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## DR. VAN DYKE LECTURES

Now Delivering Fourth Series of the Lectures

Founded by John Calvin McNair

### Spoke on "Poetry of Patriotism" Last Night

Dr. Van Dyke last night delivered the first of the series of McNair lectures on the subject, "The Poetry of Life," the first lecture being "The Poetry of Patriotism." The arrival of this world famous preacher author and philosopher has been heralded far and wide ever since it was known at beginning of the session that he was to visit the University of North Carolina. Never before in the memory of the student has Gerrard Hall been more packed with people to hear a speaker as it was last night on the occasion of Dr. Van Dyke's first lecture. Part of the audience was composed of alumni from Durham together with their wives and daughters. Automobiles brought a number of visitors.

A more eager audience never graced Gerrard Hall. All eyes were strained to catch a glimpse of the distinguished speaker, who was greeted by a storm of applause when he made his appearance. At last the moment arrived when Dr. Venable took the rostrum, and in a few happily phrased sentences of introduction made the audience feel personally acquainted with the orator of the evening.

Dr. Van Dyke began amid a hush of expectancy. After the first few sentences his audience forgot all else but the exquisite diction of the words flowing so charmingly from his lips.

He began by declaring the aim of poetry to be the imparting of pleasure through the imagination. This pleasure, however, is not a mere amusement, but a vital joy enlarging the thoughts, deepening the emotions, and enabling the life of man. Poetry thus renders to the world a real and inestimable service. A man's worth is measured not by his money as we have a tendency to think, but by the wealth of his mind and heart. Dr. Van Dyke here stated that his three lectures were to treat of three of the ways in which the inner life of mankind has been enriched by the poets.

Coming finally to poetry and patriotism, he said that Walter Scott had spoken with scorn of the man with soul so dead that he has no love for his native land. No less contemptible, however, is the country with the cold heart which has no poetry to praise her heroes and encourage her patriots. The great races of the earth have all expressed their memories and hopes in poetry. America would take her place among the meaner nations if it ever became a land without poets. Her poverty of spirit could not be atoned for by any amount of material riches, her size would only increase the extent of her insignificance.

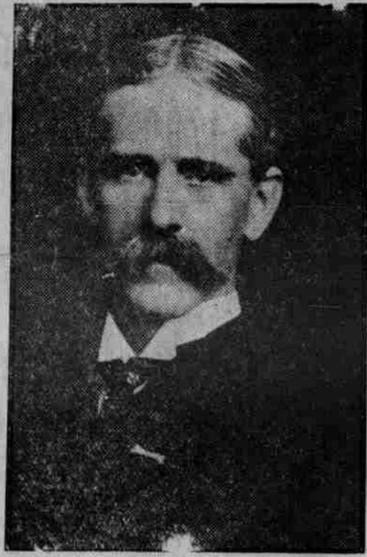
The *esprit de corps* of a people is patriotism, which enables them to think and act together. Poetry is marching music for the spirits of men.

Poetry, as the first service to patriotism, personifies the country to the imagination. All the imaginary figures, Columbia, Albion, Scotia, Gallia, Germania, Columbia--which typify noble lands, are the creation of poetry. Our own national hymn, written in New England, is now too narrow in imagery. Our national hymn should have a wider scope to express the

Southland and the Westland, all the breadth and glory of Columbia's domain.

Poetry chronicles, as a second service, all a nation's great achievements and heroic deeds. Part of any people's real wealth are traditions of courage and self sacrifice. Songs like "Marion's Men" and the "Carmen Bellicosum" and "Old Iron Sides" mean a great deal to the spirit of America. We need more national ballads and lyrics.

Poetry clarifies, as a third service, the ideals of justice and honor and brotherhood which make the glory of a nation. The highest of all is moral beauty. For this reason, there are no



DR. HENRY VAN DYKE.

good poems about bad rulers, ignoble wars, and unjust causes. To write them is simply impossible. Ideals like those expressed in Emerson's "Concord Ode" and in Whittier's "Astraca" make poetry splendid and patriotism strong.

Near the close of his address, Dr. Van Dyke launched into a stream of ridicule of Walt Whitman and the "Whit-maniac" school of poetry--a pun that was appreciatively received by his hearers. The space of one minute was sufficient for an admirer of Whitman to change his views on "Old Walt" and join in the applause of his ridiculer.

Dr. Van Dyke speaks tonight on "Poetry and Nature" and Sunday night on "The Poetry of the Unseen World." Sunday morning in Gerrard Hall he will preach on "Conservative Progress."

### Something About Dr. Van Dyke.

Dr. Henry Van Dyke is a man who has received high recognition among men of letters and theologians of the country. He is the most famous lecturer that has visited North Carolina in a number of years. When Woodrow Wilson delivered the Lee's Birthday address in Chapel Hill in 1909, the place which he occupied on the lecturer's platform was not as high

as that of Dr. Van Dyke of today.

Dr. Van Dyke was born in Germantown Pa., Nov. 10th, 1852. He graduated from the academic department of Princeton University in 1873 and from the theological seminary four years later. He was a student in the University of Berlin, where Dr. Chas. Alfonso Smith of the University of Virginia has recently concluded his term as Roosevelt Professor of English, in 1878. Three great universities have honored him with the degree, Doctor of Divinity,--Princeton in 1884, Harvard in 1893 and Yale in 1896. Successively in 1898, 1902, and 1903 he has received the LL. D. from Union, Washington and Jefferson and Wesleyan.

In 1878 he became pastor of the United Congregational church of Newport, R. I. In 1883 he went to the Brick Presbyterian church of Brooklyn, New York, where he remained until 1900 when he resigned to become professor of English in Princeton University, a position which he preferred to a similar place in John Hopkins University which he was tendered at the same time.

He has been preacher to Harvard University and Lyman Beecher lecturer at Yale. He delivered the memorial ode at the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of his alma mater. He has been president of the Holland Society of America and Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church of the United States. The President of France recently honored him with the cross of the Legion of Honor.

The simple poems and beautiful nature prose which he has written in the last twenty years have given him a high place in the hearts of the common run of the people of the country. He has not scorned to publish his poetry in the current magazines and consequently he is widely known. Since 1905 he has published sixty-one poems and articles in the higher grades of magazines.

Mr. Van Dyke is not the possessor of a commanding figure but the fine technique of his delivery and the simple beauty of his thought do not need this ally to hold the attention of his hearers.

### Mitchell Society Meets.

The Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society met Tuesday night in the smaller lecture room on the first floor of Chemistry Hall with about thirty-five members present, counting both faculty and students. There were to have been presented to the Society two papers, one by Professor William Cain and the other by Professor Edward Vernon Howell. To the great regret of all the members, Professor Cain was unable to attend on account of illness. For this reason, only one paper was presented to the Society, however, the general opinion seemed to be that it was one of the best of the year.

## McNAIR LECTURES FOUNDED BY JOHN CALVIN McNAIR

Was a Member of Class of '49. Died in Scotland.

The foundation upon which Dr. Van Dyke is delivering his lectures was established by the will of John Calvin McNair of the class of 1849 of the University. The bequest became available in 1906, and the interest therefrom enabled the lectures to begin in 1908. The honorarium for the lectures amounts to \$500, and the remainder of the interest from the fund provides for the suitable publication of the lectures. Under the will the object of the lectures "shall be to show the mutual bearing of science and religion upon each other and to prove the existence (as far as may be) of God from nature."

John Calvin McNair after graduating from the University went to Edinburgh, Scotland, to prepare for the Presbyterian ministry. He died while a student there, leaving to the University of North Carolina "a bit of forest land in Robeson county, which the executive committee was willing to sell for \$3,000. The land was in litigation, but owing to the crowded state of the court docket there was little hope of the settlement of the case for many years. It was accordingly compromised by the University authorities, and the portion which fell to the University could have been sold very soon thereafter for \$5,000. But the committee having the property in charge preferred to wait, and ten years later a portion of the original forest, which the University held by the compromise, was sold for \$14,000, and is the foundation of the McNair Lectureship."

The lectures have been uniformly notable for the men who have given them. The first lecture, in 1908, was given by Professor Francis H. Smith, LL. D., of the University. The lectures for 1909 were delivered by Francis Landley Patton, D. D. LL. D., President of Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey and former President of Princeton University. The lectures for 1910 were delivered by David Starr Jordan, Ph. D., M. D., LL. D., world famous scientist, and President of Leland Stanford Jr., University, California. President Jordan's lectures have recently appeared in book form with the title, "The Stability of Truth," and are attracting country-wide comment.

Professor Howell had taken for his subject the drug, opium. He explained minutely the nature of the drug which comes from the seed of the poppy plant. There are two kinds of poppies which yield opium, white and black, opinions varying as to which kind makes the greater yield. From the seeds of this plant are extracted the multiplicity of narcotic substances belonging to the opium family, the most widely known being morphine. Professor Howell made a special study of the smoking of opium in the Chinatown of one of our big cities. A somewhat intricate mechanism is the pipe, which is hardly a pipe at all the way we use the term. A small pellet of the drug is pierced with a needle, delicately roasted over a flame, placed

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