

LIGHT AT EVENTIDE.*

THE RECOLLECTIONS OF THE REV. DR. CUYLER

"Heir of all the ages, in the foremost files of time."



N reading the Recollections of Dr. Theodore Cuyler one feels that the words of the poet have a particular application in his case. In his life of fourscore years he has stood shoulder to shoulder with the foremost reformers of his time. He began his journalistic career at the early age of fifteen by entering into a controversy on the slavery question. It is now estimated that two hundred million copies of his articles have been circulated in his native land alone, besides the many translations made into other tongues. Amid these strenuous labours with his pen he has spent nearly threescore years of active service in the Christian ministry. During thirty of these years he was pastor of the Lafayette Avenue Church, Brooklyn, at one time the largest Presbyterian church in America. Celebrated preachers, reformers, politicians, and writers have all come within the range of his many-sided life. Seldom, if ever, have we found such a pleasing series of glimpses into the home-life of the great men of both the earlier and later half century. It is doubtful if they could be duplicated by any other living American.

Our first glimpse of this famous preacher that was to be is as a boy on his grandfather's farm

on the shores of Cayuga Lake, in Western New York. Here we find him, after school-hours, driving the cows to pasture, carrying in the stock of firewood for the morrow, playing with the dog, the kittens, and the pet sheep. It was doubtless here, in this quiet pastoral life, that he laid the foundations of the splendid physique that was to carry him through fifty-six years of the ministry without ever spending a Sabbath in bed. His father, a promising young lawyer, had died when the lad was but four and a half years of age, and his mother went back with her only child to the parental roof.

There was then not a railway in the State, and only one small steamboat plied up and down the little lake beside the farm. Those were the days of the stage-coach, the spelling-book, and the tallow candle. But they were, nevertheless, days of progress and of thought, and the lad in the old farm-house, by dint of earnest labour, came abreast of the times and has kept abreast of them down to the present day. Of his life during that formative period Dr. Cuyler ascribes all that is good to the influence of his mother. She was evidently a woman gifted with that rare quality known as sanctified common-sense. One sees in his description of her the true mother-heart of those olden days.

At twenty years of age young Cuyler graduated from Princeton, and thence went to Europe. This youthful lion-hunt among the literary celebrities of sixty years ago makes one of the most interesting portions of the book.

His first excursion on reaching

* "Recollections of a Long Life." An Autobiography. By Theodore Ledyard Cuyler, D.D., LL.D. Author of "Help and Good Cheer," etc., etc. New York: The Baker and Taylor Co. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Pp. viii-356. Price, \$1.50 net.