

IN MEMORY OF AGASSIZ.

THE FUNERAL SERMON AT CAMBRIDGE. DISCOURSES BY THE REV. DR. PEABODY, CHAPLAIN

OF THE UNIVERSITY-A UNIVERSITY COUNTRY MOURNING-UNIVERSALITY OF THE GREAT SCIENTIST'S ATTAINMENTS-A REVERENT, UNTIRING, AND UNSELFISH INVESTIGATOR-HIS PLACE UNFILLED.

[FROM AN OCCASIONA CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

CAMBRIDGE, Dec. 21.—The funeral sermon of Prof. Agassiz was preached to-day in the chapel Harvard University by the Rev. A. P. Peabody, D. D., the Chaplain. The chapel was still draped in D. D., the Chaplain. mourning, and a large audience, in which many members of the faculty and prominent citizens of Cambridge, was in attendance. Peabody was for many years a near neighbor of Prof. Agassiz, who attended frequently at his ministrations in the chapel and he enjoyed intimacy of friendship with the deceased which rendered his words far more touching and impressive than if he had only known him as a public man. The sermon was as follows:

"The grave withereth, the flower faceth, but the word of our God shall stand forever." Isaiah, xl., 8. In the Hebrew Scriptures the Word of God denotes the effluence of His spiritin all Nature, Providence being the word crystallized in the material, made eternal in the spiritual universe. We are accustomed to apply the terms to and exclusively to that portion of its contents which constitutes uttered or written revelation. This is indeed a most momentous portion, because it has direct relation to us, our destiny, our duty, and has a close application, as it were an express message from God to each of us individually. But for this reason it is limited. The light it sheds is intense but not all-revealing. It answers for you and me the questions most vitally concerning us as godborn and undying souls; it illumines the straight, narrow path to heaven so that we cannot mistake the way; but there are beyond and on either side realms of truth, vast, rich, and glorious, in which the Word of God is to be read only by the patient thought, profound regard, inspired genius of men whom God raises up and endows for this very work, as truly commissioned as prophets and apostles, with this difference that the latter, sent to meet universal needs, bear credentials which every one can read and understand; while the former have a mission self-authenticated to prepared minds, to others alike proofless and profitless. So far are these several portions of the word of God from the mutual antagonisms in which they are sometimes placed that each is complement and interpreter of the other. The text of revelation has a meaning more or less rich and powerful as the reader takes in more or less of God in Nature, while to the eye and ear which Christ has opened Nature offers broader symmetries and sweeter harmonies than a mere groveling philosophy can either perceive or comprehend. Well said the Baylor, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away," and this is equally true of the whole unwritten word of God. Slowly, sometimes at remote intervals, syllable by syllable, is it uttered along the ages. But once uttered, it never lapses into Views of nature, when broadened, are not oblivion. narrowed again. Every advance in science is as a prophet's watch-tower; every accession to the area of knowledge is an extension of holy ground; every glimpse of profounder philosophic insight, thins or rends the vail through which man looks on the face of

God.

A GREAT MIND PASSED TO HIGHER SERVICE. To have borne any part in this development is a title to the world's enduring gratitude, which is the only fame worth having and worth leaving. In human history such names stand out more and more prominently as the race advances. Once thrown into the background by military glory and material achievements, transcend all claims to honor that skill or might or power can proffer. It is worthy of our emphatic notice that such men, while sustaining a priestly office, have, with the rarest exceptions, been more worthy of their priesthood. Seldom has the vail been lifted from the arena of nature by other than reverent hand, and thus must it needs be. It is because such a mind has passed to higher ser-

vice, and such a heart no longer throbs on earth, that our sanctuary bears these tokens of a severe and deep sorrow, that our University, our community, our country mourns. One has been taken from us whom we have owned as chief among us, whose genius has been our wealth, his eloquence our inspiration, his warm and generous sympathy, his cordial helpfulness, his gentleness, simplicity and frankness, the grace, the beauty, the loftiness of his spirit our perpetual joy. He has passed from us, not, as we would have hoped, when his life work had rounded by the full term of active service, and he had gathered in the harvest work whose sheaves have grown and ripened under his culture, but in what we had too fondly deemed the high noon of his vigor and usefulness, for we had too little note of the turning shadows of his ing day. He has gone where in the ranks of declining day. He has gone where in the railiberal culture the anxious question passes rewho can fill his place and take up his burden? round : death ripens the living. The spirit exhaled kindles surviving souls, and though no one can reproduce what we have seen in him, let us hope that the trust which he fulfilled so nobly will be assumed by not a few, who, though it be with unequal steps, will follow where he has led with a kindred enthusiasm and self-devotion. UNIVERSALITY OF HIS SCIENTIFIC WORKS.

It is difficult to name a department of natural science in which he has not left his enduring record. His early researches among the glaciers of the Alps, with his inductions and generalizations founded upon them, confirmed and enlarged by subsequent observation or both continents, have placed him in the van of cosmical philosophers; and we are more indebted to him than to any other-may I not say than to all others ?-for our knowledge of glacial action in remote periods of the history of our planet, as second to none of the world-forces that have left their vestiges to be traced and coordinated by human science. But these inquiries have been but an interlude, though and fruitful, in his study of organ of organized beings d in its surviving alike in its fossilized and in its surviving forms. While from an early period till the very last his investigations have been directed with peculiar em phasis to fishes, coral formations, and extinct species of aquatic origin, he viewed this department only in its relations to the vast whole of Nature; and so far as accurate knowledge and even fresh curiosity were concerned, he seemed to have no specialty. It is classification alone that converts natural history into natural science, and in this conversion he has undoubtedly been the foremost man of his time. His view comprehended the separate types, correlations, and great groups of organized beings, so that the world groups of organized beings, so that the world below presented to him as orderly a symmetry, proportion, succession, and mutual adaptation, as the as tronomer finds in the places, relations, and courses of the heavenly bodies. His classification remains unimpeached by subsequent theories, for it was founded on speculations in cosmogony which cannot be verified, but on the historical record imbedded in the earth's strata, on the actual distribution of living species, and on the deductions of comparative anatomy. The details of his scientific labors belong not to the place or the hour. That they could have been brought within a single lifetime those massive volumes, those researches so fruitful by land and sea, under the equatorial sun and among the eternal ice and snow; those vast collections demanding still the labor of many years to give them fit place and order; that patient toll for learners of every class, most patient where there was no preparation but ignorance awaiting to be taught-all this tells of a selfdenying youth whose sole recreation was the severest study, of a vigorous manhood which found rest only and hardly in change of work, of a concentration and energy of spirit equaled by few, surpassed by none. HIS UNSELFISH DEVOTION TO SCIENCE.

tountry, not only so, but our countryman in a patriotism only the more ardent from his conversance with other forms of political and social life. With an invincible preference for our free institutions, he refused the most tempting. institutions, he refused the most tempting offers from the old world, and clung to American citizenship as if it had been among his dearest birthrights; preeminently loyal when our national integrity was threatwarmly granted wherever he has gone in and out His favorite enterprise, the Zoölogical Museum, is

ened, and putting to shame the coldness and inertness of many whose fatherland was less dear to them than the land of his adoption to him. And while adopting, he has been adopted. We have felt that he was one of us, and never has a foreigner had the gift of citizenship among us. virtually his work alone. The efficient cooperation, which has never failed him, he won by his zeal, animated by his energy, directed by his organizing capacity, and sustained in activity by his untiring industry. The con-

tributions, private and public, which have so generously subsidized his labors, would have been scanty and reluctant, but for his power of persuasion; and his power lay not only in his presence and voice, which, with a magnetism all his own, never failed to elicit sympathy, but, most of all, in his unselfishness. Men helped him

in his work, legislative bodies yielded to his appeals, because it was so manifest that he had no private end, whether of emolument or fame; because it that whatever he possessed was cast into the treasury of science, accumulate and that his aim was 'to materials for scientific inquiry and knowledge, not for the gifted few, but for the ever-increasing many who have the capacity, the desire, the need, yet till now had lacked the opportunity and the means. His success has surpassed his own most sanguine hopes. Of like existing collections, thus is the richest in the entire department of aquatic life, including corals, fossils, sea-shells, and zoöphytes—the richest in duplicates available for exchapge—the richest, too, by far in the tokens of a presiding and unifying genius; and certainly not more than two, if two, of the European collections can be compared with it as to the number, rareness, variety, and scientific worth of specimens. Let a grateful public look to it that the princely heritage be not suffered to fall into neglect or decay, but rather that what seemed his magnificent dream be progressively realized. HIS BEST POWERS GIVEN TO THE CAUSE OF POPULAR EDUCATION.

I should do injustice to his memory were I to speak merely of such services as will have their chief recog-In no respect does he nition among men of science. merit grateful commemoration more than in his indefatigable labor for the diffusion of scientific knowledge and general education among all classes and conditions of men. Much of his time and strength, his best powers, his most winning eloquence, have been given to popular education, to the instruction of the teachers of our public schools, to the diffusion of knowledge among farmers, mechanics, and artizans. It must have been in utter weariness and exhaustion, and with the consciousness of some fearful crisis close impending, that he addressed those agriculturists at Fitchburg with all his wonted energy and fervor, thus rendering his last active service to that generous propagandism which had become the pervading, I might say even the chief element in all the plans and labors of his later

The generosity thus manifested for the public welfare was even shown to his individual pupils, who have found in him unwearying patience, forbearance, kindness, helpfulness. All over the country are professors and teachers of science who owe to him often the initial purpose, and when not so, the direction of the persistent and successful industry by which they have fitted them-selves for distinguished usefulness and growing eminence, so that in the whole scientific culture of our land his spirit will still live and work, and the impulse which he has given will be prolonged and resterated in coming generations.

GENIAL, GENEROUS AND DISINTERESTED. Those who knew him need not that I say how closely these disinterested services to the public, to his pupils, to all whom he could benefit, accorded with his whole spirit and character as manifested in the intimacies of society and in the sacred relations of friendship and kindred. No man can have been more thoroughly unselfish. None can have had or deserved warmer friends. Genial in all hi_intercourse—impulsive, indeed, but with impulse always on the generous side—with conversational powers that sustained an unflagging interest in his nearers, with wonderful versatility of adaptation in the best sense, capable of becoming all things to all men, he left wherever he went grateful memories, and won the affectionate regard not only of those on his own social plane, but of all with whom he came into relations, however transient. Hosts and peasants among the Alps, years and years after his sojourn on the banks of the Aar, talked of him, and delighted to point out to tourists the mountain that bears his name. Fishermen at Nahant and Cape Cod, who had but once seen him, never forgot him when hook or net brought up aught that was rare or strange. Sailors treasured for him shells and fossils from the Indies and the Southern Seas. His broad sympathies, his hearty good-fellowship won for him troops of tributaries, and many there were of all conditions of life and grades of culture who would not willingly return from the Pacific coast, or a whaling station, or an Asiatic port, without something for Agassiz.

A REVERENT STUDENT OF SCIENTIFIC TRUTHS.

I cannot close this hasty and inadequate, yet fervent and hearty, tribute without recalling to your memory the reverent spirit in which he pursued his scientific labors. Nearly forty years ago, in his first great work on fossil fishes, in developing his principle of classifica-

tion, he wrote:

tion, he wrote:

An invisible thread in all ages runs through this immense diversity, exhibiting, as a general result, the fact that there is a continual progress in development ending in man, the four classes of vertebrates presenting the intermediate step, and the invertebrates presenting the intermediate step, and the invertebrates the constant accessory accompaniment. Have we not here the manifestation of a Mind as powerful as provident? The works of Goodness as infinite as wise? the most palpable demonstration of the existence of a personal God, Author of all things, Ruler of the universe, and Dispenser of all good? This, at least, is what I read in the works of creation.

And it is what he ever read, and read with profound And it is what he ever read, and read with prefound

awe and adoration. To this exalted lai ibly loyal. The laws of nature were to him the Eternal Word of God. His repugnance to Darwinism grew in great part frem his apprehension of its atheistical tendency, an apprehension which, I confess, I cannot share; I forget not that these theories, now on the ascendant, are maintained by not a few devout Christian men, and while they seem to me unproved and incapable of demonstration, I could admit them without parting with one lota of my faith in God and Christ. Yet I cannot but sympathize with him most thoroughly in the spirit which he manifested. Nor was his a mere theoretical faith. His whole life, in its broad philanthropy, in its pervading spirit of service, in its fidelity to arduous trusts and duties, in its simplicity and truthfulness, bespoke one who was consciously fulfilling a mission from God to his fellow-men. We mourn his departure as an irreparable loss. is there not ground for thankfulness that he was taken from us while we could lament his removal; that he was

spared the slow decay, the living death which added years might have brought; that there is no sad appendix of decline and infirmity to the fair volume of his life; that he has been translated with such appalling yet merciful suddenness to a larger, higher sphere of activity? God comfort and help those whose homes and hearth he has left desolate and grant them that nearer fellowship with the fast-gathering company of kindred in Heaven, in which alone they can find consolation and The grass withereth and the flower fadeth. Man cometh forth as a flower and is cut down. He withereth as the grass, but the Word of our God shall stand forever. All that is wrought for the truth shall endure; and they who have wrought for it, though they die, shall yet live. They that are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and as the stars forever and ever.

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