

LIFE OF DR. ANDREWS.

Elisha Benjamin Andrews was born in Hinsdale, N. H., on January 10, 1844. He was the son of Erastus and Almira (Bartlett) Andrews. His father was a Baptist minister of unusual force of character and of high repute in the community in which he lived. His mother was characterized to her last days by vigor of mind and strong interest in public affairs. One of his brothers was at one time chief justice of the state of Connecticut.

The boyhood of Dr. Andrews was spent chiefly in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. He entered the union army at the beginning of the civil war at the early age of seventeen years. His term of service was in the artillery, in which he rose to the rank of lieutenant. He bears the reputation of having been an unusually faithful, brave, and intelligent soldier.

At the close of the war, he determined to go to college and immediately set about to prepare himself, studying at Powers institute and Wesleyan academy. He made rapid progress and in 1866 entered Brown university. He graduated four years later with high rank. For two years following his graduation, he was principal of the Connecticut Literary institute at Suffield, Conn.

Desiring to study theology, he entered the Newton Theological institution, where he completed the course, and was ordained July 2, 1874. His first call was to become pastor of the first Baptist church of Beverly, Mass.

In the following year, 1875, he was elected president of Denison university, at Granville, Ohio, where he remained until 1879. At this date, he became professor of homiletics, pastoral duties, and church polity at Newton Theological institute. Upon the death of Prof. J. Lewis Diman, in 1882, he was elected professor of history and political economy at Brown university. He remained in this position for six years.

In 1884, the University of Nebraska honored Professor Andrews with the degree LL. D., and the same year, Colby university conferred upon him the degree D. D. In 1888, he went to Cornell university, Ithaca, N. Y., to accept the professorship of political economy and public finance. One year later, 1889, he was called back to Brown to accept the presidency of that institution.

From the time of his inauguration as president, Brown university began an era of expansion in many directions. The zeal with which he entered upon his duties seemed to inspire the friends of the institution with an unconquerable hope for her future. As a result, the alumni were found to be ready and willing to aid in extension.

Among the works that remind alumni of Dr. Andrews, are the university gymnasium, the Ladd observatory, and the physical laboratory. A fund of \$30,000 was raised for the maintenance of the gymnasium. Many other gifts were received, which tended to make President Andrews' term of office the most successful ever known to the institution.

After several years of constant work, President Andrews became more or less broken in health. In 1896, he was on the point of taking a year's leave of absence in Europe, when two graduates in the western part of the United States wrote to him asking whether in his opinion the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 by the United States acting alone would be safe policy for us to pursue. His reply to each was affirmative, his reasons accompanying the letters. These letters were private and not intended for publication, though without special injunctions to be kept so. At a later

date, they were printed and were the first pronouncements by him in favor of free silver. So far as yet shown, they were the only ones up to the time of the action of the Brown university trustees, on June 17, 1897, which caused so much comment through the United States. To say the least, this exhibits a course of action widely different from that attributed to him by a large number of newspapers. Instead of advocating free coinage for a long period of time as is generally supposed, Dr. Andrews came to the position late. On the whole, it may be said, that acting under the responsibility which his different positions have necessitated, he has not only been discreet but reticent concerning the subject.

In July 1896, Dr. Andrews went abroad for a year. Before his return, action was taken by the board of trustees of the university, appointing a committee of three to confer with him upon his views concerning free silver. The corporation had no intention of asking for his resignation, as is supposed, although it had been stated in board meeting that the views of the president had stopped several gifts. One month remained, before the return of the president. Upon his arrival he was informed of the committee and the conditions. He immediately requested the committee for a communication in writing. A compliance with his request was forth-coming. The letter which he received stated that his public utterance regarding free silver had lost to the university gifts and legacies and were likely to injure it in a pecuniary sense in the future. They asked that out of regard for the university, he should forbear to promulgate these views.

Dr. Andrews was conscious that his utterances upon the subject had been far within the limits usually placed for college presidents in respect to public utterances, and felt that under the circumstances, he should not be asked for a change of opinion. His resignation followed to take effect September 1, the next meeting of the corporation.

Before that date, a memorial was prepared by about two-thirds of the professors of Brown university for the press and alumni showing the conditions of affairs. As a result, the corporation voted to ask Dr. Andrews to withdraw his resignation.

At this request, Dr. Andrews withdrew his resignation and remained at the university during the following school year. Among students he was more highly respected than ever during this time. In the spring of 1898, the board of education of Chicago elected him superintendent of schools of that city, which position he accepted after careful consideration.

His success in Chicago, is admitted by every fair minded citizen, who is above ward politics. He originated several reforms which can not fail to bring incalculable good if pushed to a termination. Genuine sorrow is expressed by the better class of citizens that he has decided to leave the city, yet it is the universal sentiment that any man would do the same thing under similar circumstances.

During his last year at Brown, Dr. Andrews was at the head of a cosmopolitan university idea, that was originated by the Cosmopolitan magazine. He worked the idea well and faithfully.

Last year he refused a call to Colorado college on condition of his reelection to the superintendency at Chicago. The call this year from Nebraska met with much more approval on his part and the announcement that he would accept the position here was received with a great deal of rejoicing on the part of the student body.

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