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Tribute from Rev. Joseph Henry Allen, D.D., of the Unitarian Church

Joseph Henry Allen

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TRIBUTE FROM REV. JOSEPH HENRY ALLEN,
D.D., OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am indebted to your kindness for the opportunity of adding a word to the many testimonials of gratitude and respect which the memory of Dr. Schaff has called forth. It is, indeed, little more than a word of apology that I can speak of him very inadequately at best, for rarely have our paths run together in so vast a field as that which includes them both; and of regret when I think how much more fit a word might have been said by my dear and venerated friend, Professor A. P. Peabody, whose versatile studies extended as broadly as the wide range of the Christian fellowship he rejoiced in. You remind me of the special service which Dr. Schaff has rendered, by the breadth of his intellectual sympathies, to that goodly fellowship of Christian scholars which it is one chief aim of our Society to promote and cultivate. I owe to this same motive of his labors the one opportunity I have had of meeting him personally, at a reception given in Boston on occasion of the completed Revision of the English Bible, which he, without doubt, has done more than any other to introduce and to interpret intelligently to our own public,—when I saw for myself something of the urbanity and kindliness that have made this great scholar so widely loved and esteemed as a gentleman and a friend. More than any other single service rendered to me personally, I recall the value and help I found, at a particular period of study, in that admirably conceived and edited work, *The Creeds of Christendom*. This, indeed, was but an episode in those labors whose magnitude and diversity fill me with wonder whenever: I

have had occasion to consult them in detail,—as in his recent elaborated study of Servetus,—I have been equally struck by the fairness of spirit and the exhaustive thoroughness with which the work is done. It is grateful to look back upon a life which has brought among us so much of the best tradition of those Swiss Churches of the Reformation among which it was nourished ; and which has been naturalized so completely, and identified so graciously, in our own republic of Christian letters.

Yours, respectfully,

JOSEPH HENRY ALLEN.