

The original copy sent to Rev Dr Brownson of
Washington, D.C. who is preparing something on Dr W. W-18

Rev Prof Andrew Wylie D.D. by A.M. Wylie.

Physically Dr Wylie was a man of solid & massive frame, weighing 210 lbs, capable of performing ^{great} ~~much~~ labor, and enduring great strain. It is worthy of note that that manly physical structure was sustained as a rule by an unusual simplicity of diet. He would often take for supper a bowl of bread and milk, & this bread must be always stale. He never partook of a fresh loaf, when that of two or three days old could be furnished him. It was a rule that he always applied to his own living, and earnestly recommended to others, that exercise such as steady farm work walking, chopping wood, and horse back riding should be conscientiously indulged in for the space of two hours or more daily, or carried to the point of opening the pores of the skin in order to secure the elimination of the bodily impurities.

In form, appearance and carriage Dr Wylie could not but challenge attention wherever he appeared. His head was very large well and symmetrically developed: his massive brow overshadowed well set clear blue eyes, bright and beaming with the effulgence of mingled intelligence and humanity. His movement dignified and measured.

His social gifts and qualifications were of a very high and unusual order. It is in testimony by intelligent witnesses still living, that when the subject of this sketch was well advanced, in the presence of a fairly congenial company his powers of entertainment partook of the Johnsonian type. He could command and easily hold through the fascinations

of a readily overflowing eloquence of combined and varied wit
 human incident and repartee not only the attention but fasci-
 cinate the circle of associates, ever growing more eager to put
 themselves under the spell of his wonderfully stored mind and
 responsive heart. His habit of absorbing abstractedness, however,
 often marred his social capabilities in the eyes of merely
 passing and casual observers, and this natural aptitude in-
 tensified, by constant persistent study over the profoundest
 problems challenging his keenest concentration, necessarily ren-
 dered it impossible for him to play the ~~part~~ part of a candid-
 date for popular favor. His position was that of a leader a-
 mong thinkers, and a teacher of teachers. That station he
 held for a life time easily without a rival, and no honest
 inquirer ever came within the circle of his commanding
 degree in this direction, ever challenged or disputed the univer-
 sally accorded claim. Therefore the place where his powers
 most conspicuously shone was in the chair of the philosophical
 & ethical & economic teacher. His scholarship advanced him
 to that position. Said one of the Governors of Indiana, William
 Hendricks, who was a classmate of Dr. Wylie: Andrew Wylie
 held the first place in his class and no one held the second,
 the good Governor meaning that no other student came
 near enough to be reckoned number two in the grade.
 His habit of accurate scholarship continued with him through
 life, and the late Dr. Alexander (the elder) of Bowdoin remarks
 that Dr. A. Wylie was in his opinion the foremost
 scholar west of the Alleghenies.

His remarkable memory placed him in the grade of de

quae which to him was easily attainable. His memory
 was both wholesale and retail in its furnishings, When
 one wanted much the tales and maps in the wholesale
 department were within easy reach and at command
 of his pupil customers; if the little uncovered and unpacked
 items of the retail department were demanded he was e-
 qually ready to improvise these as well. It is said that at
 one time his memory held at command most if not all the
 odes, and satires of Horace. In the class room his vast
 stores of memory were a surprise to every student, and
 placed him in striking contrast to those teachers who tie
 themselves to the text book ^{things} in their instruction
 closely committed to the use of some favorite author. Dr Wylic
 did not use text books. He had his own notes and compilations,
 but often proceeded without any visible reference to them, his
 habit was to give forth in a clear masterly ~~way~~ summary the
 views of all the leading authors ancient and modern upon
 the subject in hand, and then proceed to refute what he ~~thought~~
~~to~~ believed to be erroneous, after which he advanced his
 own positions and propositions substantiating them by a cogency
 of logic and brilliancy of rhetorical illustration that struck
 light through the subject from his own radiant mind, & better
 still conviction was carried by his own loyalty to the truth.
 Dr Wylic required the students to follow him & carefully tak-
 ing notes, these must be recited and expanded during the
 day hours, then each student in turn must read before the
 class for criticism, comment and correction what he had
 prepared in retirement. Every student who conscientiously per-

med with him this method can testify, how this sort of drill
under such a teacher ^{reshaped} ~~enthused~~ his ambition, absorbed his attention
and cultured his mind. And every one that submitted to
the training can witness to its worth under the enacting tasks
of active life.

Said Gov. Henry A. Wise of Va. who graduated under Dr
Wylie's presidency at Jefferson College*. "I proudly boast
that he was the best moral philosopher, metaphysician
and Greek linguist, whom as far as my knowledge extends,
this country has ever produced" The late Dr Robert Baird
testifies. "The first knowledge I had of Dr Wylie was, on his
coming to Washington College as President, when I was in
my Junior year. . . . It cannot be questioned that he was
one of the best educated men in the part of the country
in which he lived. He was thoroughly read in History, was
an able logician and metaphysician, & a clerical learn-
ing his knowledge was both exact and extensive, you would
naturally infer from this, what was really the case, that
he was an uncommonly able teacher. He always showed him-
self perfectly familiar with the subject upon which he was
giving instruction, and had a happy faculty of rendering his
own thoughts perfectly intelligible to his pupils." The late
President William H. McSweeney, of the University of Va. speaks
as follows, calling Dr Wylie his "valued & so many say
revered friend and instructor" — "Intellectually Dr Wylie
was a superior man, above the appreciation of those about

All the quotations in this sketch are taken from Dr Sprague's
'Annals of the American Pulpit' Vol. V.

him whether enemies or friends. As a teacher I have never known his superior. This I think would be the testimony of most if not all of his pupils. On every subject, language history or moral philosophy, his conceptions were clear profound and comprehensive, to a degree I have never witnessed in any other instructor. His style in the class room was simple direct and luminous. Illustrative without ornament, the beauty of his language was derived from the thought. Like light, it at once revealed its object and took its color from the substance which it shewed. His influence on the minds of his auditors was always great, often unprepared, and at times even when dealing with the abstruse topics of moral philosophy gave rise to a species of scientific emotion unpreparedly exhilarating and suggestive."

As a writer Dr Wylie attained a style conspicuous for its simplicity, transparency and ease. The style was the man himself, and not any meretricious decorations hanging loosely for effect.

As a preacher Dr Wylie, aimed at nothing merely exciting, or calculated to produce merely a popular effect. He was best appreciated where his auditors were honest seekers and dispassionate hearers. The late Dr Joseph McElroy of New York the successor to the famous John Mason, remarked to the writer that Dr Wylie was by his (Dr McElroy's) congregation placed next to that renowned pulpit orator, and the Dr further added, that Dr Wylie's antipathy to city life and his affection for

for the country caused him promptly to repel overtures which about the year 1824 were made with a view of placing him in the pastorate of a leading New York Church.

As a religious man Andrew Wylie was eminently conscientious, in holding what he believed to be the truth; his fidelity would have led him to the stake, if need be, for its maintenance. His breadth of charity and spirit of tolerance led him to antagonize in a notable assembly in Philadelphia, the movement in the Presbyterian Church which divided that great organization. The experience of ^{three} ~~thirty~~ years of separation resulting in reunion on the basis of a constitution tolerant of differences involving non-essentials, sufficiently vindicates the position that Dr Wylie battled stoutly to defend. In 1841 his convictions seemed to him to necessitate his entering another communion, the Episcopal.

Here left out about tobacco chewing.

Dr Wylie trained as he was under the austerities of an earlier system was inwardly distant, seemingly unsympathetic. Sometimes stern - but there were only the rocky boulders here and there standing out. in harsh features on the surface of a magnificent nature which was covered for the most part with rich foliage, fruits and flowers. He rose in majestic altitude above the common self seeking level, and his greatness was that of usefulness, and not the fame challenging notoriety of ambition.

The base of this character was laid in the breadth of solid conviction, resting on truths fortified by reason and

strengthened by conscience, and then rising into the regions of purity and religious consecration. Said Dr Alfred Rogers, who was for some years associated with him in the faculty of Indiana University, "An iron strength of purpose was undoubtedly one of the leading features in the character of this great and good man. Any attempt at intimidation, would arouse all his energies into the most vigorous resistance. No odds of physical or moral force against him when thus aroused could deter him from the encounter."

And his intimate friend R. B. Clanton of the Episcopal divinity school, Philad: in a fervent review of Dr Wylie's character & attainments, closes a very striking passage in the following words: - "And having named Bishop Butler, allow me to cite from his Biography a few lines which might as aptly have been written for my departed friend: "His character was every thing he might have been expected from his writings. Of piety most fervent, of morals most pure, he lived the life, while he professed the faith, of the Christian. No man ever more thoroughly perceived the meekness of wisdom. Neither the consciousness of intellectual strength, nor the just reputation he had thereby attained, nor the elevated station to which he had been raised, in the slightest degree injured the natural modesty of his character or the mildness or sweetness of his temper."

Dr Wylie continues to live in his many student children throughout the land, and his work abides through

them ~~there~~ and there is not one of these we believe
who will not rise up and breathe a benediction upon his
memory, and we know some can say that Heaven
itself will prove richer to them because when they
pass through the gates of pearl, they are sent to
the Saviour to whom he led them) Andrew Wylie
will meet and welcome them there.

A. M. E. Wylie.