

The Life of George Matheson, D.D., LL.D., F.R.S.E.

By D. Macmillan, M.A., D.D., minister of Kelvinhaugh Parish, Glasgow. A. C. Armstrong & Son, New York, 1907. Pages 369.

Few lives of the nineteenth century are more worth telling than that of George Matheson, preacher, poet, author, mystic, scholar. Son of a successful Glasgow merchant, a brilliant student in the great university of his native city, afflicted with almost total blindness from early youth, he devoted himself to the ministry of the State Church of Scotland with a singleness of purpose and an effectiveness that was hardly equaled in any of the pulpits of Scotland. His great learning, his mystical piety, his poetic tastes, his sympathy with modern thought, made him peculiarly helpful to the large and cultured audiences that waited on his ministry for thirty-five years. He had passed through the dark regions of doubt and emerged triumphant on the sunny hills beyond; he knew the road and the feelings of travelers along the gloomy way, and was thus providentially prepared to help them. His triumph over his serious physical disability was an inspiration to other men. He was no mean hymn writer. Who can ever forget the haunting melody of rhythm and music in "O love, that will not let me go?"

The author has done a very good piece of biographical work, fortifying his conclusions with numerous extracts from Matheson and others. It is to be hoped that readers of Matheson's "Representative Men of the Bible" will also get acquainted with his beautiful and inspiring life through this excellent biography.

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