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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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WALTER W. MOORE IN THE FIELD OF LITERATURE.

BY REV. J. GRAY McALLISTER, D. D., Litt. D., LL. D.,
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Before me as I write lies the bound volume of the UNION SEMINARY MAGAZINE of the session of 1892-'3. The paper, poor in quality, is yellowed beyond its years and the typographical appearance is anything but attractive, for printing a generation ago, especially in the South, had not come into its full heritage, and, besides, the financial resources of the publication, which have never been superabundant, were in those days slender to the last degree. But one has only to run through these numbers to recognize in them a wealth of most attractive reading matter, one series of articles standing out from all the rest, a challenging series on Biblical Archaeology from the facile pen of Dr. Walter W. Moore, Professor of Oriental Literature in Union Seminary, and then, at thirty-five years of age, in the rich vigor of his early prime. It needs little imagination to visualize the fascination of such a subject for such a scholar as Dr. Moore. Whatever the future may hold of marvel or surprise—and it is certain to hold very much—the Nineteenth Century for its pioneering work in this wide field will ever be outstanding. In 1799—certainly close enough to that century to be counted in—the Rosetta Stone was unearthed near Alexandria in Egypt and in 1835 the Behistun Inscription, chiseled into the polished face of a limestone cliff in Western Persia, was copied, these two tri-lingual inscriptions furnishing the keys to the vast literatures of the Nile and the Tigro-Euphrates Valleys. Within a few years the great mounds of Nineveh and Babylon began yielding their treasures of city walls, palaces, libraries, huge statues of the gods and priceless records of kings all the way from Shalmaneser the Second to Cyrus the Great. The Moabite Stone, King Mesha's Declaration of Independence of the Ninth Century B. C.,

was discovered in 1868; the Siloam Inscription, in Hezekiah's conduit in Jerusalem, in 1880, and Pithom, one of Egypt's sweat-shops, in 1883. Then, in 1891, came the most spectacular discovery of all, when thirty-nine of the long dead kings and queens of Egypt, the Pharaoh of the Oppression certainly among them, were drawn from their hiding place near Thebes to be exposed thenceforth to the gaze of an unpitying world. The pages that sketch these discoveries bristle with interesting facts, scintillate under the touch of a master of English pure and undefiled, glow with a contagious enthusiasm, illuminate page after page of the sacred record and in a hundred ways grip the reader and fortify his faith. Would that we had more of this kind of writing from the pens of the conservative scholars of our day! Would that our laggard Church could see the unwisdom, the crime almost, of forcing a man of such wide and accurate scholarship and such regal power of expression into the wholly uncongenial work of raising large sums of money which it could and should so quickly have supplied for a cause so fundamental and far-reaching! Through these years he became, indeed, the second founder of the Seminary, but at a cost which his Church should never have permitted.

But finally an extended vacation was arranged that both saved Dr. Moore for further years of work for the Church he loved and enriched its literature with one of the noblest and most helpful of books. In the fall of 1898, after years of anxiety and unremitting toil on the part of Dr. Moore and his valiant helpers, Union Seminary opened its doors in Richmond, its new home. But removal and rebuilding by no means told the whole story. A larger endowment of the institution was imperatively needed, and at a time when a combination of circumstances made what is never an easy task one of special difficulty. The work was pressed forward for the next four years, and then the Board of Directors sent Dr. Moore away for a well earned and sorely needed rest. It was taken, with his family, in Europe, the party sailing in June, 1902, and returning in time for the closing exercises of the Seminary in May of the following year. This was not Dr. Moore's first trip abroad. It was, however, his first leisurely trip abroad,

and he used it to good purpose. He told me once that his predilection was for Church History. On this trip he traveled through lands where much of our Church history was made, tarrying in their choicest spots as no stranger, indeed, but as an appreciative friend, and presenting his impressions in a series of articles published in *The Earnest Worker* and later gathered, with other articles, into one of the most readable of books of travel, "A Year in Europe". About one-half of the book is given to England and Scotland, a division that in no wise discounts its value for Americans of English descent or of Presbyterian persuasion, but the chapters on France, Holland, Germany, Switzerland and Italy are no less engaging. The book is not a Baedeker. It is a captivating narrative (interspersed with the wisest of reflections) of a man who, having seen the things best worth seeing in these historic lands, could make his readers see them too. Here the wide and judicious reading of the author, his historic instinct, his discrimination and sense of proportion, his uniform fairness, his playful humor, his love of the beautiful, and, withal, his delightful diction, combine to give this book (which soon passed into its second edition) a permanent place in our literature.

The Tercentenary of the King James' Version of the Bible called forth in celebration a great stream of books, but none, perhaps, at once more readable and, certainly for its compass, more valuable than Dr. Moore's second volume, "The Indispensable Book". This interesting volume contains only six chapters and but little more than a hundred pages, but it is a veritable gold mine for those who would think and write upon the Bible in its relationship to literary culture, national ideals, morals and benevolence, the schools of our land and the spiritual life. One does not wonder that this charming little volume has recently gone into its third edition and is having a gratifyingly steady sale.

The last book from the pen of this gifted writer was issued in 1914 under the caption of "Appreciations and Historical Addresses". Six personal sketches and two historical addresses are given place within the volume. Three of the men whose lives we find portrayed in it were ministers: Dr. Moses Drury

Hoge, for fifty-four years pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Richmond, Va., and through that long period a prince of preachers; Dr. Jacob Henry Smith, for many years one of the foremost of the preachers of North Carolina; and Dr. William Henry Green, one of the ablest Biblical scholars Princeton has ever boasted. The other three men here sketched figured largely in the world of invention and finance: Mr. Cyrus Hall McCormick, whose invention of the reaper made him "not merely", says the author, "one of the world's great inventors and captains of industry, but an epoch-maker of the first magnitude, the creator of an economic revolution, the greatest promoter of agricultural development that ever lived, and one of the supreme benefactors of the human race"; Mr. William Wallace Spence, of Baltimore, cited as "a conspicuous example of eminent and honorable success in business, combined with Christian benevolence and manifold far-reaching usefulness", a man whose memory is enshrined among us in the library that bears his name; and Mr. Joseph Bryan, of Richmond, whom the author both finely and justly delineated as "our ideal citizen, an upright and able man of affairs, an unselfish leader of civic progress, an open-handed philanthropist, a golden-hearted gentleman and a reverent and radiant man of God". The two historical addresses bring the book to a close. The first, on "The First Fifty Years of Union Theological Seminary", was delivered at the centennial of this Seminary in 1912, and is largely biographical, most interesting sketches being given of Dr. John Holt Rice, Dr. George A. Baxter, Dr. Samuel B. Wilson, Dr. Francis S. Sampson, Dr. Benjamin M. Smith, Dr. Robert L. Dabney and Dr. Thomas E. Peck, names that will forever stand high in the records of this institution. The final address of the book, on "The Beginnings and Development of the Presbyterian Church in North Carolina", was delivered at the centennial of the North Carolina Synod. It was a ringing summons to press forward in enlarging fashion, both at home and abroad, the great work of the great Head of the Church.

These three volumes do not comprise the full literary output of this gifted man. His sermons, lectures and addresses, as a

host of grateful hearers will testify, were both heart messages and literary masterpieces, though but few of them, such as "Religion in the Home" and "The Eloquence of the Heart", were put to print. In 1918 he published "The Value of the Church", and in the same year collaborated with Dr. Edward Mack, of his faculty, in the preparation of "The Teaching Values of the Old Testament", Dr. Moore furnishing the chapters on "The Land and the Book" and "The Poets of Israel". This book, containing ten chapters and seventy-nine pages and constituting one of the general units in the Standard Training Course for the Sunday-school teachers of our Church, has reached a circulation of many thousands of copies and has gone out to many lands of the world. In 1920 Dr. Moore made another substantial contribution to our literature in the issuance of "A Real Boy Scout", a brochure that has had a wide reading throughout the land. I have already spoken of the earlier articles of Dr. Moore in the UNION SEMINARY MAGAZINE, now the UNION SEMINARY REVIEW. The last article from his pen was sent from his sick-room and appeared in the issue of the REVIEW of April, 1926, a noble and fitting tribute to his friend, Colonel John Q. Dickinson, of Charleston, W. Va., the founder of the Chair of Church History in this institution.

The limits of this paper forbid any real enquiry into the fashioning of such a style as Dr. Moore revealed. He held converse with the masters in literature. He was a lover of the Wizard of the North. He owned the spell of Dickens, and yet did not hesitate to criticise where criticism was due. He walked with the great poets of earth and counted as companions the historians of the ages. Above all, he made the Scriptures his delight and drew unfailing inspiration from their pages. Such were his models; such in part the materials of his thinking. With these before him, and with a diligence that spared no toil, he disciplined himself into the expression of his thoughts with a clarity, a vividness, a felicity of word and phrase and sentence and a captivating nobility such as few scholars of our generation have been able to achieve.