

LD
3241
.M5
A3

B517315 G

MIAMI UNIVERSITY BULLETIN

Series XIX, No. 6

February, 1921



The Alumni News Letter

ISSUED QUARTERLY



ANDREW DOUSA HEPBURN, D. D., LL. D., Professor of English Emeritus
Died February 14, 1921

OXFORD, OHIO

DR. A. D. HEPBURN—A GREAT TEACHER

When Dr. Andrew Dousa Hepburn died in Oxford on February 14, Miami University lost her best-loved man and America one of her greatest teachers. Of Dr. Hepburn it may be said that Heaven bounteously lengthened out his years. He was more than ninety years old, and though enfeebled toward the end his mind never lost its alertness, his temper its sweetness, nor his friends their affection. Surrounded by all that gives glory to age he passed to his reward.

About fifty years ago Dr. Hepburn began the association with Miami University that continued substantially all the rest of his life. Although he has been connected with other colleges, his reputation and his memory will remain the heritage of the college at Oxford.

In recent years a good deal has been said and written to the disadvantage of teaching as a profession. The whole life of Dr. Hepburn constitutes its noblest defense. No man ever lived in southern Ohio who exercised a larger or better influence on the lives of a great number of men. No man has ever reared a monument more to be desired than the warm and grateful affection in which Andrew D. Hepburn was held by every boy who ever sat under his teaching; and his affection and respect continued unabated until the last day of his life.

When the old Miami man returned to Oxford he may have visited the campus and he may have called on the President, but the first thing he always did was "to go to see 'Old Hep.'" Just as his classes used to be, these visits were always a delight. Dr. Hepburn's sympathies were warm, his friendship lasting, and his interests and knowledge enormous. Although he led a somewhat cloistered life most of his years he escaped entirely the narrowing

of his opinions and interests. He had a wide acquaintance of course, and he valued no friends more than men of business and active affairs. There was hardly a successful business man in Cincinnati or Hamilton in the past fifty years whom he did not know, and through his contact with active men, his great reading, and his own clear thinking he always kept pace with what was being done in the world of business and politics. There was a suspicion in the minds of his near friends that he liked to associate with men of affairs more than with those of his own profession; but this was probably only because he was thrown so much in his daily life with teachers that he found other interests and other view points stimulating.

Despite his varied interests Dr. Hepburn was first of all a great scholar and teacher. He was educated to be a preacher in that same group in which the families of both the parents of President Woodrow Wilson lived and worked. In his youth he knew the Woodrows and the Wilsons most intimately, and it is interesting to know that when Woodrow Wilson and the first Mrs. Wilson were married they spent part of their honeymoon in Dr. Hepburn's home. Mr. Wilson's father and Dr. Hepburn were then associates in the faculty of Davidson College in North Carolina. In college the late Senator Matthew Stanley Quay of Pennsylvania and Dr. Hepburn were room-mates, and they remained life-long friends exchanging letters so long as the Senator lived. The staunchness of Dr. Hepburn's friendship is illustrated by this association. He was a Democrat all his life, except in his last years, and Quay was a Republican. Quay was a politician who was often bitterly attacked and Hepburn was a teacher. Yet in the most stormy incidents of Quay's career Dr. Hepburn never

lost an opportunity to defend him and he never allowed his faith in his friend to waver. "A man who even now reads Homer in the original for recreation doesn't graft," Dr. Hepburn used to say.

Although educated in theology Dr. Hepburn preached but a short time, if at all, but early entered into the teaching profession which he so greatly adorned. His associations as student and teacher were with Washington University (now Washington and Jefferson), Princeton University, the University of Virginia, Davidson College, and Miami University. He first came to Miami as President in those trying years when the institution was being allowed to wither for want of support and which culminated in its temporary closing in 1873.

When the college was reopened in 1885, Dr. Hepburn was recalled and he was the professor of the English Language and Literature and Dean of the Liberal Arts College until his retirement at the age of nearly 80 years.

In those days Miami was a much smaller institution than today, and teachers and equipment were limited. Dr. Hepburn was its one great mainstay. While his regular work was the teaching of English and English literature, he could and often did teach history, economics, Greek, Latin, Hebrew, philosophy, and we believe some of the modern languages, and most boys who sat in his classes thought that no matter what he taught he did it better than did the regular professor.

For sheer volume and catholicity of reading Dr. Hepburn probably had few rivals. For more than seventy years he

read incessantly and understandingly and one of the things that made his conversation so interesting and his opinions so well considered was the fact that he had a clear historical background for nearly every situation. At some stage of history a similar episode had occurred and Dr. Hepburn knew about it and he knew the motives underlying it. There was nothing of the pedant in his manner, but it is a fact that he had a large part of the world's history and literature at his immediate command.

When he retired from active work Dr. Hepburn decided to live in California. He liked the climate, but he was too far from his old associations, so he came back to Ohio and lived in Hamilton for a year or two, eventually returning to Oxford, where he remained until the end.

It would not do to omit reference to his great love of the college fraternity which he joined as a boy. It was probably the only secret association that he ever joined, and he always cared a great deal for the institution of Beta Theta Pi, and was long an adviser, friend, and godfather to the boys of that society. He never missed a Beta function, and he would stay out until 2 a. m. to preside at an initiation dinner where sometimes he was forty years older than any other man in the room. His speeches were as charming, sensible, and informing as his teaching, and they exercised a great influence on thousands of young men.

Education has lost one of her greatest men and human society a true ornament. Dr. Hepburn was a great man.—*Editorial in the Hamilton Daily News by Carl Greer, Miami '04.*

MIAMI AND THE LEGISLATURE

The alumni in Ohio have received recently a folder entitled "Three and a Half Million for College Training," which gives in brief form the needs of the five state colleges and universities of Ohio. We hope

that you have read it thru and that we can count on you to support its program.

In this article we propose to give you in some detail the needs of the state as compared with other states in higher education and to explain our requests for Miami.