

THE LATE A. C. MORTON.

The College has turned out few men of a more genial disposition or keener intellect than A. C. Morton, of the class of '77. He was, with the exception of the writer of these reminiscences, the youngest of a graduating class of five. All those who knew him were deeply pained but not surprised when informed that he had joined the silent majority; for he seemed, even at College, to bear upon his pale brow the presentiment of his approaching demise. It was evident, then, that he would not long discharge the duties of the high office for which he was so signally qualified.

What impressed most those who knew Morton but slightly was his *habitual cheerfulness*. By such it might have been taken, or rather mistaken, for levity; but those who knew him intimately could never have done him that injustice. Though of great buoyancy of spirit, he was a man of deep thought and of intense earnestness.

He was very charitable in his judgment of others, but *error* he could not tolerate; and with the so-called progressive theology of modern times he had no sympathy whatever. On a certain occasion, he was greatly pleased with a sermon delivered before the principal by a member of his class, because "it had the right ring about it." It would be wrong to infer from this, however, that his preaching was doctrinal and dull; a more pleasant and attractive preacher it would have been hard to find among his fellow-students. Possessed of a clear mind and of a tender heart he moved his hearers as few men of wider experience could do.

How popular he was with all his fellow-students, and with the Professors as well, those who were then at College would readily testify. He indeed "grappled to his soul, with hooks of steel" the many friends which his qualities of head and of heart easily won for him. The writer never knew him to yield to anger or utter a single hasty word which he might have wished to recall. All parted from him with sincere regret. This is specially true of his fellow-graduates, though he had wrested from them most of the honors for which they had competed. To paraphrase a celebrated saying:—He was First on the play-ground, First in the class-room, and First in the hearts of his fellow-students.

Morton was also noted for his genuine and manly piety. He had experienced the power of the Gospel which it was his delight to preach. So natural did it appear for him to be good, that a fellow-student once said to him in my hearing: "Morton, you are not fit to be a Minister, you know nothing of the spiritual struggles of ordinary people." To those who never conversed with him in closest intimacy, as the writer frequently did, this may sound like exaggeration, but the better the man was known the higher