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THE LIFE
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EDWARD C. HERRICK,

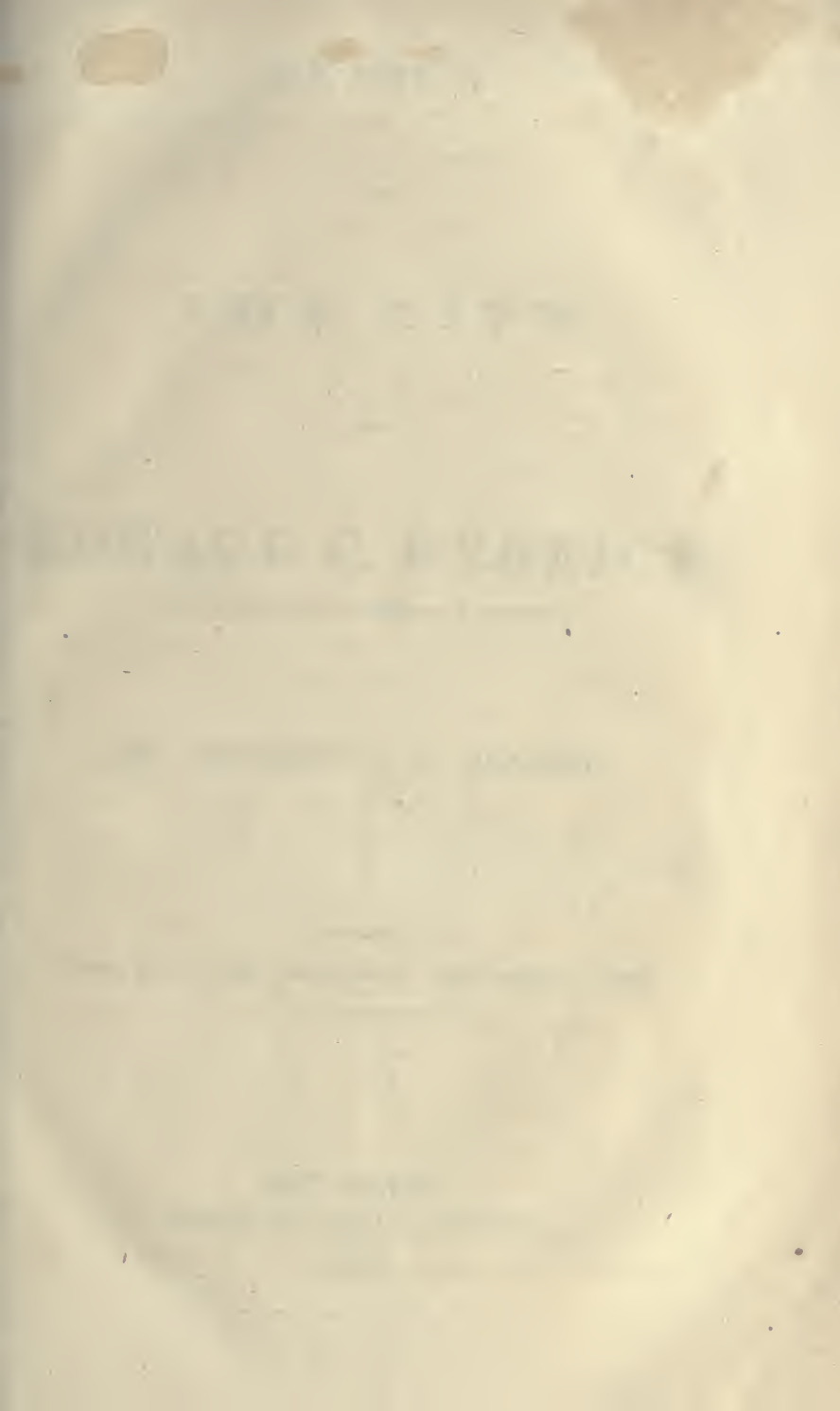
LATE LIBRARIAN AND TREASURER OF YALE COLLEGE.

BY PROFESSOR T. A. THACHER.

From the "New Englander" for October, 1862.

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S K E T C H.

It is only a few months since our pages gave to the public a brief memoir of Professor Larned of Yale College, who had been suddenly cut down in the midst of his greatest usefulness. And now, by a death almost equally sudden, another valued officer of that Institution has been called away. With what startling frequency has death of late taken his victims from the same small group of associates in office! It is only ten years since Professor Kingsley, full of years and in the ripeness of scholarship and of character, was summoned to depart, and, although for many years before the occurrence of that sad event the officers of the college had enjoyed a singular exemption from the visitations of death, yet, in the short interval which has since elapsed, no less than twelve men, who had together held professorships in the various departments of the University, have passed away. Three of these had previously withdrawn from the college to other places of residence, and one other had ceased from active duties as an instructor by reason of the infirmities of age. But now all of these are numbered with the dead:—Norton, Stanley, Taylor, Goodrich, Olmsted, Gibbs, Larned, Bissell, Tully, Storrs, Beers, Ives. And last, Mr. Herrick has fallen,—not a professor in any department of instruction, it is true, but a most useful officer, and worthy to be intimately associated, as he was, with the most honored of those who have been, or who continue to be, connected with the Institution. A fearful mortality!

But the friends of the college are not left unconsolated. These departed men have left an abiding influence behind them; and they have, by their genius, their achievements in the various departments of science and letters, their eminent usefulness or rare promise, as well as by their faithful lives, left a rich and honorable legacy to the institution with which, while they lived, they were in so great a degree identified.

And we feel sure that no one of them all has left a fairer or even, take him for all in all, a more enviable record than Mr. Herrick. He was a man of rare natural endowments, both of mind and heart; and what nature bestowed he improved with unvarying fidelity, until he was called by the Great Giver to render an account of his stewardship. In choosing, so far as he was free to choose, the objects on which to bestow his labor, he showed an elevated mind, but he was also an example of faithfulness in the performance of the most trivial and the humblest duties, whether those duties were required by the stations which he successively occupied in life, or by an ever wakeful, all-including spirit of charity. His labors did not fail of success. As a man of science he achieved more than most scientific men achieve, although he was not by profession engaged in such pursuits. In literature he made unusual attainments. And in self-culture, which was with him as much an instinct as it was a conscious aim, he became one of the best of men. Our limits will not permit us to enter into the details of his scientific labors, nor would it be altogether suitable in a journal of this kind. We shall mainly content ourselves with giving an outline of his life, and a brief delineation of his character.

EDWARD CLAUDIUS HERRICK was born in New Haven, February 24th, 1811. His father was the Rev. Claudius Herrick, a man of the rarest virtues, of whom it may be said almost without qualification, that none name him but to praise him. He was born in 1775, in Southampton, Long Island, where his ancestors for four generations had lived and died, was graduated at Yale College in 1798, and, after a course of theological study, was settled as pastor of the Congregational Church in Woodbridge, Conn., but having been compelled by the failure of his health to abandon the laborious life of a clergyman, he opened in New Haven a school for young ladies, of which he was the honored and successful teacher, till, in the year 1831, he closed his most beneficent and amiable life.

Rev. Mr. Herrick found a fit companion of his life in Miss Hannah Pierpont of New Haven, to whom he was married in 1802. She was a descendant of the Rev. James Pierpont,

pastor of the First Church in New Haven and one of the three clergymen who, in 1698, planned the founding of Yale College. Mrs. Herrick survived her husband nearly thirty years, during which period she was never separated from her son Edward. Her life illustrated the quiet controlling power of Christian principle. She was in sympathy with all Christian enterprises, and she was always willing to deny herself that she might aid them, while her only self-indulgence was the indulgence of kindness. The law of kindness was in her heart and on her tongue. She lived to old age, till like ripened corn she was ready to be gathered. But no death ever caused sincerer sorrow than did hers to the son to whom she had been for so many years an object of true filial love. We will not undertake to describe that most manifest grief which smote his heart when those "lips" no more "had language," and that form, long bent with years, had to be borne away at last, to be buried out of his sight.

Mr. Herrick's early training was such as might have been expected from such parents as he had, and from the circumstances in which he was placed. Everything around him, both within the precincts of home and beyond them, was suggestive continually of a superior intellectual culture. It can hardly have been without its influence upon him that during his earliest years the nearest neighbor and friend of his father was the venerable Dr. Dwight, and that throughout his childhood and youth the gentlemen engaged in instruction in the College, under the very shadow of which he dwelt, were also his father's familiar acquaintances. And the daily and constant sight of these hundreds of youth, all engaged in the pursuit of liberal knowledge, and among them soon his two older and only brothers, must have been sufficient to inspire him with a desire for the same employments. He could, however, hardly have needed any such external impulses, for he always seemed to have received from nature a keen appetite for knowledge of every kind. He of course grew in knowledge. He was a successful student in school, and he remembered and repeatedly referred to the delightful exhilaration with which he used to accomplish some of

the tasks assigned him by his classical teacher. But his education was at an early period interrupted by a chronic inflammation of the eye-lids, and this, combined doubtless with other circumstances, finally prevented his receiving a collegiate education, which he always lamented as a disadvantage.

When he was about sixteen years old he became a clerk in the somewhat celebrated bookstore of General Hezekiah Howe. He remained in this establishment as a clerk until the year 1835, when, in company with a partner, he became a proprietor of the business, and carried it on, but without pecuniary success, for three years. And, to finish here the brief statement of the most outward ordering of his life, we may add, that after spending the next five years in various miscellaneous employments, the principal of which were his duties as Clerk of the City of New Haven, and his services in the office of the Journal of Science, he was, in 1843, appointed Librarian of Yale College. He was also appointed Treasurer of the College in 1852. But after holding the two places conjointly for six years, he resigned the former,—the duties of the latter he performed until his death.

To return now to the period of his youth, that we may follow the course of his life with something more of minuteness, we may say, that, if he was not to be educated in college, he could hardly have fallen into a more suitable place for him than the clerkship with Gen. Howe. And we may say with equal truth, that Gen. Howe could not have found a better clerk. He was possessed of unusual intelligence in regard to common things, and therefore knew what to do; he was faithful and did it. Indeed, there was throughout life a kind of liberality in his faithfulness which is rarely met with. In all, therefore, which pertained to his relations to his employer, he gave entire satisfaction, and he was gladly retained for several years after he had attained his majority. But this bookstore was to this intelligent and open-minded youth not a mere place of buying and selling. It educated him. Not for trade,—although he there gained those thorough business habits, and that clerical facility and accuracy which were all his life so useful. He gained there also a bookseller's knowledge of

books, their pecuniary value, their material quality, the methods of exchanges and purchase, of description, arrangement, and classification, and whatever else was necessary, whether of knowledge or care, to make him an accomplished member of the guild of booksellers. But this was not all the education he received there. The book-shelves which surrounded him on every side were full of living forces to him, and to these forces he readily yielded himself. Those well selected volumes interested him more by what they contained than by the price they would bring. They furnished him with knowledge on every subject, and it was as natural for him to take what they offered as for the bee to take honey from the open flowers. In that bookstore, therefore, Mr. Herrick became an educated man. He differed from other youth who occupy like situations, partly because of his previous training and circumstances, and partly by reason of his mental endowments. As we have already said, he had a natural desire for knowledge, and this desire constantly grew by being gratified. His mind had, moreover, been brought into discipline and good habits by his early teachers. He consequently became not merely a reader of books, but a student. He was fond of exact and reliable knowledge, and he loved to find for himself the verifications of truth. Being placed now in the familiar presence of the great masters in science and letters, he used the means which were at hand for an uncommon progress in education.

It is probable also that his naturally wakeful mind was stimulated by the conversation of men of letters. Howe's bookstore was in those days something of a substitute for a university library. The college library was kept in the attic of the chapel, and was opened only once or twice a week, for an hour at a time, by the professor who kept the key. It was altogether an unattractive place, to which no one ever went with the expectation of meeting a kindred spirit, at least, not in the flesh. It was, therefore, quite the custom for the gentlemen connected with the college, as well as for other educated men, to loiter at the book-shelves of this neighboring establishment. When, therefore, such men as Professor Kingsley, Dr. Tully, Dr. Percival, and Gen. Howe himself, a man who by no means

limited his acquaintance with books to the outside of them, engaged in conversation on literary or scientific subjects, or the current topics of the day, it needs not be said that the young clerk was an interested listener. Nor can we doubt that now and then, when increasing familiarity and his own nice sense of propriety permitted it, he began to arrest the attention of these revered seniors by permitting the escape of a bright thought of his own. He certainly secured the regard and esteem of those with whom he was thus brought acquainted, and with many, perhaps the most eminent of them, this acquaintance ripened into a friendship which never came to an end.

It may have occurred to our readers that the educators of our young friend—these books which surrounded him, and these veteran scholars,—were too diverse themselves to favor concentration of labor in him; that he was in danger of becoming a man of general intelligence in all departments of knowledge without making signal progress in any. It cannot be denied that the subsequent life of Mr. Herrick exhibited this effect in some degree. Not that he did not make remarkable attainments in some studies; but he was so well prepared by his exact knowledge in many branches of science, that one did not satisfy him as his own separate field of labor, but several, simultaneously or in succession, arrested his attention and enlisted his efforts and his zeal. He would doubtless have attained to greater eminence in the scientific world, had his prodigious and enlightened industry been applied in some single department of knowledge. Whether he would thereby have made his life more valuable to the world is a question which it is not easy to answer.

But Mr. Herrick made diligent use of the opportunities for voluntary education to which we have referred. One would see from his habitual manner, that he was earnestly engaged upon something and had no time to lose. He moved with a quick step when he walked abroad, and usually took the most direct way from point to point, regardless of the paths which others used. Many who were connected with Yale College twenty-five and thirty years ago, will remember him as he used to pass from his mother's door on the college square, by *his own*

path, across the Green to his place of business. They will remember, too, his genteel and cultivated appearance in the bookstore, and how, while he was always attentive to his proper business, he was nevertheless more interested in the contents of the books he was selling than in their sale. The time which he would gladly have devoted to science during this period, was broken by many other engagements besides the duties of his clerkship. He was under the necessity of adding to his income by copying, and by reading proofs, and in various other ways. Still, with all his interruptions, he had given such evidence of his proficiency in knowledge during his connection with this bookselling establishment, that in 1838, the year when he left it, the Corporation of Yale College conferred on him the honorary degree of Master of Arts.

Mr. Herrick was early interested in subjects connected with Natural History. His first contribution to the *American Journal of Science*—the joint production of himself and Professor Dana—was a description of the "*Argulus Catcstomi; a new parasitic Crustaceous animal,*" found in the vicinity of New Haven. It was published in 1837, but it had been read the previous year before the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences.

It is not known when the subject of Entomology first attracted his serious attention, but it is probable that he had been an observer or a student of the subject, to some little extent, at least, while he was yet in his teens. He never, however, professed to have undertaken the mastery of the whole science, and he cannot, therefore, be called, in the largest sense of the word, an entomologist. But an Article published in the *Journal of Science*, in the year 1832, on the subject of the Hessian fly, was so obviously and thoroughly erroneous in his judgment, that his scientific curiosity was piqued to discover the entire truth concerning this insect. The subject, also, he judged, with reason, worthy of his labor for its bearing on economical questions. He therefore addressed himself to the work of becoming thoroughly acquainted with two or three genera of insects, to which the Hessian fly and its parasites belonged. But the task which he had proposed to himself, covering as it did not only the entomology of the insect and its parasites, but also it

political history and the questions connected therewith, proved a greater labor than even he probably anticipated, and nine years elapsed before he made even a partial report of his investigations to the public. This delay was doubtless due, in part, to the interruptions and embarrassments of business, but still more to his great carefulness, and to his purpose to say nothing to the public which should afterwards need correction. At the very outset, also, he was sadly hindered by the want of books—a want which, therefore, first commanded his attention, and which he made a great effort to supply.

But his whole object in this scientific investigation, as well as the difficulties which were found to attend it, are so well stated in a letter addressed in October, 1833, to William Spence, Esq., of London, who was an author in this department of science, and the letter is, at the same time, so fair a specimen of Mr. Herrick's perspicuous style, that we are sure our readers will be interested in the following extracts. He had written previously for information concerning a royal proclamation, issued in 1788, which forbade the importation of wheat into England from the United States, lest the Hessian fly should be carried with it. This proclamation, with its accompanying documents, he was anxious to see; and, referring to what he had written, he says:

“It may perhaps appear somewhat singular that I should be so desirous to see these obsolete papers, when an opportunity of making personal observation of the insect is so easily had. My object was merely to obtain the particulars of its early political history. For some time past, I have spent my little leisure time in collecting materials for a Memoir on the Hessian Fly and some of its Parasites, and I was desirous of making the affair as complete as possible, by adding an abstract of this history. I find the investigation much more laborious and difficult than I anticipated, and I apprehend that two years more will be needed to render it complete. I have also made it an object to read all the notices respecting this insect, which are contained in the magazines and newspapers of this country, both new and old. It is truly astonishing that so much should have been written to so little purpose. The grossest errors on this subject have been promulgated from the times of the first notice of the insect in America down to the present year. For one instance, let me refer you to the twenty-second volume of the American Journal of Science, printed last year, where you will find an Article which is an error from beginning to end. My faith in the testimony of common observers in Natural History has been greatly shaken, and at the same time my conviction [of the importance] of exact scientific descriptions of insects has been

confirmed. Indeed, without scientific system, entomology would be a mere chaos.

"It has always been a disputed question whether the Hessian fly exists in Europe, and I should be glad if I could be enabled to do something toward settling it. Sir Joseph Banks asserted that it was not to be found there, and Dr. Mitchell of New York, said the same. From a notice in Duhamel's *Elements d' Agriculture*, it would seem that an insect very similar to, if not identical with the Hessian fly, has at various times injured the wheat in the vicinity of Geneva. As you have recently traveled through various parts of Europe, and have doubtless had entomology considerably in view, I should consider your opinion on the subject, of great value. If it does exist in Europe, it is indeed strange that it should never have been noticed, and if it is a native of this country, it is equally strange that it should not have been observed before 1776.

"Entomology has but few cultivators in this country. Mr. Thomas Say has undoubtedly described more new American species than any one else here, but he rarely tells us anything respecting their habits. A great obstacle to the advance of the science in this country, is the want of entomological books, transactions of learned societies, &c. For the want of these, we must ever be uncertain whether a given insect is or is not new to the entomological world. In this city I have not been able to procure more than six or eight books on this subject."

Mr. Herrick's correspondence on the subject of the Hessian fly and its parasites, and on entomology generally, was very voluminous. A portion of that which he carried on through more than twenty-five years with Dr. Harris, the distinguished entomologist of Massachusetts, is just publishing in connection with a memoir of the latter. We subjoin an extract from one of his letters to his very obliging correspondent, Dr. Vallot, Professor of Natural History and one of the Secretaries of the Academy of Sciences at Dijon, France. It shows in some measure the nature of his correspondence with those interested in this subject, as having to do mainly with questions concerning books, and it also indicates his own method of observation. The new edifice referred to is evidently the Divinity College.

"I feel very sensible of your kindness in entertaining so favorable an opinion of the value of my labors, and so readily extending me a helping hand in my difficulties. The very particular and minute manner in which you have made your references, is of great advantage to me, and is altogether satisfactory.

"My investigations into the economy of the Hessian fly have, I am sorry to inform you, been seriously delayed by an unavoidable occurrence. That part of the garden, attached to my residence, in which I had for two years planted several parcels of wheat, for the purpose of frequent and more practicable study, and in

which there were at the time, in addition to two patches of common wheat, three rows of wheat from Mahon, and also rye, lay directly in the site of an intended public edifice. Early in February last, while the earth was still hard frozen, large quantities of building material were deposited in this garden, and completely destroyed all my little plantation, and deprived me during the succeeding spring and summer of the means of investigation; for there are no fields of wheat in the environs of this city to which I could resort. Last autumn, however, I planted anew, and hope in the spring to resume my labors.

"Since my last, I am not aware that anything in the entomological way has been published in this country. Alas! that I should be obliged to tell so lean a story. You are doubtless aware that our chief entomologist, Thomas Say, has departed. He has been dead more than a year, and has indeed left a wide gap. He has published more than all other American entomologists together. The results of his labors are principally given in the Journal of the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia, a society which has done much for the advancement of American natural history, and which possesses by far the most extensive library on this subject in the United States.

"During the year past several important works have come into my hands. Wiedemann's *Ausereuropäische zweiflügelige Insekten* I find less satisfactory than I expected, because he gives no generic characters. For these he refers the student to Meigen. Of the latter work I have seen the first five volumes. The sixth volume I am anxious to see, because it probably contains much supplementary matter. Meigen appears to be an admirable work.

"Macquart's late book on the Diptera, (2 vols. 8vo. Paris: 1834 and 1835), does not fulfill my expectations. I find nothing new of much importance among the Tipulariæ Gallicolæ.

"I have been so fortunate as to procure the first, second, third, fourth and sixth volumes of Degeer's immortal work—*Mémoires des Insectes*, in 4to. I am delighted with the full and clear manner in which he describes, and feel grateful to him for his numerous illustrations. His sixth volume contains some insects very nearly allied to the Hessian fly, and his memoirs on these will be very serviceable."

Mr. Herrick's personal observation of the insects which he had taken in hand, was conducted with the greatest care and patience, and repeatedly verified anew, year after year. Indeed, as an investigator, on whatever subject, he was worthy to be studied as a model; for with an eye trained to the most exact accuracy, and a mind in full sympathy with it, not satisfied in the least, so long as any element that might affect the result remained unaccounted for, he had a patience of labor which left him entirely free to keep in mind the single object of his search. Labor was a pleasure rather than a weariness to him so long as it promised any good results. It was the element in which he lived.

It is not to be wondered at, then, that the results of his investigations in the small field of entomological science which he cultivated, formed a contribution to that science of permanent value. He never gave to the public the extended memoir on the subject which he had promised; but the *Brief Preliminary Account*, as he entitled it, in the forty-first volume of the *Journal of Science*, contained the most important conclusions of his mind concerning the Hessian fly itself, its history, and its parasites. More than twenty years have since elapsed; but, although the questions connected with this important subject have been much discussed, he still remains a leading authority on almost all the points involved.*

Before leaving the entomological labors of Mr. Herrick, we wish to refer again to his investigation of the question of fact, already spoken of in the letter to Mr. Spence, whether the Hessian fly was to be found in Europe. Our readers will remember that it is there stated that naturalists in Europe itself denied its existence there, and that the same opinion was held in America. On this point Mr. Herrick not only consulted Mr. Spence, but also Dr. Hammerschmidt of Vienna, and Professor Vallot, and doubtless others. The answer of Professor Vallot was so full of evidence derived from European authorities favoring the opinion of Sir Joseph Banks, that Mr. Herrick was almost ready to consider the question settled, and he replies to him as follows in April, 1834 :

“ Although I have hitherto been disposed to think the Hessian fly not indigenous to this country, yet, after reading your opinion, and after considering the improbability that the insect would escape the observation of the European savans, if it did indeed exist there, I feel almost compelled to abandon the supposition. It is, however, very surprising if it is a native of this country, that it should not have been noticed before 1776. Another consideration ought to be mentioned, viz, neither wheat nor rye (to which plant the Hessian fly principally confines its attacks) is indigenous here. On what vegetable, then, did this insect support itself, before these were introduced? I am now experimenting with various native grasses, in order to learn whether the Hessian fly will deposit its eggs on any of them.”

* *Vid.* A Treatise on some of the Insects injurious to Vegetation, &c., &c. By Thaddeus Wm. Harris, M. D.; especially the last edition. Boston: 1862. pp. 568-687.

But while he was thus ready to give weight to the opinions of others, he was continuing his own independent observations. He had some time before this awakened the interest of Professor Dana, then a student in college, in these inquiries, and the departure of that gentleman to the Mediterranean, in the autumn of 1833, as Professor of Mathematics on a United States frigate, afforded the best of opportunities for an actual examination of European wheat fields. Professor Dana was not only well fitted for this search by the knowledge he had already gained of the habits and appearance of the insect, but he also took with him its likeness, which had been very carefully delineated by Mr. Herrick, as a help to the identification. The result of the search, which was made in the spring of 1834, was that the existence of the Hessian fly in Europe was established beyond a question, for it was found in abundance at Mahon, and on the main land in the south of France, and in Italy. Satisfactory evidence was also found to prove that the insect was no new comer there, but had been known from time immemorial.

It was doubtless a gratifying result of their labors to these young naturalists, one of whom had just left the student's bench in college, and the other was scarcely past the average age of a college senior, to have discovered so interesting a fact respecting an insect more important to the world for its injuries than the bee for its benefits. It is not surprising that the card which carried to the Hessian fly of Europe the picture of his American cousins, was never thrown into the fire.

The passage in the *Journal of Science*, in which, after some years, this discovery was narrated, is worthy to be reproduced here. Mr. Herrick had been the leader in all these laborious investigations, and, as we have the best authority for saying, had instigated his friend, Mr. Dana, to a participation in them; and the latter felt, although he was himself deeply interested in the subject, that he was rather executing his friend's commission, than laboring for himself, when he was exploring the wheat fields of Europe. But with what modesty and generosity does Mr. Herrick throw himself into the background in this published statement. At the time of the publi-

cation, Professor Dana was absent in the South Seas with the United States Exploring Expedition under Captain Wilkes. We quote the passage in question from the forty-first volume of the Journal of Science, 154th page :

“In 1833, Mr. Dana sailed for the Mediterranean in the U. S. ship Delaware. An opportunity was thus afforded him to make personal exploration for the Hessian fly among the wheat fields of the old world; a work for which he was well prepared by his thorough acquaintance with this insect in its various stages. His examinations were rewarded with the most gratifying success, for they proved that *the Hessian fly is an inhabitant of Europe*. On the 13th of March, 1834, and subsequently, he collected several larvæ and pupæ, from wheat plants growing in a field on the island of Minorca. From these pupæ were evolved on the 16th of March, 1834, two individuals of an insect which his recollections (aided by a drawing of the Hessian fly with which he was provided) enabled him to pronounce to be the *Cecidomyia Destructor*. More of the perfect insects were evolved in the course of the month, one of which deposited eggs like those of the Hessian fly. In letters dated Mahon, April 8 and 21, 1834, Mr. D. sent me five of the insects, and several of the pupæ. They arrived in safety, and after a careful examination I saw no good reason to doubt the identity of this insect with the Hessian fly. The Mahonese asserted that the insect had been there from time immemorial, and often did great damage both there and in Spain. On the 28th of April, 1834, Mr. D. collected from a wheat field just without the walls of the city of *Toulon* in France, several pupæ and one larva like those before obtained. On the 4th of June, 1834, he obtained similar pupæ from a wheat field near *Naples*.”

But Mr. Herrick's leisure time during these bookselling years had not all been devoted to entomological subjects. He was equally zealous in his study of celestial phenomena.

The remarkable shower of meteors, which fell on the 13th of November, 1833, attracted, as many of our readers well remember, great attention throughout the civilized world. In New Haven, especially, it was made the subject of earnest inquiry by scientific men, and important results were obtained. Mr. Herrick, with his inquisitive and quick intelligence, could hardly have kept himself aloof from what was going on, even if he had desired to do so. Accordingly the eye which was turned on insects in the day time, at night swept the heavens, and, from that day to this, there has been no other observer in New Haven who could be called his equal in constancy, at least;—not to say in accuracy and good judgment. He gave himself also to laborious research, putting under contribution every work, scientific or historical, which could yield any facts connected

with these phenomena; he corresponded with men in all parts of the world, some of whom he consulted as men of science, while others he wished to engage in observation of the meteors, while his very carefully kept records and reports, all involving an amazing industry, could not but promise valuable results. Nor did the promise fail. He may be said to have been an efficient promoter of meteorological and astronomical science as long as he lived.

In the October number of the Journal of Science, for the year 1837, he announced the theory of the periodical occurrence of an unusually large number of shooting stars on or about the ninth of August. In the next number of the Journal, in an Article dated November 29th, 1837, he proceeds to substantiate his theory by giving accounts of eleven different meteoric showers, all of which, according to the records which his laborious research had discovered, had occurred on or about the ninth of August, in various years. This theory, thus announced and proved, (and it has been since substantiated,) promised permanently to connect Mr. Herrick's name in the annals of science with the periodic meteors of August. But unfortunately, for this result at least, Mr. Herrick had to report on the last pages of the same number of the Journal of Science to which we have just referred, that one of the astronomers of Europe had anticipated him in his theory. M. Quetelet, director of the Observatory at Brussels, had suggested it at a recent sitting of the Royal Academy of Brussels. The periodical (*L'Institut*, Paris, No. 218, Aout, 1837) which contained this scientific information, was received in New Haven just twelve days after the date of Mr. Herrick's *second* Article. But although he was anticipated, his absolute merit in the premises must yet seem to us to be no less than that of the Belgian astronomer himself.

Honor, however, did not seem a prominent object of pursuit with Mr. Herrick, though like all generous souls he must have derived pleasure from having his name connected with the achievement of worthy ends. His most ardent aspiration seemed to be to contribute something to the advancement of science. This desire of his youth, expressed only incidentally

and in the intimacy of friendship, exerted a controlling influence over him, throughout his life, prompting him to engage in a variety of scientific labors. Combined with this noble desire, and nearly akin to both in its spirit and its influence on him, was a generous rule of his life, which, when we observe how universally he applied it, is well adapted to awaken our admiration of the man. The rule to which we refer was this: That he would leave everything which he took in hand better than he found it. In view of these things, he certainly had no reason to feel that the labor devoted by him to the shooting stars was to be regretted because M. Quetelet had secured the honor to which we have referred.

No one was more ready to acknowledge the value of Mr. Herrick's scientific labors than this veteran astronomer. As was natural, after the announcements of 1837 and 1838, a correspondence was soon opened between the two, which, so far as we can discover, was commenced by M. Quetelet himself. It was continued for more than twenty years, until the death of Mr. Herrick brought it to an end. Throughout this long period these letters were the vehicle of scientific information, and that which was communicated by Mr. Herrick made its way through scientific journals to the European public. The last letter from M. Quetelet was written Nov. 9th, 1861, and is endorsed "answered." It contains an estimate, not hastily formed, of the value of some of Mr. Herrick's labors, which we quote:

"I have just finished a large work in quarto, of which I shall certainly send you a copy. It is a treatise, or rather an essay, on the *Physics of the Globe*. Of course shooting stars are included in it. I have been careful to mention the generous aid which your kind communications upon the shooting stars have for a long time given me. The American observations I consider of the very greatest value, and especially those made with your care and exactness. You were one of the first to remark the difference in the number of these phenomena in your climate and in ours; also the difference in the different hours of the night. . . .

"I can but thank you again for the assistance you have been pleased to give me. The additions you have made to science will always be among the most important and the most useful for the conclusions which can be derived from them. . . .

"Accept, I pray you, the renewed assurances of my most distinguished and most affectionate regards.

"QUETELET."

This testimony, which would doubtless be confirmed by many other persons well qualified to give an opinion, assures us that Mr. Herrick accomplished the object of his labors,—he contributed something to science.

The additions which Mr. Herrick made to meteoric history, if we may use the expression, were valuable, and they cost him an amount of labor which would have appalled most men. No volume, no matter what the language in which it was printed, was permitted to escape a most thorough search, if there was any reason to suspect that it could yield any record of a shower of meteors. The results were given to the public through the American Journal of Science. We would refer our readers particularly to the 40th volume, pages 349–365.

The Aurora Borealis early attracted Mr. Herrick's attention. In a modest but interesting letter addressed to Arago, in November, 1837, he says: "In the Aurora Borealis I have long felt much interest, and have made careful observations of the phenomena since March 1, 1837. From that time to the present I have made record every evening definitely whether or not the Aurora occurs, together with the particulars of the weather, as whether overcast or not, and also whether the moon is present." This minute and careful record, which involved of course the necessity of making the observations which were recorded, he kept for seventeen years, to the 30th of June, 1854, with the exception of a part of the year in which he was disabled by serious illness. It will remain a monument, not only of his laborious devotion to science, but also of the finish and beauty of his workmanship. Verily, *nihil tetigit, quod non ornavit*.

This subject of the Aurora, as well as that of the Zodiacal Light, was the burden of an active correspondence with men of science who lived remote from New Haven and from each other. For he hoped that simultaneous observations of these phenomena from distant points might lead to the discovery of new facts in science or new laws. His skill in enlisting others in scientific labors was one of his most important means of promoting science. He knew how to aid and encourage the young, and he knew how, without offense, to give direction and stim

ulus, in some degree, at least, to the labors of more advanced scholars.

And it may be remarked here, that what he did in this way seemed to be singularly free from selfishness, and it was marked with great delicacy. He did not desire to make the labors of others subsidiary to his own fame, nor would he appropriate the credit of their achievements, as if he had given direction to their life. He was content with the main result,—the advancement of science. We will only delay our readers here to illustrate the influence which he thus exerted upon others by one honorable example. The testimony comes from his friend of thirty years, Professor J. D. Dana; and it is the more valuable because it was contained in a private letter written more than ten years ago. Mr. Herrick was at the time suffering from the dangerous and almost hopeless illness, to which we have already made a single allusion, and Professor Dana referring to the apprehended result, says :

“His loss would be a most grievous calamity. There has been a very general anxiety throughout the whole community, every one inquiring with deep feeling for any signs of change. There is no person living whose example and advice have had more influence upon my scientific character than Herrick's. From him I learnt how to investigate; his thorough method of research, and his accuracy, were the models I studied. And my hand-writing is a mark of his influence which I shall carry with me to the grave.”

The whole subject of astronomy came more or less within the scope of Mr. Herrick's studies, but more especially that portion which has to do with the solar system. He spent much time in searching the heavens for comets, having procured an excellent instrument of his own for that purpose. In 1847, in company with Mr. Francis Bradley, he engaged in a systematic search for a planet or planets between Mercury and the Sun. This search was continued for a considerable part of the year with several daily observations, and that, notwithstanding the fact that Leverrier's tables seemed to imply that the perturbations of Mercury were all accounted for. But Mr. Herrick was earnest in the belief that one or more planets were in existence in the near vicinity of the sun; and when, twelve years later, in 1859, Leverrier introduced to the French Acade-

my the subject of Mercury's perturbations, and called on observers to watch the sun's disc for the transit of the suspected planet, he was quite in sympathy with the enterprise, and renewed his labors, although his previous search had been unsuccessful. The honor of the discovery, however, had already been appropriated by a poor country physician in France, Dr. Lescarbault, who practiced his profession for a living, but who, having entertained the belief that such a planet might be discovered, had supplied himself with such instruments as his means allowed, and searched till he found it.

Mr. Herrick kept himself acquainted with the progress of astronomical science, nor did he refuse to devote considerable labor of his own to the fixed stars as well as to the planets. It was, moreover, his regular task to furnish for the successive numbers of the *Journal of Science* the Articles on astronomy, which served as a general bulletin to its readers for that branch of knowledge.

Before leaving these scientific labors of Mr. Herrick, we will only say that Mr. Herrick for many years rendered important service to the valuable journal to which we have so many times referred. We speak not now of the very numerous contributions to its pages from his pen, which could not well have been spared, but of his assistance in preparing it for the press. His great skill and accuracy as a proof-reader were at a very early period made available, and it was not long before it was found that his judgment on the subjects usually discussed in the *Journal*, and his general and practical knowledge of what was suitable in its management, made him a very valuable aid and counselor; so that as long ago as 1838 he was substantially the editor of an occasional number, during the absence of the senior editor from New Haven. During all the interval from that day to this it may be said to have leaned somewhat on him; for during twenty years it has been the custom to submit every form of every number to his inspection before it was finally printed.

We were proposing to follow in general the order of Mr. Herrick's life, but the connection of the subjects under consid-

eration has led us past some events of importance. Still, all that we have narrated had its roots in those years of his clerkship,—the branches extended down into the latest period of his life. In the year 1835, he, rather against his own inclination, became, as we have said, a bookseller on his own account. He was induced to take the step, not by the hope of gain, but by the spirit of kindness to others. At the end of three years he withdrew from the business with a heavy pecuniary burden upon him, and this burden was for a long time an oppressive weight. Still, there was but one way in which he sought, or would consent, to be relieved. Bankrupt laws and other contrivances, by which men diminish their debts without paying them, were not made for such as he. It would unquestionably have been a greater burden to his spirit to fail of finally meeting all his pecuniary obligations to the last farthing, than to have those obligations doubled. To the canceling of these obligations he devoted himself for several years from the year 1838, to the exclusion of other objects to which he was panting to devote himself. They compelled him to let slip what he considered golden opportunities. The following extracts from letters written at this time to a friend and frequent correspondent, present a touching picture of the man when he was moved by the noblest aspirations and yet almost sunk in despair.

“Nothing would have suited me better than devotion to scientific subjects. Next to doing good to our fellow men, the pursuit of science gives the greatest satisfaction. For the last two years my time has been excessively occupied, and much of it unpleasantly. As a relief to my mind, and to satisfy my conscience, I have endeavored to do something which might advance science. Although nominally out of business, yet much, very much, remains to be done before I am practically free. I must stay in town during the summer, in order to finish the last ends of our business, and in that time I hope to be able to bring to a conclusion my labors on the Hessian fly.

“What I may hereafter do I leave partly to the circumstances which may turn up. If I can do it, I mean to employ myself chiefly in scientific labors.”

About six weeks later he writes again to the same friend, as follows :—

“I fear that I shall be compelled to waste the whole summer in endeavoring to settle my affairs. Perhaps I may be compelled, moreover, to abandon all scien-

tific pursuits. The prospect afflicts me deeply; and I hope, but yet faintly, that such a necessity may not come upon me. The 'golden moment of opportunity,' which, when once suffered to pass, rarely comes again, seems to have gone by for me. For the last three years my leisure time has been so scanty and so much broken, that although I have begun many things, (important, as it seems to me), yet it has been out of my power to bring scarcely any of them to a satisfactory issue. Utterly and forever to relinquish these, is a thought too distressing to endure."

It will surprise most of those who knew Mr. Herrick well, to learn that he ever wrote so much respecting himself. It certainly was an unusual thing for him, and he even concludes the second letter by saying, "I have said much more about myself than I intended," adding, "for the distress weighs upon me." Moreover, each extract is at the close of a long letter full of scientific information and discussion.

Not far from this time he received several invitations to connect himself with literary institutions, which he declined. But the necessity which prevented his accepting the offer of a place in the scientific corps of the United States Exploring Expedition, under Capt. Wilkes, caused him the greatest regret. He had hoped to go, but "most reluctantly," as he says in a letter to the same friend who is addressed in the preceding extracts, "I was compelled to decline. I shall ever regret it." It is probable that filial affection united with pecuniary obligations to prevent his departure from the country for so long an absence as his acceptance of this invitation would have involved. But either cause would have been sufficient with him. Justice is more than science, and so is filial duty.

When, after an interval of five years, he was called to fill an office in Yale College, there was fortunately nothing in his relations to others to forbid his acceptance of it. His appointment marked a new era in the history of the college in one very important department. Certain friends of the institution had united in a generous effort to give the library something of the prominence which it deserved. By their contributions mainly, a costly edifice had been erected in a central position on the college grounds, and when a librarian was sought for, it is not strange that Mr. Herrick should have seemed to have been trained by Providence expressly for the post. Under his su-

perintendence the library was transferred from its old hiding-place to the new hall, and to it was added the large purchase of books made by Professor Kingsley in England and on the continent of Europe. Thus with a new procurator came at the same time a great improvement and a great enlargement of the province. The library took its place in the college as an important centre of its intellectual life.

Mr. Herrick devoted himself to his new duties with his wonted faithfulness and industry. His task was to do all that in him lay, not only to make the library, in its existing condition, serviceable to knowledge and education, but also to provide broadly for its increasing value and usefulness. His task was a large one, but he gave himself to it. He made himself familiar with what was already in his hands, and thus became surprisingly useful to those who did not know how to avail themselves of the advantages offered them. Not only undergraduates, but scholars of maturer years, often found that he could tell them better than they themselves knew, what books they needed for the investigations they were engaged in. And he met the inquiries of those who would use the library, not with official curtness, but with a truly obliging temper, as if every such inquiry gave the library an opportunity to fulfill its end.

His readiness to give his time to those who consulted it, and the desire which he manifested, not so much to deliver the book which was called for, as the book or books which were really needed, often showed what he conceived in his generous mind to be his official duty. He also looked well to the future, forming for himself an idea of what a university library should be, and acquainting himself, so far as he might, with the world of books from which it must in small successive installments be drawn. He also studied long and carefully the difficult problem of a catalogue for a growing library. He constantly felt the responsibility which rested upon him in the care of so large and valuable a collection of books, ever using the greatest vigilance and caution.

It may also be here mentioned, that he contrived a plan for a library building which we hope may yet be realized in some

quarter. It provides for convenience of arrangement, economy of space, complete supervision, ventilation, and expansibility, and permits the full effect on the eye and the mind which ought to be produced by the presence of a large library. And while all these interior advantages are secured, it at the same time allows in the construction all the architectural display of the Pantheon at Rome, which it somewhat resembles.

Mr. Herrick had been only nine years in the service of the college as Librarian when the Treasurer's impaired health led him to offer the aid of his facile hand in that office also; and when, in 1852, the Treasurer found himself too ill to retain his place, no one else seemed so well qualified to be his successor as Mr. Herrick. The Corporation, therefore, made him the new incumbent, without, however, withdrawing from him the care of the library. He served in this double capacity for six years, aided in the library during the last two by the gentleman who succeeded him there in 1858.

It was not without reluctance that he exchanged the care of books of science and literature for account books, but he yielded his preferences to the judgment of others and his own sense of duty. He carried to his new post the same thorough fidelity in becoming acquainted with everything which pertained to this department, as well as in the performance of every duty. Here, too, the question with him was, not what was required of him by others or by precedent, but what would be useful to the institution, either now or at any future time. All that could be included in such a broad and generous view of duty he performed with a free readiness, which showed that it was the work of his choice. Nor did he lay any plans for ease or relaxation. His nature rejoiced in activity, and the only condition he required seemed to be this—that his activities should be directed to worthy objects. The same obliging courtesy also marked his demeanor, so that it was almost as agreeable to part with money at his desk now, as it had before been to receive literary treasures from him in the library.

Mr. Herrick evinced very great fidelity to the various pecuniary trusts which the college had in the long course of its history received, and he devoted much time to a thorough review

of them, not only that he might understand each case for himself as Treasurer, but also that he might make it sure that no unapplied balances should fall into the general funds of the college through neglect and lapse of time.

One of the duties which fell to Mr. Herrick was the editing of the Triennial Catalogue of the college. He was well qualified for this, by his habits of great accuracy in deciding upon questions of fact, and by his legible penmanship, which, in such a work, is so necessary for the printer, as well as by his previous familiarity with the work. For he had long been a helper of Professor Kingsley, having prepared, in the year 1838, the complete Index of Names, which appeared in the catalogue that year for the first time. When the chief responsibility for this work was devolved upon him, he applied to it the same rule—of touching nothing without improving it—to which we have already referred. He subjected everything connected with this academic record to the test of such examinations as few men have the patience and judgment to make. He was especially severe in his search into the history of the early graduates, and the result was that, on evidence which will hardly be set aside, he made important changes. For instance, the class of 1702, which, in the edition published in 1847, is honored with six names, is permitted, in the last edition which he prepared, to retain only the name of *Nathanael Chauncey*.

The inquiries which he was thus led to institute, as well as his own interest in the subject, brought him to a minute and comprehensive acquaintance with the history of the college. It is not yet known to what extent he recorded the results of his researches, but if the record is complete it will be invaluable to the future historian of the institution. He collected a great number of brief memoirs of graduates of the college, and entered them as a beginning of a work which he planned for final completeness. But it is to be feared that these durable folios, in which the memoirs from his pen are scattered along, according to the classes to which their subjects belonged, will wait long before an equally accurate and industrious and ready hand undertakes to contribute as much to fill up the gaps. Many of the notices referred to were probably obtained from the lips of

Professor Kingsley, whose exact memory was full of interesting incident connected with the names of the graduates. Others of them, as well as those contained in the obituary record annually presented to the meeting of the graduates, were gathered by laborious correspondence. Of this his large files of letters are a valuable evidence. This annual contribution of his cost him not only time and labor, but also great solicitude, for it was prepared chiefly when his other duties were most pressing; and as he was extremely reluctant to forgive himself for an error in a matter of fact, he was distressed by the want of sufficient opportunity for investigation.

In enumerating the duties of Mr. Herrick as Treasurer, it should not be omitted that he had the general superintendence of all the property of the college, not only its vested funds, but also its lands and buildings, whether used for academic purposes or not, and also the care of the college grounds, and of the repairs. He had also to look to the pecuniary rights of the college, which, in some cases, involved great responsibility. But in them all, as for instance in the case of the Ellsworth legacy, he exhibited both prudence and ability, being governed invariably by the spirit of faithfulness to his office and justice to all men.

We have spoken of Mr. Herrick's official duties and labors. These always commanded his first attention. Next to these, were his intellectual employments, running along with his duties, but never crowding them, though commanding his unabated zeal, even to the end of life. And third, woven like a thread of gold into every part of the warp and woof of his life, were the ten thousand little activities by which he served his generation day by day. It would be impossible to describe to our readers the variety, even, much less to tell the number, of his voluntary labors for others. The only limit to them was his ability; for the law which he laid down for himself was, to do good as he had opportunity. He did not vaunt this broad precept as the rule of his life, but yet it did not remain undiscovered among his friends that it was a precept to which he consciously gave heed.

We refer to these things here because many of them stand

connected with his official relation to the college. Thus his position as Librarian exposed him to very frequent calls for information, which involved long-continued research and labor. We do not refer here to the inquiries of visitors, such as we have spoken of before, but rather to written inquiries, brought by the mails, which left to him the whole labor of investigation and the labor of a written reply. How many persons, finding such interruptions a serious tax upon their time, would soon have adopted a course to diminish them, on the ground that the world at large had no claim on them for such gratuities? But such seemed never to be the spirit of Mr. Herrick. He did what he could, however great the demand, and usually did it with such minute accuracy and detail that the inquirer could but regret the trouble he had occasioned him. But there was in such cases no upbraiding in his mind. He was largely generous of his intellectual stores; willing, apparently, to lavish all he had upon any one who had a good object in hand, if he wished his aid, being abundantly satisfied with being really serviceable. He never gave a stone when he was asked bread. He would not turn off a letter with a seeming answer, that he might save himself the trouble of looking up what was valuable; nor did he content himself with showing the inquirer how he might find the information for himself, but sent it in full if it was in his power. And often, where his sense of propriety permitted it, he added unasked information and new suggestions and cautions, which evinced the utmost friendliness.

While speaking of this branch of Mr. Herrick's correspondence we cannot forbear to quote a few lines from a letter written by the Rev. Dr. Sprague of Albany, New York,—whose distinguished labors in the field of American biography give his words an especial value. Dr. Sprague, it is true, corresponded with Mr. Herrick as a friend and acquaintance, and was, moreover, making large contributions to the history of the graduates of the college, but we think that what he says of Mr. Herrick's communications to him may be said of his correspondence on similar subjects with strangers.

“He seemed to know everything that I ever had occasion to consult him about; or at any rate he knew it, and made me know it, before he had done with me. My inquiries generally, perhaps always, had respect to matters historical or biographical; and the answers which I ultimately received from him, I always regarded as coming with a sort of oracular authority. I do not remember ever to have detected him in the semblance of a mistake. And then he was so free and generous in imparting from his almost boundless treasures. Whenever I proposed an inquiry to him, I was sure to have the answer almost as soon as the mail could get to New Haven and return to Albany; and he had a graceful facility at relieving one from an oppressive sense of obligation, even when he was conferring a very great favor.”

Many others, doubtless, would endorse this honorable testimony.

Mr. Herrick's removal to the treasurer's office did not diminish his labor of this sort, but, on the other hand, it greatly increased the demands made upon his time by enlarging the range of subjects on which he was consulted. But in meeting all these demands he acted consistently with his own elevated principles and impulses. He was satisfied to serve a good cause,—the more noble the better,—whether it was science or literature, or the welfare of the state or race. But no cause was so humble that he despised it, or felt that it was condescension in him to aid it.

Thus there was nothing connected with the welfare of the college which did not interest him, and we doubt whether there was ever a precedent for his breadth and thoroughness of care in this academic world. He seemed to look upon himself as a kind of supplement to the other officers, to do, so far as he might with propriety do it, whatever they omitted. Still, he was not in the remotest degree officious or obtrusive in all this. He awoke no feeling of jealousy, but on the contrary a true gratitude that such a man had been given to the institution. His eye was on the college more than that of any other person. He spent his days there, often beginning before the dawn, and almost invariably an hour or more before the first morning bell; and he kept vigils over it in the still night, while from the tops of the towers he waited for the phenomena of the heavens. He, alone of all, spent his vacations at his post. He thus became familiar with the whole establishment and identified with it. The trees and the grounds and the

buildings and the fences and the faithful clock,—all knew him familiarly, and recognized the touch that kept them to their best estate. Who but he planted a creeper by the wall, or dropped a seed in the grass to call up the beauty of the morning-glory for his early greeting?

But his devotion to the interests of the college, which seemed to be so absorbing and active that one would have thought that no time was left for other occupations, was not a mere sentiment. He looked upon the institution as one of the great instruments for the best human advancement, as a promoter of science and all learning, and of the highest mental and moral culture; and, taking this view of it, he felt that the most trifling service to the college was a service to a noble cause. But he did not labor from a mere sense of duty. He was warmed by generous impulses. He was cordial as a fellow-worker, and evinced a genuine but unostentatious kindness towards all. Indeed, his very courtesy came near to consuming as much time as his regular duties, and would have done so but for those early hours in which he anticipated all interruptions and performed well nigh a day's labor while others slept. But when the day was fairly commenced, and the college world and the outside world were astir, then he was accessible to visitors, and all were received with the same politeness. It made no difference whether it was a poor woman asking his help in obtaining employment at washing clothes, or a philosopher submitting to his perusal and judgment a new theory of the zodiacal light; indeed, he would have been more likely to interrupt the latter, that he might hear and give a kind suggestion to the former, than the reverse, for the petition of the poor woman might not come again, but science was permanent.

His daily life, as he sat at his post in the Treasurer's office, would be worthy of a faithful record, if such a record were not impossible. He was always busy and appeared to be so. But it was a rare occurrence that he failed to give to those who entered some look or word of welcome, even though he did not raise his eyes from his busy pen. If it was a call of business he was most prompt in despatching it, yet even this he did

in such a manner that the visitor went away with a kindly impression of the man. But the calls which made the chief demands upon his time were generally unconnected with the business of the Treasury. He was interested, and was known to be interested, in every thing that pertained to the college, whether intellectual or material, and he was up to date, so to speak, in all the academic progress. This fact, and the knowledge of his intelligence of what the learned world was doing in all its various activities, and his hearty readiness to serve every one, brought very many there, who came neither to pay nor receive money. At one time you would say that he was the factotum of the institution, bargaining for wood and coal, directing the sweepers in the purchase of brooms and soap, ordering the laborers in the care of the paths and the grounds, directing strangers to the various objects of interest; at another you would judge him to be a private broker, sitting to give counsel to modest people who ventured to consult him confidentially on investing some little surplus of money which their daily wants had not consumed; again he would seem to you the victim of the printer, whose frequent calls asked not so much for "copy" as for "proofs;" more frequently you would be surprised at the wide variety of literary and scientific discussion which you would hear, and would almost fancy him a philosopher of the Porch, arguing with all comers, while he was serious, or humorous and inclined to banter, disposed to laugh at the fallacy of human opinions and the unreliableness of historical statements, or earnest in the contemplation of some new view of truth, according as the persons with whom he conversed, or the subject of conversation, or his own mood, varied. But his mind was always wakeful. There was no spot in the whole university where there was a more free play of intellectual life; nor was there any place where a jaded mind could be more effectually or more pleasantly whetted to new keenness and activity. It is not strange that it was an attractive place, not only to the graduates connected with the college, but to those also who came on temporary visits to their *alma mater*. A quick recognition and a hearty greeting with some racy and suggestive thought were almost sure to await them.

We will not detain our readers to describe the many offices of kindness he was called on to perform at this place of daily duty—how he was consulted on questions of business, and how he in such cases exercised his best judgment in advising, and then doubled the favor by drawing up the necessary papers with the most reliable exactness,—how he undertook the care of property for those who preferred his wisdom to their own in such things, and not only made the investments, but collected and paid over the income, and did many other things of the same kind,—and how he invariably refused compensation for such services,—nay, how he made good, in repeated instances, the income which failed without any fault of his own, all the while concealing his generosity from its recipients. If in the financial changes in the country some of the advice he gave proved unfortunate, there was probably never a person among those who had asked it, whose faith in his disinterested integrity was in the least diminished thereby. These, and a thousand other things of a homely sort, made a part of his daily life. And they were done with a cheerful alacrity,—for he did good as he had opportunity.

Mr. Herrick was a college officer nineteen years. But as we have said, his interest in natural history and celestial phenomena was not dulled by the nature or multitude of his official duties. He was also literary as well as scientific. One wondered where he found time to read so many books,—not a few of them, too, quite out of the ordinary course of reading with literary men. There has probably not been another man connected with the college for the last ten years who could have told so much about quaint and queer literary productions as he. The old English prose authors of established reputation were especially his choice for standard literature; but he also enjoyed and was a diligent reader of poetry, and had no little store at his tongue's end. He kept up his interest in classical studies. Scarcely any one was more ready with an apt Latin quotation than he. With one Greek volume, at least, there is reason to think that he enjoyed a daily familiarity.

He was also much interested in the elements of literature—the study of words. There were few sharper critics of English dictionaries; and he would have been, and was indeed, a valu-

able helper in the preparation of the great work of Dr. Webster. His interest in this important branch of literary labor was first awakened by the familiar acquaintance he obtained with the works of Dr. Webster, on which he spent no little time as proof-reader, when he was from sixteen to twenty years old. This interest never abated, but it led his active and judicious mind to very just conceptions of what such a work should be in its etymologies and definitions and in its whole plan and scope; and if, in the edition now in progress, great and valuable changes shall be discovered, we think it will not be denied that they are, to a considerable extent, due to his suggestions.

As it was implied in our quotation from the letter of Rev. Dr. Sprague, he was interested in various branches of American history and biography. But he was especially familiar with the history of his native state and native town, and was worthy, as we think, to bear, as he did for a number of years, the office of a vice-president in the Connecticut Historical Society. The following estimate of Mr. Herrick as a student of New England History, extracted from a letter kindly addressed to us by Dr. John G. Palfrey, the eminent author of the History of New England, of which two volumes have been given to the public, will interest our readers. Nor will they regret to find associated with Mr. Herrick, in the mind of Dr. Palfrey, the name of the veteran scholar to whom we have repeatedly referred in this Article. The beauty of his tribute to Professor Kingsley's memory is only equaled by its truth. Dr. Palfrey says:

"When I undertook the preparation of a History of New England, one of my first movements was to obtain the aid of gentlemen eminently versed in the history of different sections of that community. My advances were met in the most liberal spirit.

"Mr. Herrick did me the great favor to read in the proof-sheets all the chapters of my work which have yet seen the light, and to correct and instruct me by copious suggestions, equally learned and judicious. I miss him very much as my studies proceed. He not only helped me by his intimate knowledge of details, but his grasp of the whole subject was that of a master mind. He penetrated with a shrewd sagacity into the spirit of the institutions and actors of the primitive age. He judged without bigotry and without indifference. The fulness of his knowledge, united with his aptness for patient and comprehensive thought, enabled him to apply what to superficial readers would have been only isolated

and insignificant facts to the clearing of the great historical problems. He was one of those from whom your excellent state had a right to claim a history better than can possibly be written by any alien, however diligent and well disposed.

"On those who had communication with his mind, its absolute integrity made at once an ineffaceable impression. Not less was I impressed, from first to last, with the singular modesty which set off his uncommon endowments.

.....
 "Along with Mr. Herrick, the image rises in my mind of Professor Kingsley, a man unsurpassed in that department of knowledge which he cultivated to old age with the appetite of youth, yet seeming utterly unconscious of his grand superiority, incapable of any selfish thought of rivalry, learning for the pleasure and dignity of knowing, and for the profit of imparting, gentle, artless and frank as a child, with no ambition but that most respectable ambition to be useful in his place."

Mr. Herrick possessed a great store of definite knowledge respecting the history and antiquities of New Haven and the local traditions which bring down to us the story of interesting persons and events and localities, so that a stranger desiring to make minute inquiries into any of these things, would have been generally referred to him as the one most likely to be able to give the information sought for.

Nor was his interest in New Haven confined to the past. He was a public-spirited citizen, often called on and always ready to do his full share of public duties. Some of these duties he performed with especial love. The place where our dead are buried was a sacred and a cherished spot to him,—and it was a pleasant care—such a care to him as most of even the public-spirited would have found too great a burden, however lively their interest. But the keeping of the books and maps of the cemetery, the drawing of deeds when lots were sold, the laying of boundaries, the superintendence of laborers, the maintenance of propriety,—a task never approaching its end, except as he who performed it was drawing near to the time of his own lying-down under the pleasant shadows,—all was to him a work of cheerful love. How many a one also has blessed him in secret for the delicate care, often long-concealed, which removed from about the new grave all things out of harmony with tender grief, or cast upon it some token of thoughtful sympathy.

The character of Mr. Herrick appeared in his outward life,

and we might leave it even to this imperfect record of what he did, to answer the more important question of what he was. But his outward life did not entirely reveal him. There are those who never wholly unveil themselves to the world by their visible acts, but whose souls are nevertheless adorned with a spiritual beauty, the mild lustre of which far outshines the mere fame of beneficence. Indeed, some of those refined graces whose delicate lines perfect the likeness of the soul to heavenly models, would be in danger of being marred by exposure to the public eye. Mr. Herrick lived, it is true, in full sight of the world, but yet he held his soul in reserve, so that his inmost character was not easily known. All outward signs, however, indicated a rare elevation of the nature within.

No one could doubt, for example, that he was scrupulously just, not only in pecuniary affairs, but also in his opinions and feelings, which is a justice far more difficult of attainment. Who ever saw him carried away into unjust expressions, even by temporary excitement? Or we might ask, who ever saw him excited at all, unless it was over some scientific discovery or enterprise? A delightful enthusiasm may be said to have been even a characteristic of the man, and to have contributed no little to make social intercourse with him so agreeable. But neither anger, nor its twin-brother, resentment, rested in his bosom.

Nor was his loyalty to justice hindered by prejudice, for from unjust prejudice he was remarkably free. He was one of the most moveable of men towards the things that were truly good—not because he was weak, but because he was honest. Truth was always allowed an unobstructed entrance to his mind and heart, and he considered any other decisions than those dictated by her as of no value and therefore unworthy of a man.

Justice also had the victory over selfishness in him; that is, if there ever was such a conflict in him between those two powers as would make it proper to speak of a victory. For who ever heard of an act of his which had even the slightest element of meanness in it? Who ever suspected him of self-seek-

ing? Taking a fair view of the rights of others, his true soul would have found no more pleasure in disregarding those rights, than in doing violence to any other truth. He took hold of the reality of things; and to such a one, false seemings are not emptiness only, they are offensive and worthy of scorn. To call things one's own when they are another's, may possibly deceive the lookers-on, but what mockery to the soul itself? Mr. Herrick, therefore, could not have been moved by any consideration to attempt to hold as his own, what was another's; and we speak now not only of material things, but also of things pertaining to reputation, either in the domain of learning or of character. For ambition, which is a form of selfishness, had no conflict with justice in his life. He loved an honorable name, no doubt, but all his manifestations evinced rather a desire to *be* a promoter of good objects than to seem one.

Nor did he approve injustice in others. How settled—settled beyond the possibility of being disturbed—were his opinions—his instincts they may be called—of the inherent injustice of slavery. He held these opinions all his life. Fifteen years ago he expressed to Dr. Palfrey his gratification at the perusal of his published views on this subject. But earnest as his opinions were, he held them alike without bitterness and without concealment.

He also took just views of life, looking through the superficial distinctions of society to the substance of things, and paying homage to that. He wrought, however, no rudeness to the views or feelings of others,—he was only honest to his own. What a trifle was it in his estimation—a trifle not worth a thought—that he was of so called noble descent, and that there could be discovered not many generations back a ducal coronet in the line of his unstained blood. Neither titles nor wealth were of any great value in his eyes, unless real merit were associated with them. Wealth, therefore, as an object of pursuit in itself, was contemptible, but as a means of usefulness was honorable; and yet he did not seek it. He found no little satisfaction in the pecuniary history of his father, who left at his death only a few dollars more than enough to pay all his debts

and all the expenses of his funeral. And he held money with a light grasp himself, not wasting it without judgment, but considering its true value and use.

To himself, perhaps he was unjust; but towards himself he might use more freedom in this respect than towards others. He might be generous, and he was. He might deny himself, in order to facilitate his generosity, and no one could condemn him, for he had high examples. How unpretending, therefore, his dwelling and all that pertained to it within and without! How simple his diet! How plain his attire! His whole wardrobe, *every* article included, his executor could hardly, with a good conscience, rate so high as one pound sterling after his death. He gave no entertainments and for many years attended none. Having no wife or children, he lived with his aged mother, who had her own means of support. Thus his own expenses, that is, his expenses upon himself, were very light. But his official income was as large as that of his colleagues, and he hoarded nothing.

One object of all this frugality in his last years, doubtless was that he might make good some losses which persons had suffered through his advice concerning their investments. He was of course only under the obligation of kindness to do this, for he had used his best judgment, and his advice and services had been entirely gratuitous. Moreover, the persons concerned would generally have been the last to ask of him self-denial for their sakes. But it is plain that another object of his frugality was, that he might have the means of generosity; for his manner of living was nearly the same when he had no such fancied burden of obligation. In this respect his accounts, which he kept with great accuracy, are his sufficient eulogy. He left, indeed, but a small estate; but when in his whole life did he ever waste anything upon himself? His generous deeds were numerous, many of them concealed for years till accident discovered their author; and his agency in many others is doubtless still unknown. There were some distinguished cases, which he would shrink from having mentioned even now, although the parties have all been removed by death, in which he, year after year, acted almost the part of

a son in delicately warding off poverty from those whose doors it was entering.

But all this involved more than the mere giving of money. The Roman philosopher estimated well the difference between pecuniary generosity and personal service. The former may be very easy and even involve no self-denial, but the latter always requires more or less personal effort. How much of actual labor and of time did Mr. Herrick freely give not only to those who asked it of him, but also to those who did not! Could all those who have received valuable personal favors from him, be called on to indicate it, how many hands would be quickly raised in glad and grateful acknowledgment! Among them would be illustrious scholars, men in public life, youth struggling for an education, young aspirants for scientific fame, plain laboring men, strangers needing counsel and guidance, the destitute poor, the despised negro, and whoever else needed anything that his fertile mind could suggest or his dexterous hand perform. But there was no feeling of condescension when he performed the lowest service. There was, however, true humility, which is free—free as the light, to do good, without asking even in the most transient thought whether the act will bring the world's praise or not,—which blesses the poor and the humble with an act of kindness only because they need it. Such humility takes to itself no credit for its good deeds. It only counts itself happy in its opportunities.

Mr. Herrick was a man of true gentlemanly qualities,—respectful and modest on the one hand, as all gentlemen are, and on the other possessed of a quiet manliness and self-respect. These qualities existing in their reality within him, but never paraded for effect, marked his intercourse with all men. The humblest person who approached him was sure to be received with respect, while those whom years and character had made venerable, were treated with the greatest deference when they were present, and were remembered with reverence.

Reverence, indeed, was a part of his nature. He stood with awe under the starry heavens, never losing by familiarity the impression of their sublime grandeur. It was interesting to

observe how his whole being was at times hushed, so to speak, to an impressive silence by a grand sight in nature, or the contemplation of some worthy thought. An expression of lofty nobleness would then come over his manly face. You might see it sometimes as he stood looking up with you under the overarching elms, or when he was in the house of worship, or when he stood in the presence of the dead. That expression, heightened beyond all that had been seen of it while he lived, rested unchanging on his features when at last his soul had passed to sublimer visions and higher thoughts.

Our readers have doubtless already seen indications of religious principle and character in this life of singular elevation and useful activity. In his youth he had "never been unmindful of the vast importance of provision for the life which is hereafter," but "the reading of all sorts of theological and anti-theological works" had years before "brought into his mind many doctrinal difficulties, which always kept him undecided." So he wrote to a friend in 1838. But he was even then impressed with the importance of a change in his religious character. It is not known when he escaped from his difficulties, nor in what year he began to consider himself a truly religious man; for his life was always exemplary. But when, in 1851, he completed his fortieth year, he seriously contemplated a public profession of his Christian faith, and would have done so had not a serious illness, which occurred soon after and for many days threatened his life, delayed the execution of this purpose. As soon, however, as returning health enabled him to go abroad, he presented himself in the house of worship for admission to the church, and was received. But it was plain that that was not the beginning of his religious life; for he would hardly have been willing to conduct the united devotions of the family, as he had done for a number of years, unless it had been in harmony with his own feelings. And during the dangerous sickness to which we have referred, his whole deportment was such as to produce the impression that he was no stranger to the consolations and support of Christian hope. But the profession he had now made he honored, and he illustrated the teachings of our Lord by a consistent life. He was

habitually reserved in the expression of his inmost feelings, but still the interest he took in good enterprises, and his readiness to aid them, his method of spending the sabbath, in short, the whole air and bearing of the man, are a satisfactory testimony to the genuineness of his Christian character.

• He was true to all the relations of life. As a friend he was cordial, faithful, and constant, yet unobtrusive, pervaded by the very spirit of friendship, and yet accustomed rather brusquely to put by the expression of it. As a brother, he was more than a brother could ask him to be. He showed a father's kindness to his brothers' children, some of whom, during the later years of his life, were most of the time inmates of his family, and there enjoyed his counsel and affection.

His whole life testifies to his dutifulness and devotion as a son. His father died before he attained his majority, but he always cherished his saintly memory. In his touching farewell to the home in which he was born, which was found in a fragment of a diary of his, he exclaims: "Dear old house! I leave thee with sorrow. Thou art the place of my birth and hast been my abode unto this day:—Holy to me, for from thee ascended the spirit of my father. No other spot shall ever be to me like thee.

Vale, iterumque vale."

His mother was the object of his unvarying love and tender care until her death. He refused steadily to leave New Haven while she lived, although his friends unitedly urged him to take some relief from the incessant labors which were consuming his life. And when, at last, she died, the man of fifty years mourned for her as a child. Love had lost its most cherished object, and the truth revealed itself that his care had been his comfort, his cup of unfailing refreshment, his support even, in these years of almost unequalled labor. Surviving love consoled itself by dwelling with her memory and watching her grave, until, after no long interval, he was gathered to the silent companionship of death.

On the 30th of October, 1861, he had a sudden palpitation of the heart which caused him for a few minutes to apprehend immediate death, as appears from a brief letter which he

wrote at the instant to a familiar friend. The danger, however, soon passed away, and he made no mention of it for some months, and then only to the friend to whom he had written the unrepresented letter. But before the next summer came he had arranged his affairs, which, owing to his connection with the Ellsworth legacy, were somewhat complicated, and about the first of June he executed his will. His daily life, however, was unchanged, so far as could be discovered, except that it was afterwards remembered that for some months he had made his simple diet still more simple. His days were as much crowded with his various occupations as ever, his spirit as cheerful and responsive, and his mind as active and original.

On the 10th day of June, according to his custom, he spent some time in the early morning at his office at college. But he had felt unwell the day before, and as he was suffering very severe pain that morning, he called on his physician for medical relief when on his way home to breakfast. He said, however, that he had not time to be sick, and wished to be cured in half an hour. The playful tone, which we remember as so common with him, may have prevented the physician from observing fully how ill he was. Still, he made him a proper prescription and Mr. Herrick returned to his house. All the grateful affection and care awaited him there that could have been desired. But it was his custom to shove by all care that was intended for himself. And so, making no ado about his illness, he in part took the medicines ordered, and in part neglected them, until, towards night, increasing pain compelled him to send for his physician. Opium was administered. But before he sought the quiet of the night and dismissed his friends—for he insisted on being left alone—he desired his nephew to read to him certain hymns which he himself indicated. One was the familiar hymn by Montgomery, beginning,

“Forever with the Lord.”

The other contains the following stanzas:—

“ O Thou from whom all goodness flows,
 I lift my soul to Thee,
 In all my sorrows, conflicts, woes,
 O Lord, remember me.

“ When in the solemn hour of death
 I wait thy just decree,
 Be this the prayer of my last breath,—
 O Lord, remember me.

“ And when before thy throne I stand,
 And lift my soul to Thee,
 Then, with the saints at thy right hand,
 O Lord, remember me.”

After the reading of these impressive petitions, his nephew withdrew as he was requested to do, and Mr. Herrick was left alone for the night. He can hardly have realized fully, how very appropriate were the selections he had made,—how near to him was “the solemn hour of death.” And yet, when a friend entered his room about an hour before noon the next day, he said to him, with the manner of one who wished to attend to a matter of business first, “There is a letter in my pocket addressed to you in case I die.” But he had still the same cheerful and even playful manner, and, to some extent, he directed what should be given him for nourishment or medicine. His countenance indicated alarming disease, and yet his symptoms did not seem to threaten any immediate danger.

Three or four hours later the unexpected blow fell. When it was announced in his hearing that death was doing its work, he turned on a friend standing near an inquiring and somewhat surprised look, and then, without a word, fell into the calm of death.

The letter to which he had referred was found in his pocket, and with it was the one written when he was apprehending sudden death, the preceding October. The one is nearly a repetition of the other. They are characteristic of the man. Who but he would, in the moment of impending death, have hastened to record these last requests!

We give our readers the one of the earlier date, omitting only the expressions of personal regard at the end:

"Should I die suddenly, as a sudden heart palpitation this morning warns me I may, I have to request

"1. That no post-mortem examination of my body be made.

"2. That my funeral may be as simple and unostentatious as possible.

"3. That a plain stone, not costing more than \$40 or \$50, be placed at my grave; and that the inscription be very brief, and *without eulogy*.

"Oct. 30, 1861, 9½ a. m."

The other was written "in haste and pain" on the 10th of June, the day before his death. It adds to the former the following directions:—that his funeral be "from his house"—that "all biographical notices be as brief as possible"—and that his body be buried "in his mother's burial lot." It also reduces the cost of the monument to the limit of \$30.

His requests were carefully respected. His body rested undisturbed in the safe guardianship of watchful love, until, at the time appointed for the burial, friends gathered at his dwelling—the lowly and despised being not excluded—and, after simple but appropriate services, followed him in silent procession, without the noise or pomp of carriages, to his resting-place at the feet of his mother. Then under the pleasant sunlight and verdure of June, after a few words of remembrance and consolation uttered in simplicity and godly sincerity by the President of the college, followed by the sweet harmonies of a sacred song, we gave him to the earth and to the care of Him who is able to keep that which is committed unto Him against that day. After the throng had dispersed, those who had been his friends for many years cast the light earth over him and reared his mound.

"Now of a lasting home possest,
He goes to seek a deeper rest,
Good night! the day was sultry here
In toil and fear;
Good night! the night is cool and clear."

And here we end, without eulogy, the record of his unique life. We know how inadequate it is to set forth the man whom we would commemorate, but it consoles us to reflect how many persons there are who have in their own hearts a nobler image of him than our skill can create.

