

*John is dead
friend Mr Hill,
with Christian
sympathy &
affection
from
L. S. Carter*

In Memory

of the

Rev. John Henry Hill, D.D.,

Founder of the Schools for Girls

at Athens.

IN MEMORY OF THE REV. JOHN HENRY HILL, D.D.
(1791—1882).

*The following letter was addressed by the Bishop of Lincoln to the
Editor of a London Periodical:—*

SIR,

May I be allowed to pay, by your means, a tribute of personal affection and gratitude, and of public respect and veneration, to the memory of a good man, the Rev. Dr. John Henry Hill, who died at Athens on Saturday, July 1st, 1882, aged ninety-one years?

To Dr. Hill and to his dear wife, who survives him, I owed, under God, the restoration of my health, if not the preservation of my life. When I was at Athens in the winter of 1832 the city was in ruins, and I could only obtain a miserable lodging near the Temple of Theseus, where I was attacked with a dangerous illness. I was removed from it by Dr. and Mrs. Hill, and was received by them into their own house, and was there tenderly nursed, and at length was enabled to continue my tour in Greece. I cannot forbear mentioning this act of kindness, and I might proceed to relate other marks of affection received at their hands. But I had rather speak of their public services to Greece and to Christianity. I cannot do this better than by translating some portions of the funeral oration pronounced over the mortal remains of Dr. Hill in the English Church of St. Paul at Athens, on Sunday, July 2nd last, by a celebrated Greek orator, Dr. Diomedes Kyriacos, Professor of Divinity in the National University of Athens, whose learned *History of the Christian Church*, from the earliest times to the year 1880, in two large octavo volumes, has just been reviewed in the last number of the *Church Quarterly*.

Some of your readers may be of opinion that in that Oration the Professor has drawn too flattering a picture of the religious life of England; but his words may serve to show what, in the judgment of an enlightened Greek, a Nation ought to be. He began his address to the "venerable assembly" as follows:—"All Greece is bound to mourn over the departed, whom we commit to the grave to-day. The Rev. John Hill belonged to Greece no less than to America, his fatherland. He spent the greater part of his life in Greece, and he conferred upon her inestimable benefits, for which she will be ever grateful, and for which his name will ever be commemorated with those Philhellenes who laboured for her regeneration. John Hill first saw the light nearly a century ago—in the year 1791. At two years of age he lost his father; but his loving and devoted mother gave up herself to his education, in order that he might be a good man in his generation, and do honour to the name of America. You know, my friends, how healthful and complete the system of early Education is in England and America. England and America understand the secret of forming the character of man.

In Continental Europe, especially among the Latin races—and would to God that we Easterns may not imitate their example—politics and piety are regarded as incompatible things; and the development of the intellect is considered as inconsistent with the devotional and moral formation of character. But in England and America these things are regarded as inseparable. The politics of England are based on Christianity; and mental culture is grounded on the ethical and devotional formation of character. This is the secret of England's greatness. Mr. John Hill received a Christian education, and having completed his studies at Columbia, in the state of New York, was destined at first for a commercial life. But his deep devotional tone of mind, and his bias for theological studies, pointed out his true career. He was born to be a Theologian and a Preacher of the Gospel. He had the happiness of finding a dear partner in wedlock, a most esteemed and revered lady, with whom he lived for more than fifty years, and who is here present to-day to mourn his loss with us. He was ordained Deacon at Windsor, in Virginia, in 1830, and Priest in the same year at Norfolk in the same State. He made such proficiency in theology that the University of Harvard appointed him to a professorship in that faculty. In America every Clergyman is required to take a degree in theology. The Anglo-Saxon races esteem the Priesthood to be so high in dignity. In those countries men are not picked up at random in the streets and installed as teachers of the people in religion and morals. Those races are not afraid of having a learned Clergy; they do not fear that their Priests will retard the progress of the people, as is the case with the Roman Catholic priesthood, but, on the contrary, their Preachers of the Gospel are pioneers of progress and of liberty."

Dr. Kyriacos proceeded to describe the course of the Greek revolution and the overthrow of the Turkish power in Greece. At that crisis, he said, in the year 1830, Dr. Hill came into Greece as a missionary with his friend, Dr. Robertson, and founded the first schools at Athens for the education of boys and girls. Subsequently, when the Government of the new King of Greece, King Otho, undertook to provide for the education of boys the care of the girls was assigned by the State to Dr. Hill and to his wife, "and from that time" (said the preacher) "to the present day—that is, for fifty years, their school has continued to flourish." May I here record that I have a lively recollection of it, and of the interest which the venerable Bishop of Athens took in the work? But to return to the preacher. "Dr. Hill" (he said) "was the founder of female education in Greece. This is the benefit he has conferred upon her. The education of the Women of a nation is the education of the Nation itself. Women form its character by their own. Dr. Hill's institution has been the model of all similar ones among us. The system of education introduced by him was founded on religion, and it had for its main scope the formation of the moral character of its pupils. And its influence would have been greater if it had not been thwarted by Roman influence. The secular power also has often neutralised the good effects of the religious teaching of the school. It redounds greatly to Dr. Hill's credit that he never attempted to bias the

minds of his pupils against the Greek Church, but took care that our orthodox Catechism should be taught to the pupils by some learned Greek clergyman or theologian. Dr. Hill revered the Eastern Church as primitive, and as preserving the Christian traditions of the earliest ages of Christianity, and as qualified to reform any defects in itself by its own action in due course of time, with the advance of the education of its clergy and laity. Labouring in this spirit, Dr. Hill and his wife educated nearly three generations of Greek women. There are few Greek families in which their scholars may not be found. Consequently the news of his death has everywhere stirred many hearts. The Greek Government was willing to cover his breast with brilliant decorations; but this humble man, as a Christian priest and American citizen, declined all such splendid distinctions. Latterly, in the month of June, in the year 1881, when Dr. Hill's institution had completed its fiftieth year, the King of Greece signified his gracious appreciation of his work.

"Such was the man whom we here mourn to-day, and whose death is lamented by all Greece; such was he for whose loss that dear wife weeps, with whom he lived such a happy life, as few have lived, for more than fifty years. He was a priest of this English Church in which we are, till from the infirmities of old age he became unequal to perform its duties. He preached the Gospel to his flock as a beloved orator of the Church, and he ever strove to be a living example of the Gospel which he taught; therefore his teaching had so powerful an influence on his hearers. I have known many Philanthropists in the course of my life, but none comparable to him and to the members of his family. His house was the home of the poor. More than 500 of their children were yearly taught gratuitously by him. His Christianity was not a religion of outward forms and professions, but a religion of the heart. He was from the inmost depths of his soul a follower of the Gospel of Christ.

"Yes, O thou venerable man, thou art now gone to a better world and a heavenly country, leaving to us an undying memory of thyself. Not only thy friends and relations, not only America, thy native land, but Greece, thy adopted country, which to-day receives thy body into the bosom of her soil, and to whom thou didst consecrate thy whole life, will never forget thee; but she will enrol thy name in the list of her noblest benefactors. Farewell! May earth lie lightly on thee! Farewell!"

C. LINCOLN.

Rischohlm, Lincoln, July 20, 1882.