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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

THE LIFE OF WESLEY. *By Robert Southey. Edited with Introduction and Notes by Maurice H. Fitzgerald.* In two volumes. Vol. 1, 430 pages. Vol. 2, 428 pages. The Oxford University Press, 35 West Thirty-second Street, New York.

John Wesley's is a name revered wherever men respect conviction, love the heroic and delight in the proclamation of the gospel to the poor.

It is well, of course, for each generation to make its own appraisal of these titans of the past, if for no other reason than to serve the purposes of contrast and comparison, and we have generously availed ourselves of the privilege in a multitude of biographies. But this is not enough. We should make possible from time to time the republication of worthwhile books that show what a man's contemporaries thought of him. For this reason we should be especially grateful to the Oxford Press for issuing in this new form the life of John Wesley, the preacher and organizer, by Robert Southey, the versatile man of letters. It goes without saying that Southey had in Wesley and his epochal work all the material a literary man might covet. He had the additional advantage of living through the impressionable years of boyhood and youth when Wesley, though old in years, was still more abundant in labors than many men in middle life. Southey was seventeen years old when Wesley died. At eighteen he entered Oxford, the Oxford where Wesley had studied sixty years before and where memories of him lingered. Here Southey remained but two years, then became a soldier of fortune, and then, in 1813, at thirty-nine years of age, was appointed poet laureate of England. He produced not a little verse in the years that followed, none of which is famous, and a deal of miscellaneous prose, chiefly historical in character, some of which abides. His best piece of work is this Life of Wesley, issued in 1820. It shows prodigious industry in the collection of material, skill in arrangement and an easy grace in presentation. It will be of interest to observe that the copious notes attached to the volumes were penned by his friend, Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Other lives of Wesley are more accurate and for the study of certain phases of Wesley's work are considered more valuable, but even so, this work of Southey is all but certain to be accorded a permanent place among the biographies of one of the outstanding figures of all time.

J. GRAY McALLISTER.

Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va.