

PROFESSOR LOUIS AGASSIZ.

Intellect, morality, affection, power and religion have each been considered worthy of the highest praise. We now present before you a man possessing them all. Prof. Louis Agassiz was born in Switzerland, May 28, 1807, and died Dec., 14, 1873. Eleven years of his life were spent under the instruction of his mother, 12 years of hard study at different colleges before beginning his life work, 16 years were devoted to scientific work in Europe and 27 in the United States.

Intellectually he was indeed great, and his influence is felt throughout the scientific world. Some men exert an influence by virtue of wealth and position; others wield a conferred power. But Agassiz was great by virtue of a power within himself. He was not a man of one idea, learned simply in one branch of science, but a man of broad culture. At the age of 23 he took the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Medicine with high honor. Previous to this his great ability as a scientist had been recognized and he had been intrusted with the ichthyological department of a large scientific work on Brazil.

Although Agassiz enters the scientific field when the fame of Cuvier and La Marque is at its zenith, yet this his first work places him in the foremost rank. He was great in natural ability, yet, perhaps the secret of his success was his power of concentration and a genius for hard work.

Whatever he undertook he did with his whole soul. Whatever was worth doing at all was worth doing well. So thoroughly had he studied fishes that a single scale presented to him their entire structure.

Before commencing his work on "Fossil Fishes," he spent seven years in study, and afterward ten years in its publication. Yet what a master work it proved to be

—a worthy monument to faithful and untiring research. It contained a description of 1700 different species, many of them of his own discovering and caused an entire revolution in that branch of science. The results of his scientific labor differ much from that which is presented to us under the name of science for the sake of establishing some favorite theory.

Agassiz's discoveries come to us as the honest conviction of the soul whose highest ambition was to ascertain what is truth. His power to deduce general laws and to classify was indeed wonderful. Animals and fishes came to his hand seemingly an endless variety, and so far as human wisdom had been able to trace without law and order, they left it classified, each in its proper place.

Morally Prof. Agassiz is worthy of the highest praise. In an age when wealth and honor are the controlling powers and when integrity and fidelity to purpose are considered a hinderance in public life, it is with pleasure that we review the career of a man upon whom the allurements of wealth and position had no influence.

His great mission in life was to read to the world a few truths from the great book of nature, and he prized money only as a means of ascertaining those truths, and valued name and title only as a convicting force in their dissemination.

His entire life was such that it won the implicit confidence of individuals and of nations. So great was their faith in his integrity and ability, that he was permitted to take specimens from more than eighty public and private museums.

That subscription list of 2500 names for Agassiz's great work on "Natural History," an expensive and purely scientific work, and only a small part of it in the press, was an exhibition of confidence never before placed in the works of a scientific man. Perhaps that which most impressed the mass of the people was his generosity and entire forgetfulness of self. He was always poor in that which the