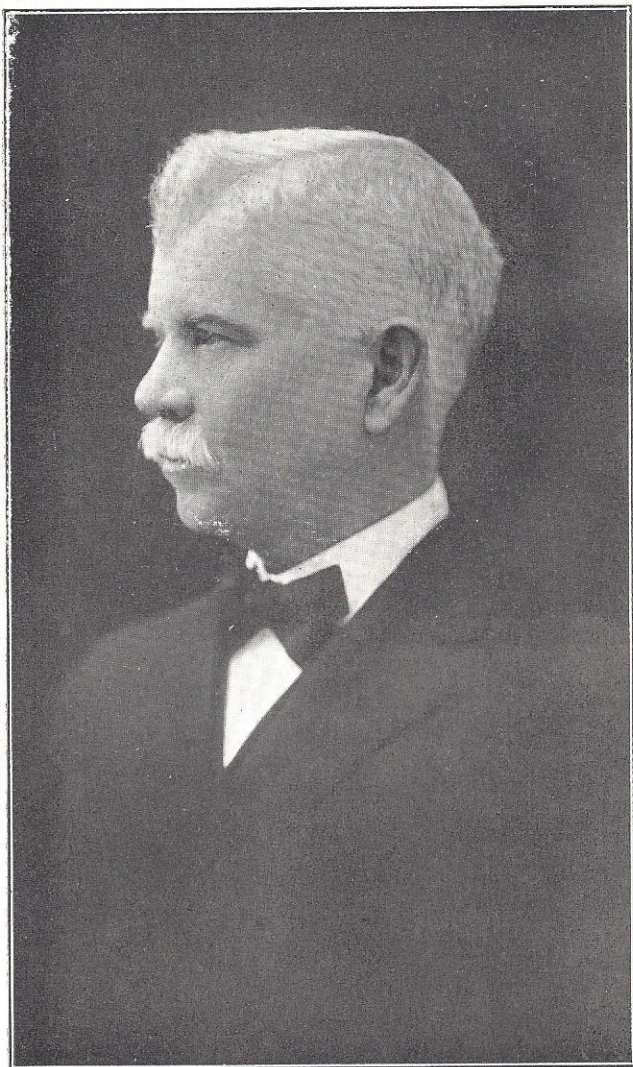




REV. A. M. FRASER, D.D.

Doctor Fraser and His Sermons

EDITED BY
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Staunton, Va.



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VI

A DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN

THE hill town of the Shenandoah Valley is no mean city. To be prominent where dwell able jurists, proficient physicians, large-visioned business men and celebrated educators is a distinction worthy of note.

In all the departments of modern life, there are leaders of thought and action who live in Staunton, Va.

However if it were put to the vote of his fellow citizens, there is little doubt that the one they would crown as the First Citizen would be the modest man who lives in "The Little White House," where Woodrow Wilson was born.

Dr. Fraser is not a politician, in fact he is a champion of the doctrine of the separation of Church and State, yet no one has exerted a more potent and wholesome influence on the lives of those who shape the policies of the city than he.

He is not a man of affairs, but most of the leading business men of the city have known Dr. Fraser since boyhood, and many of them consider his influence as preacher and man as a dominant factor in shaping their careers. One of the leading young

business men writes as follows: "It seems to me that it ought to be a very easy thing to write a book about Dr. Fraser, for I certainly regard him as the ablest man that I have ever known intimately. I believe there is no other man in all of this community whose opinion is as much sought after and as highly valued as his.

"He is absolutely the finest diplomat that I have ever seen, and to me his ability to handle a delicate situation is perfectly wonderful. He would certainly make a great Secretary of State.

"Of course every one who knows him knows of his wonderful ability as a preacher, but to me, what is greater than that, is the man's humility. I think his humility is remarkable, and I feel sure I am correct when I say that there is no man in Staunton whose opinion of him would be as low as his own."

He is not a school teacher, and yet the great educators of the City respect his opinion on all subjects, and the large number of youth who gather from every quarter of the land love to sit at his feet as a wise counselor and teacher.

One closely identified with the life of Mary Baldwin Seminary writes: "Dr. Fraser has been closely associated with Mary Baldwin Seminary as a member of the Board, and Chairman for a long time, as well as Chaplain. As a member of the Board his fidelity, judgment and love for the school have made him its most valuable member. As Chaplain we can never reckon or conceive of

the religious influence his ministrations have brought into the lives of the hundreds of girls and young women who have been pupils and teachers of this Institution."

There is no class of people in his City who have not felt directly or indirectly the results of his beneficent power, but probably his greatest influence has been exerted on the professional men who, through his long career of twenty-five years as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Staunton, have been closely associated with him. Doctors, lawyers, preachers and other educated men have looked upon him as a thinker second to none, and his wise counsels have often been sought and his decisions regarded as the best.

A prominent professional man who has been acquainted with him for a great number of years writes: "No man that I have known is so fully endowed with all the qualities that combine to make one of God's most noble examples of what the human life should be. He is the most unassuming, gentle, Christ-like man I have ever known. His appreciation and consideration of the right of others is wonderfully characteristic of his make-up. 'To do justly and to love mercy' is his creed. As a thinker he is strong and clear, always impartial in his conclusions, even though he stands alone. The words of the Psalmist, 'The meek will he guide in judgment' seems fulfilled in him."

Dr. Fraser is a firm believer in separation of

Church and State, and has never been openly active on political questions, nevertheless, "no one citizen of our city has had a more beneficent influence on the thinking people than he."

As an illustration of his leadership in the movements which concern the highest welfare of his city, he was Chairman of the Citizens Committee for raising the funds for the construction of the magnificent Y. M. C. A. building which cost over \$100,000, at a time when building was inexpensive. It is remarkable how the whole city rallied to his leadership. He was also chosen by the citizens of Staunton to introduce President Wilson on the occasion of his visit to the city.

There are few busier men. He makes as many visits as the average physician, he writes as much as the average editor, he makes as many addresses as the average lawyer, he is at the head of an institution that collects and disburses as much money as the average business establishment, he is personally responsible for as many people as the average college president.

He has stood in his place doing the full work of a man and great citizen in the town of his adoption these twenty-seven years, loved and honored by all.

H. W. McLAUGHLIN.

VII

A POTENT INFLUENCE FOR GOOD THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AN American writer has said that if a man can write a good book, preach a good sermon, or make a good mouse-trap, though he build his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten track to his door. It is a striking statement of the inevitableness of the general recognition of merit however modest. If a minister is a man of sterling character, sound judgment, consecrated talents, ample knowledge of the history, doctrines and work of the church, and power of clear thought and clear statement, then no matter how little he may desire prominence the church at large will seek him out and place him in positions of responsibility and influence. Dr. Fraser is universally honored and loved in his own community, but it was impossible that the influence of a man of his character and gifts should be limited to his own town or his own presbytery or his own synod. It has been felt and felt powerfully throughout the church.

Self-seeking is foreign to his nature. He has