

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

in his library a volume giving at least the religious outlook and conditions of the time when Christianity began its world-wide mission.

This book by Dr. Angus is such a volume. So far as we know, there is no better book on the religious background of New Testament times. In a fresh and interesting way the author gathers up practically all that is now known on this subject. He seems to be familiar with the vast literature on the subject. It takes no less than thirty-five pages of his book to list the books to which he refers.

We rejoice to know that after a long and profound study of the other so-called religions of the first century, Dr. Angus boldly maintains the divine origin, supernatural character and unique revelation of Christianity.

EUGENE C. CALDWELL.

Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va.

THE REFORMATION IN ITS LITERATURE. *By Alexander Smellie.* Published by Andrew Melrose, London, October, 1925.

Dr. Smellie touches the Reformation with the pen of an artist and the imagination of a poet. He makes the old names and the books we thought musty, glow with a rich freshness and vigor. There is not a dull paragraph in the book. A valuable contribution by a Scotch scholar that will do much to make the Protestant heritage again a living possession of the minister and the membership. Of course his book will raise questions on which the reader will take issue: Was Pascal really a reformer? Is the synergism of Melancthon acceptable to the Calvinist? Or the classification of Melancthon's doctrine of the Supper as Calvinistic acceptable to the Lutheran?

We heartily commend the book as stimulating and suggestive. We earnestly hope that it will help to bring back a study of the literature of the reformation, and a richer appreciation thereof in the light of the sympathetic human elements that gleam through them. There can be no more worthwhile journey for the youth of today than back through the corridors of time to the writings of the young men of the sixteenth century—the *Loci Communes* written by a youth of twenty-four, the *Institutes* by a young scholar of twenty-six, and the *Heidelberg Catechism* from the hands of men under thirty—with the romanticism of youth still shining through it. "There are virtue and spiritual power in the *Heidelberg Catechism* still. It is like the hills, which do not lose their grandeur, though the eyes see them every day; or like the sunset which has been building in the sky its towers and palaces since the world began; or like the faces of the children which are always satisfying and sweet."

W. C. ROBINSON.

Columbia Theological Seminary, Columbia, S. C.