



Andrew Dickson White (1832-1918)

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his death one of the lecture halls of the Sorbonne has been renamed after him "Hall Barrett Wendell." "The Traditions of European Literature," only one volume of which he completed, was a labor of love, the fruition of years of discerning scholarship. The period from Homer to Dante was covered by the first volume and the second would have brought the survey down to modern times.

During his sabbatical vacations Wendell visited Europe at various times. In 1902-3 he represented Harvard University at the 300th anniversary of the Bodleian Library at Oxford, and was Clark lecturer at Trinity College, Cambridge, England. In 1904-5 he was the first of the annual lecturers on the Hyde foundation at the Sorbonne and other French universities. In 1911 he went around the world, traveling in India, China and Japan.

Wendell was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He received from Columbia University in 1913 the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (Litt. D.); Harvard University conferred upon him the same degree in 1918, and Strassburg University, France, that of Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) in 1920.

Wendell was a man of pronounced individuality, warm in his sympathies, singularly loyal in his attachments, and free from littleness. He never concealed his convictions, which were often critical of modern tendencies and points of view. If he seemed to champion the past at the expense of the present, it was because of his insistence on standards and his veneration for the summits not the table lands of tradition. His conversation had the charm of freedom from the commonplace.

Wendell was married on June 1, 1880, to Edith Greenough of Quincy, who, with two sons and two daughters, survive him.

ROBERT GRANT.

ANDREW DICKSON WHITE (1832-1918).

Fellow in Class III, Section 2, 1868.

Andrew Dickson White was born in Homer, November 7, 1832, and died in Ithaca, only twenty-five miles from his birth-place, on November 4, 1918. As a student at Hobart College and later at Yale, he

was impressed with the inadequacy and narrowness of the college training of those days. This feeling increased as he grew older and when Ezra Cornell consulted him as to the best employment of some of his wealth for the public benefit, Mr. White soon succeeded in inspiring him with the vision which became embodied in Cornell University. Mr. White became of course the president of the new university and it is to him that we owe the placing of scientific and technical courses on a level with the humanities. The development of Cornell has been a striking illustration both of the power of the ideal and of Mr. White's wisdom. It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that Cornell has been successful in so far as it has followed the ideals of its first president. The principles that he laid down over fifty years ago are likely to guide the course of the University for years to come.

People wondered in the early days why a man like Goldwin Smith should leave Oxford and come to Cornell; but it was the spirit of protest in him that made him love Cornell to the end of his life. At Cornell they were trying to do something new and worth while. It was the spirit of Andrew D. White that appealed to Goldwin Smith.

Though Mr. White's real reputation will rest on the work that he did in starting Cornell University as the embodiment of an ideal, this was by no means the whole of his work. His "History of the Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom" and his Autobiography are the two works which the general public knows, and it is sometimes forgotten that he was one of the founders of the American Historical Association and its first president. While president of Cornell University he was also professor of Modern European history. In 1887 he presented to Cornell his historical library and it was only fitting that the combined departments of history and political science should be known officially as "The President White School of History and Political Science."

Mr. White's diplomatic career was varied and honorable. He was minister plenipotentiary to Germany from 1879 to 1881 and to Russia from 1892 to 1894 and later ambassador to Germany from 1897 to 1902.

A man of means and a wonderful host, he kept open house in Ithaca. Distinguished visitors to this country always visited Mr. White and no one who lived in Ithaca during the last years of Mr. White's life can fail to realize what he meant to the social life of the faculty. The

University very properly bears the name of its founder, Ezra Cornell; but no one will question that it was Andrew D. White who put the breath of life into the young institution.

Honors of course came to Mr. White in profusion. He enjoyed them keenly but they did not change him. A list of these, with other information, may be found in an obituary notice published in the *Memoirs of the New England Historic Genealogical Society*, Vol. 73, p. LX (1919).

WILDER D. BANCROFT.