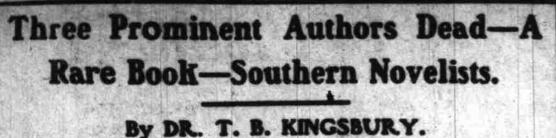
THE NEWS AND OBSERVER. SUNDAY, FEB 9.



Three deaths among Northern au- | death, and where it occurred. I have thors have occurred within a year only seen mention of his end within a few days. He wrote fiction, but of that I regretted to learn, for I had read a good deal of their productions. They were Thomas Bailey Aldrich. They were Thomas Stedman, and Wil-Edmund Clarence Stedman, and William L. Alden. I wrote of the first ham L. Alden. I wrote of the first mentioned when he passed away. With-in a year, 'he had attained to about seventy-one years of age. He was surely a writer of gifts—poet, editor, a good novelist. I began to read his productions when he was probably not more than twenty years old, and in my own young manhood. I first knew him as a writer for the popular New York "Home Journal." the crea-tion of Nathariel P. Willis and George tion of Nathaniel P. Willis and George P. Morris, a literary paper I subscrib-ed to and read from my sixteenth year erer.

until I was probably twenty-eight. Aldrich had genuine poetic genius as his charming lyrics and polished son-nets unmistakably evidenced. He wrote a book of European travels, as I recall it from its distant past, and its title was either "Views Afoot" or "Europe With My Knapsack." I am not certain which of those was the hook as Bayard Taylor had written a book with one of these titles. Aldrich wrote several very popular and inter-esting novels. He was skilful in his narration and plots. Here are his chief productions in prose: "Bable Bell," "Majorie Daw," and "The Story of a Bad Boy," all of which were widely popular. His larger novels were "Prudence Palfrey," "The Queen Sheba" and "The Stillwater Tragedy." They won fame for the author and were full of excellence. His poems have been published in the volumes. My recollection is that he edited the "Atlantic Monthly," the best of literary monthlies, for several years. He was born in New Hampshire in 1836. The papers called her both Mrs. He resided in Boston at the time of Tiernan and Miss Fisher. One writer assures the New York "Saturday Be-

But a few days ago, a distinguished and superior American author passed into eternity, in his seventy-fourth year. I have read through his superb and celebrated work on "The Victo-rian Poets," and have read at other times portions of this charming critical work, so replete with subtle thought, thorough insight, and most felicitous English. For twenty years it has been to me one of the most fascinating volumes in my library. Its charm is such that it has led me since to read almost every thing I ever saw from his refined, elegant pen. He was born in 1883, and was a successful banker in New York. He devoted a portion of each day to literature. He man. Luther, began his great work for steadily grew in fame as the years went by. It was in 1873, when his mankind The suffering and depraved mankind. His article appears in that volume of collected poems appeared. leading illustrated literar A Northern editor wrote of them over twenty years ago that "they are marked by lyric beauty, and by a graceful mobination of satire and pathos.' ime on "The Victorian Poets" that meiouv out., Pellus si 'Aok Men t "contained excellent, though une-pus ino jant levou 19H 'selilland qual criticism of modern English hisqual criticism of modern Englian his, tory." That may be and still it re-mains the surest, most satisfying vol-ume of critical discussion of the best of the "Victorian Poets" that has come from any pen. English or Amer-ipan. Of course, opinions vary as to ipan. Of course, opinions vary as to ipan. Of course, opinions vary as to he greatest writers, Tennyson, trowning and others, but it is a fascinating volume and admirable in its a fas-sanity, breadth, and judgment. I will not undertake to discuss him here, of solution of the soluti Kentucky. But I do not write intel- allas out Ile seivhs Ind danout think. He was notice all who really this think. He was not work on the "Victorian Poets." I split solution of the light of a high type like Poe, and perhaps ongfellow, but he had poetic endow-nents that gave to the world verses one smile in delight at her inimitable Virginia small-town characters; she hat deserve recognition and preserby the masses, but by the few who ap-preciated high thinking and poetic art of a genuine kind. He did not write for the million. I find in the New York "Saturday Review" for January 25th a helpful study of Stedman. It Mary Ann Evans) is the greatest well says, and truly, that neither the woman novelist of Great Britain and I believe of the world in all ages. I cannot read Miss Glasgow's last book matter nor the manner was adapted to "careless and interrupted listenbecause of my inflexible rule to read ing." What was thus written at lelno novel within a year of its publicasure was meant to be read at leisure .. And leisurely readers are compara- tion. tively as few as leisurely writers." He was a fine interpreter of true ly a high place among American critics in prose and particularly in poetof fine skill, high sense of justice and acute appreciation. His poetry was grace and elegance. The "Saturday Review" article says that nobody enoyed or more exercised what Mr. winburne calls "the noble pleasure of praising," so nobody more enjoy-ed the rescue of a durable poem from the threat of oblivion. Probably he may secure / perpetuation of fame more by his superior critical powers than by his secluded and sober verse. "Saturday Review" says truly that he was "the most authoritative of our literary critics, especially of our critics of poetry." It particularly lauds his poem entitled "Mater Coronala," and considers it very superior, a truly "wonderful exercise in high thought and diction of Miltonic majesty." That is high praise indeed. It adds admir-As Macaulay said of Milton ingly: himself, 'the style is stiff with cloth of gold.' To sustain such a strain The latest thing in breakfast food, through almost thirty stanzas without a lapse is a remarkable feat, a feat which perhaps not one of the surviving singers could equal. But this is clearly and exclusively verse for scholars, this admirable artistry. Nobody would think of calling it popular poetry." As I have said, I have been a reader of him for quite a quarter of a century, and have held him to be one of the best equipped writers of this country. I have never read sketch of him, and know nothing of him specially beyond his gifts and

that part of his, labors I have no Monthly" for February. It is an account of "literary New York in the Sixtles." I expect to find it pleasant and informing. He was for several years the London literary correspondent of the excellent literary weekly, the New York "Saturday' Review." skilled. He is not so full of individual opinion as his predecessor was, but is a valuable literary newsgath-

I notice in a leading Northern Review that of our gifted North Carolina author, Miss Fisher ("Christian Reid"), it is mentioned that she was born and lived in Wilmington, instead of Salisbury. They have found out at last that she is Southren. Her new novel, "Princess Nadine," praised highly by the publishers, the great old house of G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. They say that it is "a charming story with a heroine who is as engaging, elegant, clever, in Heiress," that is well thought of in the North. I have seen neither of these novels, and have no opinion of my own. She is one of North Carolina's most richly endowed women, and I doubt not, is our best story writer. view" that no such person as Miss Fisher or Mrs, Tiernan ever was born in Wilmington, and that no person "with such a name," with either of the names mentioned "has achieved distinction in the world of letters." Miss Agnes Rippliar, a well known woman of letters in the North, has published an article quite recently with the startling title, "The Devil in Literature in Man's Image and Likeness." She discusses "his Satanic Ma-jesty's" influence in literature from Martin Luther to Bernard Shaw." A fruitful theme if well handled. But

half through again. I read on each Sunday four or five pages only, and it is meaty and healthful and helpful and stimulating. The more I read this precious volume the more pointthis precious volume the more point-ed, enriching, satisfying it seems. It is indeed wonderfully suggestive and helpful as it appears to me. I really wish that every Christian believer or professor would read this book every Sunday. It would be sure to benefit them, I think. To a believing heart, seeking praying soul it must prove full of hope and love and encourage-ment. It is indeed a practical, useful, encouraging, fostering, ever stirring book. Try it, it may do you everlasting good, and help you to attain to a higher, a more spiritual life. I say, again, that it is the most practical religious book I ever read, and I have read many famous works by masters, among them Thomas A. Kempis' wonderful book and Bishop Jeremy Taylor's very unique and beautiful work, "Holy Living and Hoty Dying." I He was succeeded by a writer, name think Spurgeon's book the most prac-not given, who is industrious and tical and helpful. I am sure that the prolific nineteenth century never gave to mankind a wiser, purer, more stimulating religious work. It contains

through four times and am now quite

277 pages, and throughout it is rich in saving, common-sense wisdom and instruction. It is based upon texts drawn from twenty-two volumes of

sermons-"a mighty mountain of sound theology"-says Spurgeon, and he had read them all-by Rev. Thomas Manton, a great Puritan divine of England of some two hundred years ago, Spurgeon writes that "ministers who do not know Manton need not wonder if they are themselves unknown." Manton says: "A ministry that stayeth in the paint of words will beget that painted grace." Upon this Spurgeon thus comments: "If it is not a real, hearty ministry of grace. inspired by the Holy Spirit, it will end nothing. Fine words neither wound nor heal. Oratory may amuse, but it can not convert; and rhetoric may astonish, but it will not save. We must have more than mere words, however striking-paint will not do; we want living preaching, by men in downright earnest, attended by the Living Spirit, or else life will never be created or sustained by it. What is the use of coloring the cheek of the dead? The hue of life is a mockery while death reigns within. That is not preaching which creates sem-blance of poetry, but never imparts the substance."

My advice is read Spurgeon, and you will learn. Manton is wise and fertile, and his metaphors are handled by Spurgeon with skilfulness, point, wisdom and illuminating power. Study him again and again. God help you to do it.

I am indeed very regretful that the ably edited and very instructive Daily Observer of Fayetteville has met with such a disastrous fire. The afternoon of the day of its destructive visitation it actually issued a paper in all particulars equal in its mechanical appearance with its issue of the day before the unfortunate conflagration, by which two stories of its well quipped office was destroyed. It was



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tice of per new book by the publishquite unexpected to me, and a marvel er living, I take it to be. In the noin newspaper printing and journalism. and nativity, and its ablest story writ-That paper has a long and most use-Law." She is of Virginia parentage ful record, and a life of more than seventy years I think. Its three editors, father and two sons, were all ably excellently equipped, and did a superb work for their native North Carolina. One of the most enjoyable. instructive State newspapers I have handled is the present Observer. Its editorials are always well written, forceful, clear, accurate, and instructive. I sincerely hope that the loss the People," "The Wheel of Life," will not be finally serious in any particular. The Observer under Major E. J. Hale's management "has been sound, safe, progressive, true to North Carolina, the South, the people, and without political vagaries and inconsistences Long may it live! inconsistences and compromises.

Within a few weeks I have received suizesex susund five letters from native North Caroers, written I guess by Mr. Walter H. linians that were pleasant to read. server, and the apprecation was vivid tells a love episode of rare charm, and decided. Three were from law-The was not read and enjoyed but above all her book inspires one yers and two from ladies living in different portions of the State. It is pleasant to be recognized and praised. lish publishers say, 'She writes like not hope to write much longer. Age George Eliot.'" George Ellot (Miss has its limit, and death its victories. In the experience of mankind I can-I have been contributing to The News and Observer for five years and nine months. Each year probably averaged 104 columns or more. In all they would probably be over 600 columns. That would make some 1.800 pages of the regularly issued new novels of the present day, or six volumes of 200

I remember to have called attention pages each. If I have done no actual He was a fine interpreter of true genius, and kind and hospitable to newcomers into the poetic domains. His style was clear, felicitous, choice and scholarly. He enjoyed deserving- great Englishman, a divine of the to my lot to have written for a paper first order, Rev. Charles Spurgeon, so widely read and with such decided, and to a work by him bearing the ti- unmistakable influence.' It ought to ry. He was unquestionably a critic tle of "Illustrations and Meditations." have 15.000 daily subscribers, for it With me it is the most precious, help- richly merits such growth. It merits ful, penetrating religious volume I the fine. striking eulogy the gifted, not great, but virile often, and full of ever read : concerning Christianity, resourceful, true Governor Glenn consecrated living and true holiness, gave it in his address to the prohithe doctrine of God. It can be bition body that met at Raleigh re-bought for 25 cents of Funck & Wag- cently. And every word was absonalls, New York city, 18 and 20 Astor lutely deserved.

Place. I have read it regularly Wilmington, N. C., Feb. 1, 1908.

ing it.

wasn't asleep.



And sure, it can't be beat; For when you take it from the box It's ready then to eat.

You do not have to cook it, no; You do not have to do A thing but toast it carefully To heat it through and through.

Then soften it with nice hot milk. Put butter on, and stick Some sugar and some fruit juice on And add cream rich and thick.

was in the world last time, so I had And when you've done these things to come into it again."

about the life that isn't in the world.

room, found the young mother hold-

" "The baby spoke to me,' she said.

"The baby stirred and I took it in

my arms,' she said, 'and I said to it.

"How do you like being in the

world?" It answered me and said:

"Not at all, but I had to come. I

didn't learn the lessons well when I

hadn't dreamed it. She had noticed

"She went on to declare that she dressing her.

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or less crazy, but a young mother who mously. That's why I'm for Hughes. 'it' certainly leans There's a name I can always speak calls her first baby a little to the more side." with confidence." Worried About the Pickle Supply.

I met a dear little woman at some-Association of Ideas. body's house not long ago and she did

Speaking of the governor of Nev her best to hold up her end when important events of the day began to York reminds me that an Illinois girl who is a pupil at a finishing school pop up" in the general talk. Well, I see Mr. Heinze has been here in town feels very grateful to

indicted," somebody remarked, adhim for no other reason than that his name is Hughes. "Oh, dear me!" said she, trying not "I'm a regular dub in ancient his-

the time by the clock, and had heard to look vague. "Has he? Who in the tory and mythology," she told mea leaky faucet drip, so she knew she world will we get pickles from now?" . . . her school. "I'm all to the bad when

She Can Pronounce H-u-g-h-e-s. "Whenever anybody asks me whom

I'm for for President I just say fast food, and I can't remember Hughes and let it go at that," says the pebbles in his mouth-maybe, even, densed milk." wife of a Republican Congressman. "Mr. Hughes isn't my husband's pref- it was Demosthenes. You can search

erence, but I tell him that a man me. We had an exam the other day "Then I asked it to tell me all bout the life that isn't in the world. The world of the people, and when the bound in the bound is the bound in the bound is the bound in the bound is the knew I'd got Out home we always call very

Only Two More Questions. Somebody told me yesterday about the small son of a man who is engaged in some sort of scientific work in one of the government depart-ments. The boy has a fine mind, and the father has made it his custom to answer all the youngster's questions carefully and fully. Even scientific fathers have limits to their patience, however, and one day after the three thousandth question the father said: "Now run away, son. I'm too busy to answer any more questions, "But I only want to ask two more, polite conversation is a specialty at protested the boy. "I think you might answer just two."

"I will," said the father. "What it comes to telling whether Hercules was a demi-god or a brand of break- are they?" "I want to know how they work

whether Midas or Mithridates kept miracles and how they make con-

APPLAUDING THE CHAPLAIN.

tion which, in his judgman benefit the public at the mathematic the people to whom he shall look for his campaign mad the time comes for him race for the high positi is so eminently fitted by circumstances "Good! Good! Hurran wrath, we pray thee, fell 170n undesirable citizens who thirt can think for themselvec-(gr and who basely refuse to emain in party lines-(hisses)-a.d w (hisses)-a d w their blind folly would, by en detestable primary laws, rob our sit-rious leaders of their heaven-born rights. (Cries of "Go for 'ent?" "Hi 'em again!") Bestow thy blessing up on this august assembly and let its members be filled with thy grace that they shall need in permitting the wise, dispassionate statistican who runs it to have his own way, to shape

