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THE SEARCH AFTER TRUTH.

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There is a widespread impression that our age is one of unusual intellectual unrest. Within recent years a prominent writer issued a book whose title included the words "An Age of Doubt." Another prominent author within a year issued a book entitled "An Age of Faith". Of course we have both faith and doubt; but this age is characterized above all others as being distinctively *an age of facts*. It is also rightly called a "scientific age" as compared to former times, because the scientific method obtains in the thinking world. There is more stability in the thinking world today than ever before, for there is a growing sense of actual knowledge and certainty, resulting from the scientific research and the critical spirit which have canvassed the whole realm of investigation, and have practically decided many things which are henceforth settled for all scholarly men.

In all this research it will be fair to say that men have been asking one question, and asking it earnestly. It is the old question which we have recorded as being asked by Pilate, the Roman Governor of Judea: "What is Truth?" There might be various answers to this question offered by different students of the world's life; but the largest consensus of judgment will agree that the deepest purpose of the question goes to the point of bringing men light upon the problems involving the moral and spiritual welfare of the human race. It is not enough to know all the facts about the physical universe. It is not even enough to know all the facts involved in right thinking in the intellectual realm. The supreme asset for humanity is character. The supreme need for humanity is righteousness. The supreme problem for humanity is the moral and spiritual prob-

JOHN BERRY CLARK.

BORN JUNE 30, 1884. DIED MAY 5, 1909.

John Berry Clark was born near Green Springs, Washington County, Virginia, June 30, 1884. He was a son of David and Margaret (Watson) Clark. His parents died when he was a small boy; and he and his older brother, Frank, were left to the care of a faithful half-brother, Mr. Benjamin C. Clark. In the home of this big-hearted man the two orphaned lads grew up, the objects of an affection at once fraternal and almost paternal. He gave them every consideration a father could. His wife well-supplied a mother's place. She is, in their eyes, a woman who has proven faithful to every trust; and one who, through her prayers and precepts and her own beautiful life, kept ever before them the highest ideals. She, more than any other under God, made it seem natural to them that they should become ministers of the Gospel.

John was ever a manly lad. He grew up, highly esteemed by all who knew him as a youth of good parts, excellent character and promise. Having previously attended the public schools of his neighborhood, when he was about sixteen years of age he entered Green Springs Academy, where he further prepared himself for college. From the Academy he went to King College, whence, after he had completed a four years' course, he was graduated in 1907. During his academical and college career he had won several medals for excellence as a speaker. After graduation he taught with much success at Green Springs Academy. Meanwhile he was using his spare moments in preparation for his projected course in a Theological Seminary. He spent the summer of 1908 in doing Home Mission work. He entered Union Theological Seminary, at Richmond, Va., Sept 1908.

From the start he took a high stand amongst his fellows in the Seminary. He appeared to be modest but manly, deferential to all about him but independently thoughtful, serious

but neither morose nor harsh, conscientious and faithful in the performance of all conceived duty, of excellent abilities and stalwart Christian character. His fellow-students and his teachers hoped for fine results from his Seminary training, and for a highly fruitful life once he should be in the active work of the ministry. But he was destined to only a brief period of study.

January 15, 1909, on account of his poor health, he went to his home in Southwest Virginia,—to the home of Mr. Benjamin C. Clark. Thence he was brought back, to St. Luke's Hospital in this city, eleven days later. Here he was to show quite plainly of what manner of stuff he was made. Being very weak when brought to the hospital, his surgeon, Dr. Stuart McGuire, thought it best that he should be built up, if possible, before undergoing an operation. At the end of several weeks, however, he appeared to be growing weaker instead of stronger; and, though candidly informed that in his very weak condition he would probably die under the knife, he calmly made up his mind to submit to the operation since it was evident that without the operation he was doomed to an early death. His stomach had been attacked by some obscure malady and from parts of it for weeks he had been slowly bleeding to death. The operation was intended to throw the stomach out of use for a time that it might have rest and be healed. While submissive to whatever might be the will of the Lord, Mr. Clark had considered it to be his duty to fight for his life. He had consulted various friends as to his duty in the premises but had been left to assume the responsibility of deciding for the operation, himself.

Though physically very weak, he went without a tremor to the operating table. To a friend who stood by, with his hand over Mr. Clark's as the anaesthetic was administered, he betrayed no more excitement than if he had been lying down to sleep. He passed successfully through the operation and, for some weeks, gave promise of recovery; but complications set in, and he began to fail. Till near the end he hoped for recovery; he made a brave and manly fight for life. No man could have done more by his bearing as a patient to assist recovery. Yet

his resignation to the will of the Lord, though remarkable earlier, grew more perfect as he approached the end. All the while, he maintained his interest in those about him and particularly in their spiritual welfare. He was intensely interested in the salvation of friends whom he had made in the hospital. He prayed for them, carried them on his heart.

He died May 5, 1909, lamented by his friends at the hospital, by the Seminary students and faculty, by the people amongst whom he had done his missionary work, by his friends generally, and by the members of his own family,—his brothers, Rev. F. E. Clark and Mr. D. W. Clark, his half-brothers Messrs. Benjamin C. and T. J. Clark, his half-sister, Mrs. D. A. Duff, who also has recently passed to the regions beyond. In the death of this young man the church sustained a great loss. May the Lord Christ raise up others to do the work which he gave promise of doing.

THOS. CARY JOHNSON.