



*James Woodruff*

# DR. JAMES WOODROW

AS SEEN BY HIS FRIENDS.

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## CHARACTER SKETCHES

BY

HIS FORMER PUPILS, COLLEAGUES, AND ASSOCIATES.

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COLLECTED AND EDITED BY HIS DAUGHTER,

MARION W. WOODROW.

PART I.

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## Some Reminiscences, by the Rev. Dr. Eugene Daniel. . . . . 86

Dr. Daniel was born near Livingston, Ala., in 1849, the family removing to Raymond, Miss., during his infancy. He graduated at Columbia Theological Seminary in 1871; married Miss Susannah T. Witherspoon, of Camden, S. C., the same year; was licensed by Harmony Presbytery, ordained by Ouachita Presbytery, and was installed pastor of the church at Camden, Ark., in 1871; became pastor of the First church in Memphis, Tenn., in 1875, remaining there nearly eighteen years, passing through the yellow fever epidemics of 1878 and 1879, having the fever himself; was pastor of the First church in Raleigh, N. C., for ten years, and has been pastor of the church at Lewisburg, W. Va., for nearly seven years; delivered an address, alternate for Dr. Palmer, before the General Assembly at Charlotte, N. C., on the 250th anniversary of the Westminster Assembly; delivered the address at the Memorial service of Dr. B. M. Palmer in the First church in New Orleans; received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Southwestern Presbyterian University.

## Some Impressions, by the Rev. Dr. C. R. Hemphill. . . . . 112

Dr. Hemphill was born in Chester, S. C., April 18, 1852; attended the University of South Carolina and that of Virginia, 1868-1871; graduated at Columbia Theological Seminary in 1874; was tutor in Hebrew in Columbia Seminary 1874-1878; married Miss Emma Louise Muller, of Columbia, in 1875; was Fellow in Greek at Johns Hopkins University, 1878 and 1879; professor of Ancient Languages in the Southwestern Presbyterian University, 1879 to 1882; professor in Columbia Seminary, 1882 to 1885; pastor of the Second church in Louisville, Ky., 1885 to 1899; one of the founders of, and professor in, the Louisville Theological Seminary from 1893 to its consolidation in 1901 with the Danville Theological Seminary, the consolidated institution being the Kentucky Presbyterian Theological Seminary, in which Dr. Hemphill has been professor of New Testament Exegesis and Practical Theology from 1901 to the present time. He received the honorary degree of D. D. from Central University and Davidson College, and that of LL. D. from Hanover College and Westminster College. He was Moderator of the General Assembly in 1895, and of the Synod of Kentucky at its centennial meeting in 1902.

## A Reminiscence, by the Rev. Dr. S. L. Morris. . . . . 116

Dr. Morris was born in Abbeville, S. C.; graduated at Erskine College, and at Columbia Theological Seminary; was licensed and ordained by South Carolina Presbytery; was pastor of

## Some Impressions.

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BY THE REV. DR. C. R. HEMPHILL.

In setting down briefly some impressions of Dr. Woodrow, it must be understood that I make no effort to give a full estimate of his character and work; much less do I attempt any adequate appreciation of him as Christian, scholar, minister, and teacher. I count it among the blessings of a kind Providence that for a long period of years it was permitted me to be under the potent influence of Dr. Woodrow. For ten years I was in close relations with him, first as a student in the Columbia Seminary, and then as an associate in the instruction of this venerable and beloved institution. He was good enough to admit me to an intimacy that gave every opportunity to know the real characteristics of the man.

What, then, are a few of the impressions that abide with me after these years? Let me record first my first impression of Dr. Woodrow: this was his capacity for work. My early recollection of Dr. Woodrow brings him before me in his classroom. He was pale and delicate, worn apparently with toil, and scarcely able to speak in tones audible to his class. His utterance was slow, sometimes hesitating, and with evident pain to himself; (in later years I have heard him on occasion rise to heights of moving eloquence). But even under these adverse conditions the vigorous intellect, the sure-footed reason, the powerful will, made their indelible mark. It was easy to understand the reason for Dr. Woodrow's condition of health: the energies of his constitution, never robust, were exhausted by his labors. He was at this time holding two Professorships, one in the Seminary, and one in the South Carolina University; he was editor of the *Southern Presbyterian*, a weekly religious paper, and of the *Southern Presbyterian Review*, and in connexion with these publications was manager of a Printing House; in addition he was Treasurer of one or more of the Assembly's Executive Committees. Amid these multiplied labors and cares Dr. Woodrow displayed a marvellous capacity for work. He did everything with exactness, promptness, and completeness; he never slighted any part of his work; he

showed no sign of worry or distraction ; he turned readily from one sort of work to another ; he denied himself all social diversions, and used every moment of time. It remains still a wonder to me how he retained the freshness of his interest in such a variety of things, and accomplished such manifold tasks. When from very exhaustion he was compelled to go abroad for rest and recuperation, he renewed his energies among the Alps in the study of Geology. This capacity for work, this ceaseless effort to learn and to achieve, was characteristic of Dr. Woodrow to the last.

It is remarkable that in the midst of such varied interests and demands on his time Dr. Woodrow lost none of the aptitudes of the scholar and the scientific student. He was at home with the classics, and it was no uncommon thing to find him in his study with some Greek or Latin author in his hand. He had a familiar knowledge of French and German and a good acquaintance with the literatures of these languages. He was a man of the true scientific temper, and constantly pursued his studies in Science in the field and in the laboratory as well as in published writings. Yet with all this versatility, this combination of the scholar and the man of affairs, Dr. Woodrow's knowledge was not of the superficial sort. On the contrary he was unusually thorough and accurate, and among the objects of his contempt—and he had some gift in this respect—was the pretence to a knowledge and scholarship not really possessed.

Akin to this scholarly thoroughness was Dr. Woodrow's Love of the Truth. He had a passion for the Truth. He was her devoted lover, cautious not to mistake semblance for reality, but fearless to follow wherever Truth should lead. God was to him the God of Truth, and this faith made him the open-eyed student, the patient investigator, the solicitous collector of facts, the careful reasoner. And if he loved Truth in the realm of knowledge he loved it no less in the realm of the practical ; to know the truth and to do the truth were wedded together for him. Here he was uncompromising : he hated falsehood with a perfect hatred, he blasted it with fiery denunciation. Especially did he abhor a half-truth parading itself as the whole truth, believing "that a lie which is half a truth is ever the blackest of lies." His judgments of men in this regard were



sometimes accounted severe—perhaps he did not make sufficient allowance for the infirmities of man—but it may at least be claimed that he only applied to others the high standards to which he rigidly held himself. Many bitter things were uttered against him in the heat of the controversy that sprang up after the delivery of his notable Address on Evolution, but the iron entered deepest into his soul under the charge of his having been secretly holding and teaching views which he was unwilling for the Church to know. Dr. Woodrow read me his Address a short while before its delivery, and in connexion with it told me that while he had for several years been teaching his classes that the hypothesis of the evolution of plants and animals, and even of the body of man, whether true or not, was not inconsistent with the Bible statements in the narrative of Creation, yet he had never been convinced of the probable truth of this hypothesis; it was in the prosecution of his studies in the preparation of the Address that he had been led to abandon the views he had always hitherto held and taught, views held by his great teacher Agassiz, and had come to believe that the balance of probabilities was in favor of the hypothesis of Evolution under the limitations set forth in his Address. I may add that after he had read me the Address Dr. Woodrow asked my opinion. I said to him: “Dr. Woodrow, I am not competent to pass judgment on the truth or falsity of Evolution; but the publication of your Address will, I fear, bring on a controversy.” He quietly replied: “Yes, I suppose it will; but I do not feel responsible for that. The Board of Directors has requested me to deliver an Address on this subject, and I must, of course, give honestly what I believe.” This remark was characteristic of the man, holding as he did,

“Because right is right, to follow right  
Were wisdom in the scorn of consequence.”

I pass to the last impression I have time and space to record. This was Dr. Woodrow's Faith in the Holy Scriptures. Many rise up to-day and call him blessed for the confirmation of their conviction that the Bible is the very word of God, infallible in everything it teaches in any and every sphere. This was his own reverent and unquestioning and unshakeable faith. It was his vocation in a time of doubt and vague alarm to guide young

men through the tangled paths where the statements of Holy Scripture and the findings of Physical Science seem to interlace. A difficult and perilous task it was ; but every intelligent and thoughtful student of Dr. Woodrow throughout his many years of teaching in Columbia Seminary will bear witness to his infinite patience, his insight, his discrimination, his loyalty to truth, his fidelity to the word of God. I make bold to say that no man ever became a skeptic or a rationalist under Dr. Woodrow's teaching or example ; and many there are who will never cease to thank him for the way in which he steadied and deepened their faith in God's truth, whether revealed more dimly in his works or more brightly in his word. And it is worth remarking that he constantly maintained that our faith in the Scriptures is not to be adjourned to the confirmation of their teachings whether from Natural Science, History, or Archæology. No more serious misconstruction could be put on Dr. Woodrow's attitude toward the Bible than to suppose him to have suspended faith in the Bible on the teachings of Science. With him the ascertained teaching of the Scriptures was final and authoritative.

But here I must arrest my pen. It is a pleasure to write even these poor words in recognition of the worth and service of one to whom my obligations are neither few nor small. If his biography is ever written, it will reveal a Man, a Man of God, a devoted servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, a heroic and self-denying toiler for the Southern Presbyterian Church, and one ever loyal to her principles. From the strife of tongues and from the labors of earth he is at rest.