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THE CULTURE OF THE IMAGINATION.

PRIZE ESSAY: BY ALFRED B. BAKER, CHICAGO, ILL.

The aim of all true education must comprehend the full and harmonious exercise of all the faculties and powers, with which our human nature is endowed. The legitimate scope of culture, must, therefore, reach the whole mental, moral, and physical being; and in so far, as any system, excluding any one of these, is directed only to the rest, is it narrow and defective. As a part of the complex process of education, it is our purpose to consider the importance of the culture of the imaginative nature, in order to the expression of all, in human life, which should constitute its fulness, and its animation. It is not a part of our plan, nor will it be necessary, to give a critical analysis of the imagination, or to examine, very thoroughly, the much vexed question, of the difference between it, and fancy. An intelligent understanding of the underlying principles of this difference, and of what the imagination really is, may, however, assist us in the prosecution of our aim. Imagination has been defined to be, "That faculty of the mind, which bodies forth the forms of things unknown, by producing original thoughts

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF PROF. HOPE.

During the past year, Princeton has been visited with a succession of bereavements, which for the character of the persons removed, and the startling rapidity and suddenness with which one death has followed another, is without parallel in the history of this, and, it is believed, of any other Institution in this country. The nearest approach to it, so far as we know, occurred in the very infancy of this College, when the first three Presidents, Burr, Edwards, and Davies, one without a peer, the others among the most illustrious names in the American Church, quickly followed each other to their long home, side by side, in yonder grave yard. Dr. Carnahan, who had presided over the College more than thirty years, was laid, less than a year ago, in the same celebrated row of tombs of the departed Presidents of the College of New Jersey. Toward the close of the last summer vacation, Dr. J. W. Alexander, for some ten years Professor of Rhetoric in this College, afterward Professor of Church History and Homiletics in our Theological Seminary, at the time of his death one of our Trustees, and one of our most eminent preachers and pastors in our land, who shed lustre on every office which he filled, and touched nothing which he did not adorn, was laid in the same cemetery, beside his illustrious father, while not as yet past his prime. Since our last issue, Dr. Hope and Dr. J. Addison Alexander, the former at the beginning, the latter at the close of the last vacation, (just six weeks apart,) have made another most costly contribution to the treasures of our grave yard, already so rich in precious dust. Dr. Alexander was formerly Tutor and Professor, and at the time of his death a Trustee in our College. He had passed most of his public life, as is well known throughout christendom, as a Professor in our Theological Seminary, of which

he had been from his first connection with it, a chief pillar and ornament. But if his death is to that Institution a special and irreparable loss, the loss is not theirs only. It is a loss to the cause of religion and letters, in our own and other lands, seldom equalled. It is eminently a loss to Princeton, one of whose brightest luminaries that have contributed to make this hill a centre of light to the church, the country, and the world, is thus suddenly extinguished. We leave to the more immediate representatives of his family, and of the Institution he so long and so greatly adorned, the work of delineating his character and endowments, and of fitly signaling that marvellous union of genius, learning, eloquence and piety, which made him one of the foremost men of his own or any age. We propose to do what more appropriately devolves on us, to speak of the life, endowments, and characteristic traits of Dr. Hope, at the time of his death, and for nearly fourteen years previous, the distinguished and efficient Professor of Rhetoric and Political Economy in Princeton College.

The Rev. Matthew B. Hope, D. D., was born in the year 1812, in western Pennsylvania. The only son of his parents, his pious mother early dedicated him not only to God, but to his service in the ministry, and in the missionary work. This holy desire of his mother he tenderly remembered and sacredly regarded. With this view he was early put upon a course of liberal study. He soon gave tokens of superior intellectual endowments, which attracted the notice of his teachers who prepared him for College. He graduated with honor at Jefferson College, in the year 1831. He then gave himself, with ardor and success, to the work of direct preparation for the missionary service. Having completed a thorough academic, theological and medical education, he went to Singapore in the year 1836. In the course of two years, however, his health was so debilitated by the climate, that an im-

mediate return to this country became absolutely necessary to the preservation of his life, and it seemed hardly possible that he could live through the voyage home. He, however, reached this country and soon so far recovered as to resume laborious and effective service for the church. Still he had contracted an incurable malady, which clung to him through his life, and finally terminated it. In all his labours ecclesiastical, literary and educational, which were untiring, he was obliged to contend with this unconquerable foe, which was constantly putting on new phases, taking new localities, and at different times running into or simulating various diseases, but never leaving its victim painless. All remedies served only to alleviate for a time his sufferings, without eradicating their fatal cause. It was rare that he might not truly say:

"And 'tis a poor relief I gain,
To change the place and keep the pain."

The malady which had so long tortured him, at length dissolved the earthly house of his tabernacle in which he groaned, being burdened, and he was set free to ascend to the home of the blest, in the beatific vision of God, where mortality is swallowed up of life. Notwithstanding this constant struggle with disease and pain he entered on toilsome labours, philanthropic, religious, and educational, which knew no cessation, till they were terminated by death. He was first employed in the service of the Colonization Society; then in the Presbyterian Board of Education, first as assistant, afterward as chief Secretary. After the removal of the late Dr. J. W. Alexander from the Professorship of Rhetoric, and Belles Lettres in this College to his pastorate in New York, and the death of Prof. Dod, which quickly followed, Dr. Hope was transferred to the post here which he filled with eminent efficiency, till his death. Having a somewhat distinct presentiment of his dissolution, produced by symptoms, which seemed to him ominous of the im-

pending crisis, as he repeatedly signified to me, during the last few weeks of his life, and especially in my last interview with him, on the day before his death, he died suddenly to others, but not, as I think, to himself, December 17th, 1859, in the forty-eighth year of his age, in the faith and peace of Christ, in the assured hope of the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting, through him who is the resurrection and the life. This he emphatically indicated, as he adopted these for his dying words.

“A guilty, weak and helpless worm,
On thy kind arms I fall;
Be thou my strength, and righteousness,
My Jesus and my all.”

It will not be out of place at this point to complete what we have to say specially of his religious and christian character. Its salient features were simplicity of faith, hope, and charity; earnestness and devotion; conscientiousness and catholicity. No one could have been intimate with him, without seeing evidence of a devout and prayerful spirit; the beamings of a face, shining as it came down from the mount of converse with God. He rarely entered on the smallest work without prayer for the Divine blessing. Faithful in his own spiritual culture, he shrank not from efforts and sacrifices for the cause of Christ, and the salvation of his fellow men. He obeyed the Divine call to the missionary work, and went into a strange land to pass his life amid the degradation and pollution of heathenism, to consume it in burning climes, and poison it with tainted air. Driven thence to his native land, he devoted himself with all the strength yet spared to him, and this in a continual struggle with disease and pain, to the advocacy of the great interests of the Church, as involved in the preparation of young men for the ministry in our own and foreign lands.

After leaving this laborious service for the sustentation

of candidates for the ministry he came to this College. And with what tireless advocacy, with what fervid earnestness, he has here urged the gospel of salvation upon our acceptance, and in every way sought the spiritual welfare of the students of this institution, we are all witnesses. Not a few among the graduates, and under graduates of this College are the seals of his ministry, and will rise up to call him blessed. If there were other aims and purposes, they were only the casual eddyings, which were overborne and lost in this grand current of his life, this paramount aspiration of his soul. He had a purpose to work for God's glory and human salvation. His language was, "this one thing I do." All else was merged in, or tributary to this. Nor did he waste his strength in abortive, aimless efforts. He did not run as uncertainly, or fight as one that beateth the air. He sought by words in season, fitly spoken, and thus by manifestation of the truth, to commend himself to every man's conscience in the sight of God. Nor was his labor in vain, as we know full well.

This holy and commanding purpose to serve his generation, his church, his God, of which we have spoken, did not, in his case, possess one of those feeble and sluggish natures, whose inertness or vacillation paralyzes the strongest principles, and frustrates the best intentions. On the contrary, Dr. Hope was one of those eager and agile spirits, that could not be restrained from unresting effort for the accomplishment of his purposes. He could not be inactive, unless under constraint of bodily suffering and disease; and from whatever cause he was at any time compelled to suspend his labors, all inaction was a burden and a clog, which chafed and fretted his spirit, ever craving efficient activity and decisive results. It was this energetic temperament, which buoyed him up for ceaseless exertion, amid a constant combat with disease and pain, that would have unmanned feebler natures.

If now we proceed to estimate the gifts and endowments, native and acquired, which were the instruments in the service of a spirit so earnest, and a will so firm and decided, we find that an intellect naturally vigorous was developed and amplified by thorough discipline, liberal culture, and the widest reading and study—especially of whatever was implicated with his special department of instruction. In this respect his aims were most lofty. He was not content with any commonplace, or merely current and popular views of the subjects which he handled; or with any mediocre and simply respectable knowledge about them. He aspired to a range of vision, quite above the vulgar level. He was not content till he had applied the most exhaustive analysis, mastered the most recent thinking, and sounded the utmost depths relative to the subject, within reach of the human intellect. No one, who knew his mind, doubted that such was its characteristic drift. The only exceptions to his mode of treating subjects which even the most sharp-sighted criticism could at any time suggest, were of that noble kind, involved in rising above, not in falling below, the exigencies of the occasion.

The same substantially may be said of his style, the drapery, in which he clothed his thoughts. The affluence and elevation of his diction and imagery, must have been evident and conspicuous to the most casual hearers of his discourses, and even of his familiar private conversation. He never fell into poverty or coarseness of style. His tendencies were all in the opposite direction, towards richness and elevation in the manner of expressing his thoughts. The clear tones and distinct articulation of his voice, however, so pleasantly intelligible to every hearer, and so wondrously capable of expressing every shade of thought and mood of feeling were the true exponents of his normal thinking and expression. When he did not feel constrained by the necessities of his position to un-

fold his theme, in its high philosophic aspects; when he felt free to abandon himself to the simple work of persuading, and moving men to some given course of action, whether by oral or written, by private or public discourse; in short, when his faculties had their spontaneous play; he was remarkable for the crystal clearness, beauty, and density of his thought and expression—for his terse, transparent, and idiomatic English. All this uttered with that fit, and when necessary, fervid and impassioned intonation, of which he was so capable, before popular assemblies, made him, in his happier efforts, highly eloquent, and at times one of the most consummate of orators. A man now, alas, no more, without a superior, and almost without a peer, for critical capacity in such matters: who, although eminently candid, was yet so refined and fastidious in his tastes, as rarely to transgress the maxim *nil admirari*, and to render his words of appreciation and commendation most weighty, was once present at a meeting of Synod, before which Dr. Hope appeared to present the claims of the Board of Education. The former pronounced the effort a match, as to style and power, for the great pleas of the celebrated British orators. Many among us have been witnesses to outbursts of extraordinary eloquence from him in the classroom, and especially in our familiar religious meetings.* The same mental constituents that made him eloquent in public address, also made him effective in all forms of discourse or efforts to rouse men to action, and bring to pass important results. In short, his mind was eminently executive; and eloquence, in one view of it, is but executive discourse. In truth, this was the distinctive feature of his mind and character, as compared with other good and gifted men—executive energy in bringing to pass

* For some time before his death, ill-health had compelled Dr. Hope, greatly to his sorrow, to cease from his very acceptable and impressive preaching on the Sabbath.

great results, and in enlisting the efforts and the contributions of others in furtherance of these results. This was specially characteristic of all his procedures in behalf of this Institution, not merely as a religious teacher, in which capacity we have sufficiently characterized him, but as an educator and financial agent. Enough has already been said to indicate his characteristics as a thinker, writer, orator, preacher, lecturer. What we wish in conclusion to signalize, is the executive character of his mind, as shown in his educational and financial labors here. As an educator, he was not content merely to give forth great productions himself, and be known as an able and brilliant lecturer. He longed to see his pupils doing great things also. He was eager and impatient to accomplish substantial results not for a few only, but for all his pupils. To this end his labors were unsparing and indefatigable. Of his fidelity and diligence in this behalf, his greediness of time for his department, his utilizing to the last second the three hours at his command for lecture and recitation on the days when he had the class, and his extraordinary examination papers, are the proofs and the monuments. The result at which he aimed was rather the development (educing or educating) of the faculties of the mind, or the general power of thought, than special familiarity with the technics, or dexterity in the practice of any art. In my first conference with him on these subjects he said, that he deemed this wakening of the powers of thought the great object of his department and my own. However this may be, there can be no doubt of the energy and constancy with which he pursued this object, or of the gratifying results he attained. A principal cause of his success was the manifest enthusiasm with which he prosecuted his subject, the zeal and sincerity with which he inculcated his views. In short, he exhibited, in a marked degree, those great requisites of the successful teacher—ability, knowledge, fidelity, tact.

But his executive and persuasive power was still more marked in his efforts to increase the funds, the friends, and the benefactors of this College. In this behalf his efforts were untiring, and his success unequalled. His achievements in this regard constitute an era in the history of this Institution. He was instrumental in procuring Scholarships and funds for the endowment of Professorships, which have largely increased the annual income of the Institution for the sustentation of students and teachers. No other person has ever done so much to promote the financial interests of our College. It is now in need of largely-increased endowments for various purposes. But, before the donations—large and small—obtained through the agency of Dr. Hope and his coadjutors, it lived almost exclusively upon its earnings, and maintained a constant, but most honorable and successful, struggle for life. It was by presenting lofty and glowing views of the relation of Christian Colleges to the Church and the replenishment of her ministry, and by warm appeals to attached alumni, that he touched the sympathies of the pious friends of education, and drew forth large gifts from men of large hearts and large means. It was not by casual and fitful, but by persevering efforts of this kind, that he accomplished results so momentous to the College. Doubtless he was aided by the co-operation of others. Who ever achieved results of this sort without such aid? It is none the less true that he, under God, has been the main instrument, without whose agency, but a slender portion of this result, so far as we can see, could have been achieved. Efforts of this sort he prosecuted, as he had opportunity, while he lived. They were a part of his last earthly labors.

Those labors are now ended. All that remains for us is the melancholy pleasure of duly honoring, and the high duty of worthily imitating them.

L. H. Atwater