

## William Rainey Harper.

BORN AT NEW CONCORD, OHIO, JULY 26, 1856 ;

DIED AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, JAN. 10, 1906.

THE sorrow felt at the news that this great man had passed away was especially keen with those who belonged to his earlier classes when the conditions were more favorable to intimacy than in the later times of his enlarged responsibility. Such sorrow was it that came to the present writer.

It was in the early autumn of 1881 that I became one of his students, he being then Professor of Hebrew and the Cognate Languages in the Chicago Baptist Union Theological Seminary at Morgan Park. He was at that time twenty-five years of age, overflowing with hope and activity, having large plans in process of fulfilment, and ever planning greater things as the days went by. Then it was that he began to publish "The Hebrew Student," the forerunner of what is now "The Biblical World." There at Morgan Park he started his Summer Schools of Hebrew, which attracted from far and near so many ministers and teachers from various denominations. There commenced the Hebrew Correspondence Lessons, of which many thousands have availed themselves through all the intervening years. There too his "Elements of Hebrew," "Hebrew Method and Manual," and "Hebrew Vocabularies," books designed to teach this ancient language by the inductive method, were carried far toward completion. He took delight in teaching this subject, often accounted dry and uninteresting, and made it decidedly attractive. Indeed other subjects were there in danger of being overshadowed by this. I recall an occasion when the late Dr. Robinson Boise gave us evidence of his concern in this particular. A certain class in Hebrew had been divided into two sections, the first composed of those more advanced and the other of those less advanced. A student of the first division, limping a little in his Greek one day, was bidden by Dr. Boise to go to the board and write out a portion of the Greek verb; and as what he wrote fell short of perfection, the sharp-eyed little Professor said: "You are in the first Hebrew division, are you not?" Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the Dr. added with unmistakable firmness: