

with the most winning of smiles. By nature and by habit he was a recluse. His existence had been largely passed among his books and manuscripts, and he cared nothing for those social alliances and gatherings which delight the average man. Long abstention from general intercourse with men with whom he had no business to transact made him shy of forming acquaintances, and wrongly gained for him a reputation of being unapproachable. To him who had a legitimate errand thither, the latch-string of the fire-proof library and working "den" — which was hidden in a dense tangle of lilacs and crab trees in the rear of the bibliophile's residence — was always out, and the literary hermit was found to be a most amiable gentleman and a charming and often merry conversationist; for few kept better informed on current events, or had at command a richer fund of entertaining reminiscences. To know Dr. Draper was to admire him as a man of generous impulses, who wore his heart upon his sleeve, was the soul of purity and honor, did not understand what duplicity meant, and was sympathetic to a fault.

Weighing his own words carefully and, as becoming an historical student, abhorring exaggeration, it is not fitting that what we say here of his life and work should be mere eulogy. Were he here in spirit and could speak, his words would be, "Tell the truth if you tell anything." Firm in the belief that such would be his will, I have with loving freedom talked to you of Dr. Draper as those found him who knew him best.

If not a great man, he was to his generation an eminently useful one. He was perhaps the most successful of all collectors of material for American border history; and it will ever be a source of great regret to historical students that his unfortunate temperament as a writer, combined with the burden of his duties in behalf of this Society, prevented him from giving to the world that important series of biographies for which he so eagerly planned over half a century ago. He has generously left to us his materials — so much bricks and stone, ready for some aspiring architect of the future; these will be of incalculable value to