

this trial sprang the two poems, "Via Solitaria," and "Reconciliation," which have attracted much attention and praise for their high literary merit. The first of these poems had a somewhat singular experience, having been passed from hand to hand for nearly twenty years for the comfort of those in sorrow, and finally being sent by one of the most competent literary critics in the country to *The Independent*, and published by it, as an anonymous poem that bore strong internal evidence of being Longfellow's. The mistaken identity was the more strange, since the strikingly beautiful and pathetic lines had made their first appearance in that paper, at the head of its columns, nearly a score of years before, over Dr. Conover's name.

It was a matter of regret to Dr. Conover's friends that he did not employ himself more in literary production, for which his wide and varied culture, his vigorous intellect, and his rare felicity of expression, peculiarly fitted him. But the engrossing work of his legal publications taxed his powers to the utmost, and beyond some occasional addresses while in the university, and some fugitive poems and essays, he did little in this line. His literary knowledge and judgment, however, were the constant reliance of his friends. He was one of the founders and for many years an officer, of the Madison Literary Club. And it was in recognition of his large general attainments and literary ability, as well as of his proficiency in professional work that the University of Wisconsin conferred upon him in 1878, the honorary degree of doctor of laws.

Dr. Conover was a member of the First Congregational Church in Madison, and for nine years was one of its deacons. His familiar presence in its meetings was greatly prized. With his massive brow, his thoughtful and attentive face, and his unaffected piety, he seemed to his friends to unite the mind of a philosopher with the heart of a saint. He approached all questions in a calm, judicial spirit, and advocated his opinions with mingled courage and catholicity. Those who have heard him speak in private concerning the matters of faith will remember the singularly illumin-