

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP EUGENE RUSSELL HENDRIX.

BY ALFRED F. SMITH, D.D.

BISHOP EUGENE RUSSELL HENDRIX, between the dates of May 17, 1847, and November 11, 1927, accomplished an unusual and splendid career. He arrived at young manhood when our country was sorely troubled with the conditions arising from the Civil War. Notwithstanding the difficulties then existing, he bent his energies toward the acquiring of an extensive education. While young men around him were turning their lives toward temporal pursuits, he, though in an unusually fortunate position for entering into business, gave his thought wholly to preparation for the ministry. His father, Adam Hendrix, was a banker at Fayette, Mo., where his son Eugene was born, and as an astute financier he was in correspondence with the chief financial interests of the country. It seems remarkable that this favored young man was able to extricate himself from the allurements of a promising business life and consecrate his powers to the preaching of the gospel. Doubtless the strong religious bent of his mother was a controlling factor in his decision. In order to fit himself with every possible equipment he at length attended and graduated from Wesleyan University in Connecticut and Union Theological Seminary in New York. He was licensed to preach in 1869 and served pastorates at Leavenworth, Kans., and in Missouri at Macon, St. Joseph, and Glasgow. When he was only thirty-one years of age he became President of Central College, and before he was forty he was elected one of the Bishops of his Church.

Bishop Hendrix possessed a most impressive personality. Whenever he was seen he was recognized as a man of culture and power. His physical appearance was attractive. His splendid eyes and rotund voice and orderly thinking enabled him to keep the attention of his hearers when he was either on the platform or in conversation. He was an industrious student throughout his life. His private library was one of the best. His authors were selected with care from the greatest minds of the ages. He had no time to spend upon second-rate and unimportant literature. He himself became an author of notable books, such as "Around the World" (1878), "Skilled Labor for the Master" (1900), "The Religion of the Incarnation" (1903), "The Personality of the Holy Spirit" (1904), "Christ's Table Talk" (1908), and "If I Had Not Come" (1916).

Both in his written and in his spoken productions there were often lofty and sustained flights of real eloquence. He frequently became sublime.

Early in life Dr. Hendrix became an earnest advocate of the cause of missions. At the age of twenty-nine years he went with Bishop Enoch M. Marvin to China. Both from his observations and from his association with this seraphic bishop, he obtained a marked interest in world evangelism and ever afterwards voiced a persuasive appeal in its behalf. He was an unusually successful administrator in our Mission Conferences. He was able to gratify an early formed desire to visit all the Conferences of our Church both at home and in other lands. Over a number of these Conferences he presided two or more times. The missionaries were always greatly pleased when he was assigned as their President.

For forty-one years he was a bishop in our Church, being on the retired list only since 1922. In that year, knowing that his strength had permanently failed, he addressed a letter to his brethren at the General Conference which for greatness of spirit and fitness of expression could hardly be surpassed. In it he said: "Kindly relieve me, my brethren, as my God has done already, of the further labors of my episcopal office. With joy have I lived and with joy have I died, and I lay myself down with a will. I have your several faces and characters in affectionate and joyous remembrance. All good words and works be yours! Let me in my daily prayers remember you and each one of you in the face of our Heavenly Father. Take from my outstretched hands and a full heart my faithful benediction."

Soon after Bishop Hendrix's election to the episcopacy he established his home in Kansas City. In that home he remained to the end. His children went out from it to establish their own homes; and thence his devoted wife, who was Miss Annie E. Scarritt, a little while before him passed into the morning land. Under the care of faithful loved ones and nurses he continued in feebleness until he, too, was called home.

His own Church and all the Churches of America long since came to regard him as one of the chief Christian leaders of the world. He was the first President of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America. He was known and was influential amongst the rulers of the nations.

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7. "Histoire de Belgique," Van Kalken.
8. "Histoire dea Pasupels de L'Anti-
quite," Lallemand.
9. "Lea Predicateurs Pionniers de
l'Quest Ameridan," M. Lelievre.
Sermon ecrit sur la Repentance.
A lire: Ouvrages indiques par la Com-
mission des Etudes.

Second Year.

1. Sermons de Wesley, 6-12.
2. "Theologie de Wesley," (Ile Partie)
Matt. Lelievre.
3. "Wesley d' aproes son Journal"
H. Guiton.
4. Discipline, IX-XII.
5. "Introduction a l'Ancien Testament,"
Fargues.
6. "Les Prophetes d'Israel," A. Marioler.
7. "Histoire du Christianisme," Gio-
draux.
8. "Ce que la Bible enseigne" (II), Tor-
rey.
Sermon ecrit sur le Salut par la Foi.
A lire: Ouvrages indiques par la Com-
mission des Etudes.

Third Year.

1. Discipline, XIII-XVIII.
2. "Introduction au Nouveus Testa-
ment" (Vol. 1), Godst.
3. "Apologie du Christianisme," A.
Bertrand.
4. "Dogmatique I," Boyon.
5. "La Redemption," C. Babut.
6. "Histoire des Religions," Deeder-
blom.
7. "La Mission historique de Jesus,
H. Monnier.
8. "Philosophie" (precis ou manuel)
J. Janet.
Sermon ecrit le Temoignage de l'Esprit.
A lire: Ouvrages indiques par la Com-
mission des Etudes.

Fourth Year.

1. "Logique," Gobebeau.
2. Discipline, XVIII a XXV.
3. "Introduction au Nouveau Testa-
ment" (Vol. II), Godet.
4. "Dogmatique II," Boyon.
5. "Theologie pastorale," A. Vinet.
6. "Histoire du Christianisme—La Re-
forme et les tempa Modernes," Chastel.
7. "Histoire es Missions Chretiennes"
(parun Laique).
8. "Organization et Administration des
Ecoles du dimanche," Cuninggim et North.
Sermon ecrit sur la Perfection Chretienne.
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