

HENRY LOUIS BAUGHER.

BY F. W. CONRAD, D. D.

Henry L. Baugher was the son of Frederick and Catharine Baugher. He was born at Abbottstown, Adams county, Pa., July 19, 1804, was baptized in infancy, and confirmed as a member of the Lutheran church in his youth. He was prepared for college by Rev. David McConaughy, of Gettysburg, Pa., and graduated at Dickinson College, Carlisle, in 1826. As a student he took a high rank in his class, was awarded one of its honors, and delivered the Latin Salutatory at its Commencement. At the conclusion of his college course he made arrangements to read law with Francis S. Key, esq., of Georgetown, D. C., a jurist and poet, and widely known as the author of "The Star Spangled Banner." But the death of his mother made such an impression upon him that he changed his mind, and resolved to study for the ministry. He commenced his theological course at Princeton, N. J., and after pursuing it there two years, completed it in the Theological Seminary which had in the meantime been opened at Gettysburg. He was licensed to preach the gospel by the Synod of West Pennsylvania in 1828, and became pastor of the Boonsboro charge, in Washington county, Md., in 1829, where he labored one year. On the 29th of October, 1829, he was married by Rev. George Duffield, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Carlisle, Pa., to Miss Clara Mary Brooks, a member of that congregation. He removed to Gettysburg early in 1831, and became a teacher in the Gymnasium established at that place. At the opening of Pennsylvania College in 1832 he was chosen Professor of the Greek Language and Belles-Lettres.

Thus, under the guidance of Providence, Dr. Baugher entered upon his chosen career, and devoted his life to the work of higher education, for which he was eminently fitted by his natural endowments, and a thorough academic and theological training. Resigning his pastoral charge at the expiration of a single year, he began his career as an educator at the age of twenty-seven. Blessed with a strong constitution and good health, he brought into requisition all the ardor of youth and the energy of manhood, in the prosecution of his life-work.

On the resignation of Dr. Charles P. Krauth, in 1850, all eyes were turned to Prof. Baugher as his successor, and he was elected President by the Board of Trustees. His scholarship and other literary attainments, the result of twenty years of study and experience, fitted him to give instruction in the branches pertaining to the presidency; while his firmness, decision and executive ability, enabled him not only to govern the institution, but also to manage its diversified affairs with wisdom and success. In the discharge of routine duties, he was prompt, punctual and methodical. He entered the class-room thoroughly prepared, and was always interesting and instructive. He threw the students upon their own resources, and by withholding premature assistance, tested their ability, required them to exercise their own powers, and thus secured the highest culture.

President Baugher was a rigid disciplinarian. He realized the importance of government, and had a high regard for law. Believing that reverence for superiors, submission to authority, and obedience to the rules and regulations of the College, were indispensable to the formation of a good character, he inculcated and enforced the duty of loyalty both by counsel and authority. He had a thorough knowledge of human nature, and could read the character of students as by intuition. He was proficient in detecting those guilty of misdemeanors and violations of the

college laws. He could make due allowance for the exuberance of animal spirits in the young, and for innocent boyish pranks and tricks; but he detested all kinds of falsehood, cunning deception and evasion of rules, and all malicious and dishonorable conduct. Prevaricators, mischief-makers, and ringleaders in wickedness found little mercy at his hands; yet, as soon as an offender manifested regret for his conduct, he was ready to forgive, and encouraged him to reform and redeem his character. Ardent in temperament and impulsive in disposition, his indignation sometimes exposed him to the charge of severity. But when, on reflection, he discovered any real error in his judgment, he had no hesitancy in manfully acknowledging his mistake, and in making the *amende honorable*. Although many students may have thought him unnecessarily severe during their college course, yet in after life they justified his discipline, expressed their gratitude for his solicitude for them, and revered his memory as that of a father. The high estimation in which he was held by the students may be inferred from the testimony of an alumnus, now at the head of a literary institution. "Excepting only my own father," said he, "I thought more of Dr. Baugher than of any man living."

President Baugher accepted the Christian ideal of education. He held that character was its ultimate end, and that this could only be attained through the cultivation of the moral faculty, together with the reason, by inculcating the principles of Christianity. Desirous as he was that every student should obtain a thorough education, he was still more solicitous that none should leave the College without becoming Christians. He was constantly on the lookout for opportunities to drop "a word in season." A student would enter his room on business, and, before leaving, might be accosted with the question: "Are you a Christian?" Another might meet him on the way, and ere long find himself engaged in religious conversation. And a third might receive a visit from him at his room, and become the subject of his counsels and prayers. In the class-room he interspersed his instructions, as occasion offered, with religious truths, as well as when he expounded the Scriptures in the Bible Class. And in the pulpit, he urged with deep pathos the claims of Christ upon the attention of young men. Nor was he satisfied with this, but at propitious times appointed special religious services, in which it was the privilege of the writer to assist on five different occasions. In these meetings he rendered efficient service by his exhortations and directions, as well as by his prayers, concerning which one of his colleagues declared that "he never knew a man who had such unction in extemporaneous prayer." Through these private and public efforts he became instrumental, directly and indirectly, in leading scores of the alumni and students to Christ, a large proportion of whom became ministers of the gospel. "They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever."

As a preacher, Dr. Baugher occupied a high position. He wrote his sermons carefully, and read them with such freedom and naturalness, that, but for the turning of the leaves of his manuscript, his hearers would have thought that he was speaking extemporaneously. He was, however, not confined to his notes, but would frequently dispense with them to give expression to burning thoughts suggested by the inspiration of the moment. "Leaving his manuscript," says one of his associates, "for a while, as he often did, he allowed the feelings of the moment to find free utterance. Men quailed before his denunciations of sin, or were moved to tears as the tenderer side of his character was manifested. Occasionally I have noticed him to be so much affected himself, that he had to pause to recover his self-control." The same witness refers to his impromptu bursts of eloquence in expounding the Scriptures in the Bible Class on Sunday afternoon, as follows: "Whatever the Book before him, and he told me shortly before his death, that he had taught nearly the whole Bible, he was equally eloquent and impressive. Often he seemed to forget the ordinary province of the recitation-room, and glided into the most moving

appeals, that belong to the highest style of oratory, and which he never excelled, if he ever equaled, in the pulpit.”

His manner was easy and dignified, his style clear and terse, and his delivery earnest and impressive. One of his colleagues excelled him in natural oratory, and another in systematic arrangement; but he excelled them all in directness of statement, pungency of utterance, and closeness of application. Indeed, he was recognized as the most effective preacher in Gettysburg. A striking illustration of this is furnished by one of the Alumni, a distinguished divine of another denomination. He says: “In my day, the students went to hear preaching generally with an air of nonchalance; but they were afraid to go to hear Dr. Baugher, for fear of being converted.”

Pennsylvania College was founded as a Christian institution. Although placed under Lutheran auspices, it was, nevertheless, non-sectarian, and distinguished by true catholicity. Dr. Baugher, actuated by the spirit of its founders, devoted his energies to the maintenance of its religious character, and stamped his own impress upon it.

Ten professors, including his son, H. Louis, named after him, were students under him, six of whom, with Dr. Milton Valentine, his worthy successor, are still members of the Faculty. His gifted predecessor, as well as each of his colleagues, contributed his full share in advancing the institution from one stage of progress to another, until it took rank among the best denominational Colleges in the country.

Dr. Baugher, through his long connection with the institution, his official position, and pastoral relations, inscribed, as it were, his image and superscription upon the hearts of his pupils, and by his instructions and admonitions, made impressions that have moulded the character, shaped the life and influenced the destiny of hundreds of the Alumni, and thousands of the students of Pennsylvania College. And the declaration with which he closed his tribute to the memory of Dr. Krauth, at his obsequies, may as justly be applied to him— “His life was not a failure,” but, we may add, a success, an achievement and a glory. “He being dead, yet speaketh.”

This sketch of President Baugher would be incomplete without at least a brief reference to his attainments and personal traits of character. His talents were of a high order, and by reading and study he made constant progress in the accumulation of useful knowledge. He was, however, too much absorbed with his official duties to attain eminence in other departments of learning, yet he attained a respectable standing among educators as a man of culture and force. His exegetical knowledge and peculiar cast of mind impelled him to the prosecution of theological studies. He mastered Turretin, took part in translating Schmid's Dogmatic, and made himself acquainted with the works of Lutheran theologians. His estimate of their ability he expressed as follows: “The first two centuries of Protestantism could not have left, humanly speaking, a richer legacy to posterity than the learning and piety and genius and industry which are embodied in the works to which Schmid refers, and from which he quotes. They were giants who wrote them, which the efforts of modern writers may strive to imitate, but can never excel.” *-Ev. Rev., IX. 496.* This led him to a more thorough investigation of our standards, and he became a decided but conservative Lutheran. He wrote with facility, and expressed his views with great clearness and force. His articles in the *Evangelical Review*, his communications in the *Lutheran Observer*, and his baccalaureate addresses, are characterized by practical wisdom, pure ethics, and sound doctrine. In 1848 his Alma Mater recognized his theological attainments by conferring upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

In stature Dr. Baugher was about the medium height, and rather stoutly built. He had a genial flow of spirits and fine conversational powers. He enjoyed society, and was engaging in his intercourse with men. He was fond of humor, and frequently indulged in pleasantry. He had a high sense of honor, and was above all- chicanery or artifice in carrying out his purposes, and could not brook it in others. In the household he inspired reverence and obedience, and moved among his children rather as a familiar companion than an exacting ruler. As a citizen he was actuated by public spirit, ardent patriotism, and true philanthropy.

Dr. Baugher was emphatically a man of mark. He was possessed of such decided traits of character that he could not prove a cipher anywhere, but must be felt as a positive power wherever he was, and in whatever he engaged.

Sanguine in temperament, he did everything with all his might; frank and candid, he uttered his sentiments without fear or favor; honest and courageous, he took his stand for the right, and rather courted than shrank from meeting difficulties and opposition. Possessed of strong points of character, he was not exempt from corresponding faults; but he strove earnestly to overcome them. As he grew older, he became, through grace, more mellow in heart and riper for heaven. It was observed that during the closing year of his life his sermons were marked by more than ordinary fervor and spiritual depth.

The writer first made the acquaintance of Dr. Baugher in 1837, when a theological student, and was on the most intimate terms of personal friendship with him through life. He feels a melancholy pleasure in having afforded him the privilege of paying this cheerful tribute to his memory, which he cannot close more appropriately than by quoting the following extract from a letter, written by one intimately associated with him in the Faculty, and who fully appreciated both his worth and his work: "Dr. Baugher was to the last devoted to his work, and his zeal never flagged. Not long before his death he showed me in his study some work he had just finished, designed for the Senior class of '68. He had also prepared a sermon with great care, which he proposed preaching on the first Sabbath morning of the next term. That work was never used, and that sermon never preached. At that interview, he referred with great feeling to the fact that his labors must soon close, and very appropriately quoted a verse from the ninetieth Psalm: "Establish thou the work of our hands upon us, yea, the work of our hands, establish thou it. That lifted the burden. Man dies, but his work abides. What we do for God and for man, moved by the love of Christ, has in it an element of immortality."

During the last year of his life, Dr. Baugher's health was more or less impaired, and he was at intervals confined to his house in consequence. His last illness, however, was quite short, and he died on the 14th of April, 1868, in the sixty-fourth year of his age. His widow died about a year ago, and his daughter Alice, with his sons Leegh, H. Louis, and Wilmer, still survive.

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me. Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors: and their works do follow them."