

THE UNION SEMINARY REVIEW

VOL. XXXVIII.

APRIL, 1927.

No. 3.

A SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF REV. HENRY ELIAS DOSKER, D. D., LL. D., L. H. D.

*(Professor of Church History, Louisville Presbyterian
Theological Seminary, 1903-1926).*

BY REV. JOHN M. VANDER MEULEN, D. D., LL. D.,
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For those not well acquainted with Dr. Dosker, it may be well, before my expression of appreciation of him, to give, in a few words, the data of his life.

He was born in the Netherlands in February, 1855, at Bunschoten. His father was the Rev. Nicholas Herman Dosker, pastor of the Christian Reformed Church at Bunschoten, and his mother was Wilhelmina De Rondén. Henry Elias, for that was the name given him, was educated in the Dutch Gymnasium, a school of secondary education that corresponds roughly to our academy or high school. The family came to this country in 1870, the Rev. Nicholas Dosker having accepted a call to take the ministry of the Second (Dutch) Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Henry E. was sent to Hope College, Holland, Michigan, from which he graduated and of which he was one of the most distinguished alumni. He then entered McCormick Seminary without, of course, leaving the membership of the Dutch Reformed Church in America. His first church was a country pastorate in Ebenezer, near the city of Holland, Michigan. His second church was the First Reformed Church of Grand Haven, Michigan,

He was one of the first preachers in the country to stress the social gospel, and was a notable exponent of church unity.

The story of his life is told us very simply, yet most interestingly, by his wife. From the standpoint of real helpfulness to the minister we have no hesitation in saying that this is one of the most valuable of recent biographies. It is as good as a course in pastoral theology and homiletics combined, and much more interesting. Through it George Hodges, one of the most useful of God's servants in the past generation, still speaks.

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RECOLLECTIONS AND REFLECTIONS. *By Newman Smyth.* Charles Scribner's Sons. Pp. 244. \$2. Newman Smyth was one of the outstanding clergymen of America, and one of the first to espouse and champion the liberal theology. Shortly before his death, January 6, 1925, he completed the last pages of this book, containing recollections of the outstanding events in his life, and some of his mature reflections on the same. Since Dr. Smyth's service to the church was a rich and varied one, there is necessarily much in his book that is stimulating and inspiring. Since he was a pioneer in liberalism, and contributed to the downfall of Calvinism in New England, there is much that antagonizes the conservative Presbyterian. But the book is worth reading for the light it throws on contemporary conditions; for the insight it gives us into the soul of Newman Smyth. These quotations give us the spirit of the man: "In my youth I consecrated my ministry to the search for truth. . . . At whatever time in his life it may be, younger or later on, a man becomes really old when his view of life becomes incapable of enlargement, his habits of thought hardened, and when his faith clothed in a ceremonial strait-jacket, has no freedom left in which to grow."

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