXXVIII.

JANUARY, 1927.

No. 2.

HENRY ALEXANDER WHITE.

By GEORGE ARMSTRONG WAUCHOPE, M. A., PH. D., LITT. D.

*Head of English Department, University of South Carolina,
Columbia, S. C.*

(Dr. Wauchope is a grandson of the late Rev. William J. Armstrong, D. D., of Richmond, Va., and a college mate of Dr. White's at Washington and Lee University.)

The Columbia Theological Seminary and the Southern Presbyterian Church have suffered a severe loss in the death of the noted scholar and divine, Henry Alexander White, Ph. D., D. D., LL. D. For several years he had been in failing health due to heart trouble, the burden of which he bore with cheerful courage and a calm and Christian patience that won the admiration of all who knew him. His last illness developed as a sore throat, which at the time caused him no special concern. The ailment, however, did not yield to treatment, and a physician was consulted. Despite skilled medical care the trouble, which had seemed so slight, grew steadily worse, and in three days had created a critical condition that caused alarm to his wife and friends. This was aggravated by the fact that he had few physical reserves. The infection grew steadily worse and there was grave danger at one time that he would die from suffocation. This he escaped, but by three-thirty o'clock on Sunday morning, October 10, the end came, and

MY EDUCATION AND RELIGION. *By George A. Gordon, D. D.* The Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston and New York. Pp. 352.

Some one has said that every man could write one interesting book—the story of his own life. That is true only if one can tell the story well, and this Dr. Gordon has done, for while the title of the book covers but two topics, these topics are inclusive and demand for their fair treatment the marshaling of all the essential facts of a long and varied and intensely interesting life. Dr. Gordon was born in the Scotch highlands in the early fifties of the last century, the son of a scientific farmer who was blessed with a good supply of common sense, but lacked imagination, and of a mother who seems to have had all the good qualities of the father and a fine imagination and a bubbling humor besides. One of the chapters in the book dwells upon the subject of general and special heredity, and calls attention, by the way, to the bad strains of blood that make up the specific heredity of Queen Victoria and the greater marvel on this account of her illustrious achievements. Much of Scotch life is revealed in the chapters on “The Influence of Nature”, “The Scottish Public Schools”, “Feudalism and Democracy”, “Keeping the Sabbath” and “Pre-Moral Religion: Athletics”; steerage life on the Atlantic, disillusionment and the reward of stout resolution in “The Discipline of Immigration”, and what Gladstone has happily called “the thrift of time” in “The Use of Spare Hours”. The years passed, and the young man who had left Scotland at eighteen to seek his fortune and live his life in America entered the ministry of the Congregational Church, held pastorates in Temple, Me., and Greenwich, Conn., and in 1884, at the early age of thirty-one, began his long years of service with the famous Old South Church in Boston. One of the most interesting of all the chapters of the book is the one in which Dr. Gordon portrays his intimate friendship with Phillips Brooks and sketches the elements of power in a man whom he very justly delineates as “one of the very greatest of American preachers”. The reader will probably find himself in most places in complete agreement with the author, in others in sharp disagreement with him, but his interest will be held throughout.

J. GRAY McALLISTER.

Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI. *By E. M. Wilmot-Buxton.* Frederick A. Stokes Co., New York. Pp. 191. \$1.50. ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI. *By Gilbert K. Chesterton,* George H. Doran Co., New York. Pp. 234. \$1.50. (The first a life, the second an interpretation of the great Christian saint—two excellent books—one supplementing the other.)