

CHAPTER XXXV.

REV. ISA AMAND EBERHART, M. D., Ph. D.,

Seventh child of Abraham and Esther Eberhart, was born May 8, 1834, in Mercer county, Pa. At the age of three years his parents moved to Venango county, Pa., where his boyhood was spent on a farm. His earliest ambition was to become a teacher. Hence at the age of sixteen he commenced teaching school at Stony Point, Clarion county, Pa., and thus by teaching in the winter and attending school in the summer he worked his way through college. He taught select schools, public schools, and at one time was the principal of the normal school in Carbon county, Pa., teaching altogether thirty-six terms. This was to him a "charmed" life, but on account of laryngitis, with which he had been troubled for several years, becoming much aggravated, he was forced to resign and abandon teaching.

In 1856 he went West, making headquarters at Chicago, engaging in various pursuits. He traveled several years as solicitor and collector for a wholesale house, took photographs for a time, but whilst he was fairly successful in these labors he was never content.

During these years he also developed some talent as a poet, and altogether has written some 500 pages of poetry. Some of his poems received commendatory mention from such men as James Russell Lowell and Geo. D. Prentice. A biographical sketch and specimens of his poetry were published in a volume entitled, "Poets and Poetry of the West," in 1860.

Perhaps an average specimen of his poetry may be found in the following stanzas:

TO MY MOTHER.

Oh! rough has been my sail through life,
 And many clouds have filled my sky;
 But still amid the darkening gloom
 One star has never left my eye,
 And o'er the earth where'er I roam,
 I feel thy love is hovering nigh.

I've felt the freezing breath of Scorn
 Blow o'er my spirit's budding wold,
 And oft has Sorrow's heavy robe
 Fell o'er my heart with gloomy fold—
 But when I shrank beneath its touch,
 Thy love hath edged it round with gold.

And mother, though I've wandered far,
 And see not now thy warm smiles play
 Yet still along the backward track,
 Along the dim and dusty way,
 My heart forever trembles back,
 And clings to thine where first it lay.

He was married April 20, 1864 to Miss Malissa Jacobs, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who was born September 1, 1840, at Savannah, Ill. Her father's name was Benjamin B. Jacobs and her mother's maiden name was Mary Jemima Douglas, who was a cousin to Hon. Stephen A. Douglas; and she traces her lineage back to the Douglasses and Stewarts of Scotland.

She was educated by a governess employed in her father's family, and, since her marriage, by her willing and efficient co-operation with her husband, has contributed much to their mutual success.

Being born and raised in a religious family, he early in life espoused the cause, and giving special attention to the study of biblical theology, though differing from the rest of the family, he became a believer in what he

termed "The final triumph of good over evil." In the spring of 1867 he moved to Riverside, near Benton Harbor, Michigan. In this new home he found no church of his faith; but on looking around he found three persons of similar views, so he and his wife and these three persons organized themselves into a little society, afterwards recognized by the Universalist Church. But as they were too weak to employ a minister, he organized a Sunday-school, and commenced speaking to them on religious topics every alternate Sabbath. These efforts were attended with success, so that the little parish grew to forty-seven members the first year. This work being congenial and his labors in demand in other places, he took a course of study in theology and was ordained a minister in the Universalist Church at Lansing, Michigan, November 24, 1869.

After this, he was settled as pastor at Tecumseh and Adrian City, Mich.; Neenah, Wis.; and Storm Lake, Belle Plaine and Marshalltown, Iowa. At each of these places he labored with good success. He was then elected State Superintendent of the Universalist Churches for Iowa, and served four years in this capacity, during which time the number of Universalist ministers actively employed in State work were doubled. After this, he served three and one-half years in the same capacity in the State of Wisconsin with similar success. But this work of preaching and lecturing so frequently, reviving dormant parishes and organizing new ones, superintending the settling of ministers, with all the responsibilities of the office, was too much of a strain on his nervous system, so that it temporarily paralyzed him, and by the advice of physicians he resigned to take a year of rest and recuperation. In the fall of 1885, after nine months' rest, he moved to Chicago Lawn, a suburb of Chicago, and

opened a real estate office in the city. This business effort was attended with good success, so that he soon accumulated a comfortable sufficiency of this world's goods for the plain, unostentatious life he preferred. At the age of sixteen he adopted as the motive of his life the following sentence: "I will make an honest living and do as much good as I can for humanity." During his ministry he of course did not accumulate much wealth, but now having secured a sufficiency he closed his office October, 1887, and in order that he might be better qualified to be beneficial to humanity physically as well as otherwise, he entered the Bennett Medical College, to take a course of study in medicine, where he is still pursuing his studies at this writing, February, 1889. He since graduated M. D. and is practicing this profession.

Noble Murray Eberhart, son of Isa. A. and Malissa Eberhart, was born at Benton Harbor, Mich., April 21, 1870. He developed early a great love for natural science, and an easy, concise style of expression. Physically, he has developed rapidly. He is not yet nineteen years old, and stands five feet, ten and one-fourth inches high, and weighs one hundred and sixty-five pounds, with a full beard and the general appearance of one twenty-two years of age. Mentally, he is cool and deliberate with good powers of endurance. He graduated in June, 1888, at Racine College. In addition to his regular collegiate studies he has made a special study in several lines of natural science, and seems to be developing into a writer in that line of thought. He was for several years editor of the *Insect World*. He was married, June 20, 1889, to Miss Jessie Corliss Young, of Ft. Atkinson, Wis., who was born March 21, 1869, and is a graduate of the State High School.