

# THE PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED REVIEW

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## I.

### RECENT DOGMATIC THOUGHT IN THE NETHERLANDS.\*

THE Dutch theology of the nineteenth century has been discussed more than once by both foreign and native writers. The following is a list of the more important treatises on the subject: CHR. SEPP, *Proeve eener pragmatische geschiedenis der Theologie in Nederland van 1787 tot 1858*, 3d ed., Leiden, 1859; D. CHANTEPIE DE LA SAUSSAYE, *La crise religieuse en Hollande*, Leyde, 1860; DR. G. J. VOS, *Groen van Prinsterer en zijn tijd 1800–1857*, Dordrecht, 1886; *Idem.*, *Groen van Prinsterer en zijn tijd, 1857–1876*, Dordrecht, 1891; DR. J. H. GUNNING, J.Hz., *Het Protestantsche Nederland onzer dagen*, Groningen, 1889; DR. J. A. GERTH VAN WYCK, art. "Holland," in Herzog und Plitt, *Realenc. für Prot. Theol. u. Kirche*, vi, s. 254–266; JOHANNES GLOËL, *Hollands Kirchliches Leben*, Würtemberg (1885); DR. ADOLPH ZAHN, *Abriss einer Geschichte der Evangelischen Kirche auf dem Europ. Festlande im 19ten Jahrhundert*, 2te Aufl., Stuttgart, 1888, etc. As secondary sources of information all these and other works may render excellent service, but the works of the representative theologians themselves will alone give an insight into the principles and nature of the successive tendencies.

Dutch theology during the present century has been subject to various influences. Its character has been molded in turn not only by Calvinism, which has always continued to live among the

\* [Our readers are indebted for the translation of Dr. Bavinck's paper to Prof. G. Vos, Ph.D., of Grand Rapids, Mich.—EDITORS.]

VIII.  
OBITUARY NOTE.

THE REV. PROF. CHARLES AUGUSTUS AIKEN, PH.D., D.D.

BY the death of Dr. Aiken, on the morning of the fourteenth of January, 1892, this REVIEW has lost, as may be said without offense, one of its most constant and valued contributors. When *The Presbyterian Review* was founded, in 1880, its first Managing Editors were Drs. A. A. Hodge and C. A. Briggs; but, Dr. Hodge being at that time occupied in writing the biography of his father, Dr. Aiken, with his characteristic generosity of helpfulness, assumed his editorial work for the year, and most efficiently performed it. From that time until the suspension of *The Presbyterian Review*, at the end of 1889, no number appeared without contributions from his pen, with the single exception of the numbers for 1884, when Dr. Aiken was laid aside from work by severe illness. On the establishment of THE PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED REVIEW, he became at once practically one of its editors, and has given it ungrudgingly the valuable service of his literary supervision, as well as contributed freely to its pages. No number has appeared which has not contained something from his fertile hand, and none which has not, in more hidden but not less important ways, owed much to his wide and exact scholarship, his pure taste, and his capacity for business detail. For many years before the founding of either of these journals he had been a frequent contributor to *The Princeton Review*, and earlier to *The Bibliotheca Sacra*, his first paper in the latter having appeared in the volume for 1853. For literary work of this sort he was admirably fitted by natural gifts, and especially by the breadth and fullness of his knowledge of literature.

Dr. Aiken sprang from the best New England soil. His father, John Aiken, Esq., was a scion of the old New Hampshire Scotch-Irish stock, a lawyer by profession, who graduated at Dartmouth in 1819, and married a daughter of Prof. Adams, of that institution. He filled with acceptability the office of Trustee of Dartmouth College, and, for many years, of President of the Trustees of Andover Theological Seminary, and he was a member of the Prudential Committee of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Dr. Aiken was born at Manchester, Vt., on the 30th of October, 1827, and

spent his precocious boyhood chiefly at Lowell, where his father had become connected with one of the large manufacturing companies. At the age of twelve he was already fully fitted for college; but his wise father found him employment in the meanwhile in the mill which was under his authority. There he laid the foundation of those business habits which were so marked an element in his abilities in later life, and which made him an invaluable member of the faculties of the institutions he served. He entered Dartmouth College in 1842, and graduated easily at the head of his class in 1846, leaving behind him no less marked a record in musical and athletic circles than in those of pure scholarship. For a year he taught in Lawrence Academy, at Groton, Mass., and then for two years in Phillips' Academy, at Andover, where the traditions of his scholarship, efficiency and tact lingered many years. In 1848, while at Andover, he united with the Church, and soon after (1849) entered the Theological Seminary at Andover. He broke into his course at the Seminary for two years of study in Germany, winning golden opinions as to his linguistic abilities from the greatest philologists of the day. Returning, he graduated from Andover with the class of 1853, and, having been ordained on the 19th of October, 1854, was installed pastor at Yarmouth, Me. There he spent five years of a happy and most blessed pastorate, during the course of which he had the great joy of witnessing a powerful revival of religion in his flock. His name is still a hallowed memory among those to whom his ministry brought so great a blessing. In 1859 he was called to the Professorship of the Latin Language and Literature at his *alma mater*, and "feeling that his peculiar temperament, training and acquirements fitted him for greater usefulness as a teacher of young men"—I quote from Prof. Charles A. Young, to whom I am indebted for all the details of Dr. Aiken's earlier life—after careful deliberation he accepted the call. There he remained until 1866, and Prof. Young, who was for a while his colleague there, witnesses "how admirably and easily he did his work, how wise and reasonable were his views of college management and discipline, and how just, vigorous and effective were his methods." "As a teacher," he adds, "he was remarkable in his power of constraining the undivided attention and prompt response of his pupils: at Dartmouth he had the reputation of doing with them nearly twice as much in an hour as any one else could accomplish." In 1866 he was transferred to the same chair in the College of New Jersey, and gave it three years of most brilliant work, when, in 1869, he removed to Schenectady, N. Y., as President of Union College, to return to Princeton in 1871 as the first Archibald Alexander Professor of Christian Ethics and Apologetics in the Seminary. Amid much weakness and illness, heroically borne, he was enabled to consecrate twenty years of invaluable service to the Seminary. Always ready and always willing, with a very unusual store of exact knowledge in a very unusual range of subjects at his command,

he taught for it, from time to time, Apologetics, Christian Ethics, Hebrew and the cognate languages, Old Testament history, and (for the last decade) the Criticism of the Pentateuch and the Historical Books of the Old Testament. His greatest distinction was in philology; but to each department of study which it fell to him to cultivate he brought an unwearied industry, an insatiable avidity for learning, and habits of exact scholarship which made themselves felt.

His work in the class room was but a small part of the labor he performed for the institutions he served. His executive ability was very great: and he had nothing less than a genius for detail. A vast mass of work for the Seminary was cheerfully and efficiently performed by him of which the public knew nothing. He possessed, moreover, a faculty for information and an accurate memory for facts which are given to few, and which made him an invaluable colleague. He knew everything that was going on; he knew not only all about every student in the Seminary, but all about his past history and antecedents; and he knew accurately the history of every former student. Of course it was his heart that lay at the bottom of this vast body of information, which was an unfailing source of wonder and envy to the rest of us. He bore the students on his heart; he had an anxious concern for their advancement and prosperity, and a tender sympathy for their trials and difficulties; which was quite consistent with his faithful conscientiousness in insisting upon each performing his full duty. The tribute which one of his students has printed of him is thoroughly just: "But the quality that preëminently characterized him was his friendliness. We all felt that he took a deep personal interest in every one in the institution. He had the rare faculty of finding out and remembering much of the personal history and circumstances of each of the students, and this interest followed them when they left the Seminary, so that when asked he could tell not only the present location, but also something of the work and success of a large proportion of those who had graduated here for years past. It was this unusually comprehensive personal interest in all the students that made us feel that in his death we had each lost not only an honored professor, but also a near and dear friend."

Of course these same qualities showed themselves in his personal intercourse with his friends. Dr. Aiken was preëminently a friend. Dr. Charles Hodge used to say that he was as attentive and kind to him in his old age as one of his sons could be. No one of his colleagues has failed to drink at the same sweet fountain. "To those who knew Prof. Aiken," says Prof. Young, justly, "there is no need that I should tell them how bright and scholarly a man he was. He was gentle in thought and witty in speech, keen in seeing through a fallacy or a pretense, and rightly intolerant of either; of a mind judicial rather than partisan, ready to look at all sides of a question, and yet firm in holding a conviction once reached. And he was a *good* man through and through; he was kind and generous, and with

a wide range of sympathy he was ready to spend and be spent in the service of his fellow-men. Above all, he was a devout, sincere and earnest Christian. If many of his best qualities—his kindness, generosity and justness—had their roots in the natural disposition of the man, yet they drew their strength most abundantly from the divine life within him." The depth of his Christian experience gave him great influence for good in the academic circles in which his life was passed, and made him also a preacher of great tenderness and searchingness. His sermons were based on a very close exegesis, and were written with great literary skill, and sometimes even with poetic feeling; but above all, they were suffused with a deep and touching Christian sentiment.

His business habits and capacity for work made him a very valuable servant of the Church at large outside the academic chair. He served on numerous committees, and, indeed, contracted the cold which, developing into pneumonia, cost him his life, attending, at New York, the meeting of the Program Committee which was preparing for the next meeting of the Presbyterian Alliance. He was a most valuable member of the Old Testament section of the Committee on the Revision of the English Bible. His most considerable literary work was the translation and editing of the volume on "Proverbs" in the American reworking of Lange's Bible-Work; this was undertaken while still Professor of Latin at Princeton, and published in 1870.

My own acquaintance with Dr. Aiken began when a youth of less than seventeen I entered the Sophomore class in Princeton College, in 1868, and fell under the perfect teaching of Dr. Aiken as Professor of Latin. I wish to bring my small tribute to him here, testifying, from the student's point of view, to the perfection with which he performed his work in that chair, to which Dr. Young bears witness as a colleague. Later, I sat under his instruction also in the Seminary; and more lately still I have had the pleasure of knowing him more intimately as a colleague. With every year my appreciation of the beauty of his character has increased. Was there ever a more alert intelligence? Was there ever so cheerful a sufferer? Those who know the years of physical distress which he bore with a courage that never faltered and which he never permitted to damp his spirits or to interfere with the prompt and thorough performance of his duties, or with his ever-ready response to the calls of his friends upon him for aid or comfort, though they may miss him sorely, will not have the heart to begrudge him his well-earned rest.

PRINCETON.

B. B. WARFIELD.



Fisher Unwin.) This is a very valuable biography of one of the great English soldiers of fortune, who, wandering away from the fields of war in France under Edward III, found his way into Italy, and took part in the petty wars of the "Age of the Despots."—*A History of the French Revolution*. By H. Morse Stephens, Balliol College, Oxford. In three volumes. Vol. ii, 8vo, pp. xv, 561. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1891.) This volume carries this important work through the stirring years 1791-93, beginning with the assembling of the Legislative Assembly in the first of those years. It thus deals with the fortunes of the Girondins, the Reign of Terror, the outbreak in La Vendée, closing with the pause which Robespierre made before striking at Danton, Desmoulins, and his other great rivals.—Among the handsome books of the just passed holiday season, none is more attractive or more delightful to read than *The Women of the French Salons*, by Amelia G. Mason. Royal 8vo, pp. 286. (New York: The Century Co., 1891.)—Among historical novels the reprint of Dumas from the press of Little, Brown & Co., is completed by *The Regency Romances*, 2 vols., and *Historical Romances*, 6 vols., among which *The Black Tulip* is conspicuous for its freedom from moral taint, though marred by misconception of the great Prince of Orange.—*The Princess of Clèves*, 2 vols., by Mlle. de Lafayette, from the same publishers, is another beautiful reprint of a novel at once interesting, and notable as one of the earliest examples of the modern novel. All of these are safer in the hands of students of history than of young people of either sex.—Prof. E. N. Horsford, in a handsomely illustrated quarto, returns to the charge against the critics of his cherished Norumbega. It bears the title, *The Defenses of Norumbega and a Review of the Reconnaissances of Messrs. Higginson, Haynes, Winsor, Parkman and Slafter*. Pp. v, 84. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1891.) Prof. Horsford has the courage of his convictions, and flies an additional title-page which bears the following *credo* (it being taken from the tablet on his Norumbega Tower): "A.D. 1000—A.D. 1889.—Norumbega. City, Country, Fort, River. Norumbega=Nor'mbega, Indian utterance of Norbega, the ancient form of Norvega—Norway—to which the region of Vinland was subject. City, at or near Watertown, where remain to-day Docks, Wharves, Walls, Dams, Basins. Country, extending from Rhode Island to the St. Lawrence, first seen by Bjarni Herjulfson, 985 A.D.; landfall of Leif Erikson on Cape Cod, 1000 A.D.; Norse canals, dams, walls, pavements, forts, terraced places of assembly, remain to-day. Fort, at base of tower and region about, was occupied by the Breton French in the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. River, The Charles, discovered by Leif Erikson 1000 A.D.; explored by Thorwald, Leif's brother, 1003 A.D.; colonized by Thorfinn Karlsefni, 1007 A.D.; first bishop, Erik Gnupton, 1121 A.D. Industries for 350 years masur wood (burrs), fish, furs, agriculture. Latest Norse ship returned to Iceland in 1347."—We conclude with *The Sabbath in Puritan New England*. By Mrs. Alice Morse Earle. 12mo. (New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1891.) A bright little study of a phase of social life in Colonial times.

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