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Here is a subject of which the student of Church History knows little. Approaching it through this book he will add to his knowledge as well as to his enjoyment, and he may be led to pursue the matter till he becomes interested enough to take it up as his special study.

The Rev. J. H. B. Masterman, M.A., Canon of Coventry, has published a book of Sermon Outlines on St. Mark's Gospel. He has given it the title, *In the Footsteps of the Master* (S.P.C.K.; 2s. 6d. net). Each sermon is approximately page-length, with a short introductory paragraph, and, generally

three divisions of the subject. Mk 4³⁸, 'He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow,' is divided thus—1. The Sleep of Exhaustion; 2. The Sleep of Relaxation; 3. The Sleep of Confidence.

The 89th volume of *The Child's Own Magazine* has just been published by the Sunday School Union (2s. net), and the fact that it is in its ninetyeth year is sufficient to prove its quality and its fitness for its purpose. It is altogether delightful, letterpress and illustrations alike, and cheap at the price.

'The Strangest Figure' in the War.

BY PROFESSOR JAMES STALKER, D.D., ABERDEEN.

THE Germans were so ill-off for allies during the War, and so conscious that the civilized world condemned them, that it was not without importance to them that even a single man of distinction, outside the circle of their own natives, took their part and vindicated their action; and it is no wonder that they should still be doing honour to the one man who did so. This was an American, Caspar René Gregory. His words in defence of Germany were published in all the German and Austrian newspapers; congratulations to him on his seventieth birthday, which fell during the War, poured in from every quarter through the same channels; when he died, fighting for Germany, obituary notices, full of laudation, appeared; and, since his death, a biography has been published by Karl Josef Friedrich, of which the copy in my hands is of the second edition. Not only is it written with skill and enthusiasm, but it is illustrated with engravings of a highly symbolical character, the strain of which may be inferred from the account, penned by the artist himself, of the last: 'Victorious and beautiful is the close of Gregory's life. He died as a soldier of Christ. But it is with difficulty that the soul disengages itself from the earthly hull—away from the weakness of man and forth to the everlasting God. The kind hands of the Eternal are receiving the hero.'

The first time I saw the name of Caspar René Gregory was in the *Systematic Theology* of Professor Charles Hodge, in which acknowledgment was

made by the author of the assistance he had received from a youthful friend of this name in bringing out the volumes and especially in preparing the Index, which appeared as a separate volume. Gregory was a native of Philadelphia, where his father was the head of a school, in which the son taught for three years before proceeding to Princeton for the study of the theology, and it was during a prolonged course at Princeton Seminary that he rendered to the most famous member of the faculty the service above mentioned. He came in contact, too, at Cambridge, with Ezra Abbot, who did not a little to direct his mind towards the line of study which was to become the absorbing interest of his life. But his mind, like that of many another divinity student of his time, was bent on Germany; and, in 1873, he arrived in Leipzig, little thinking that he was never to have another home for the rest of his life. Tischendorf was one of the professors there, and was then at the height of his fame as a New Testament scholar through the publication of the Codex Sinaiticus; but he died in the following year; and Gregory became heir to the task, which he had left uncompleted, of bringing out the eighth edition of his New Testament. For the finishing of this undertaking no less a period than eighteen years proved to be needed; and by this time Gregory had become thoroughly immersed in the work of collecting and collating manuscripts of the New Testament with which his name will always be identified.

He inspected more such manuscripts than any other living man, travelling incessantly to such centres as Paris, Oxford and Cambridge, where the manuscripts were to be found, and going in quest of these treasures of the scholar as far as Egypt and Mount Sinai. He wrote extensively on his subject, and he had the good fortune to make one or two discoveries of the kind by which even the ears of the general public are reached, such as a peculiar ending of the Gospel of St. Mark, found by him at Mount Athos in 1886, and a logion of our Lord not included in the finds of Grenfell and Hunt: but his *magnum opus* was to have been an international edition of the New Testament, in which he sought the co-operation of no fewer than four hundred scholars; but, alas, this has now to be numbered among the enterprises of learning which have been frustrated through the War.

When he went first to Leipzig, he acted for a time as pastor in the American Church. For a number of years he was one of the editors of the *Theologische Literaturzeitung*. But, as the work which he was doing for biblical palæography became known, the authorities of the university provided for him occupation and maintenance in an honorary professorship, in which he passed through the usual grades of Privatdocent, Extraordinarius and Ordinarius. Five times was a doctor's degree conferred on him by different universities, and he received but rejected tempting offers of chairs in his native country at Cambridge, Chicago and Baltimore. He frequently visited America, to deliver courses of lectures on his favourite subjects; and, on one of these occasions, he married a daughter of Professor Thayer, of Andover, the famous New Testament lexicographer.

It must have been early in this Leipzig period that I lunched in a Berlin restaurant with him and another student who has since attained to fame or notoriety through having a personal encounter in the theology with no less an opponent than the German Emperor, and through the violence of the attacks which he has been making since the War on the Old Testament—Professor Delitzsch, son of the Old Testament commentator and himself an eminent assyriologist. What was most noticeable about Gregory at that time was that he would not speak a single word of English, though the German which he spoke was of a peculiar American blend. In subsequent years he wrote indifferently in German or English, publishing some works in both

languages. His best known work is entitled *Canon and Text of the New Testament*, and it is acknowledged by experts to be up to the level of the celebrated series in which it appears—'The International Theological Library,' published by Messrs. T. & T. Clark, of Edinburgh. When Wellhausen, late in life, turned from the criticism of the Old Testament to that of the New, Gregory entered the lists against him with a spirited little volume on the Gospel of St. John, utilizing knowledge which he had acquired in his own early years through rendering into English Luthardt's *St. John the Author of the Fourth Gospel*, as well as his commentary, in three volumes, on the same Gospel, thus proving the truth of Goethe's remark, that it is always good to know something.

He never, as far as one can make out, attained to great success as a professor, at least in the sense of drawing very large classes; but this may be explained by the nature of the subjects on which he lectured, these possessing only a limited appeal. But the testimony is strong and universal, that he was a remarkable personality, and that he created in his environment the impression of the presence of a good man. German students, accustomed to a great deal of professional dignity in their instructors, were captivated with a professor who could be seen on the streets with his hat dangling in his hand or with no hat at all, or who received them in his study with a salutation flung from the top of a ladder, on which he was exploring the upper shelves of his bookcases. He greeted every one whom he met on his way to and from the university, whether gentle or simple; he would lift the too heavy load of an apple-woman and carry it to her door, or look after the tramway horses whilst the driver was consuming his meal. He wore coats provided with innumerable pockets, in which were stored twine, sticking-plaster, measuring tape, and other necessities with which to succour any accident he might encounter on the way. The portrait which the biography contains has an aspect of uncommon cheerfulness and benevolence; and Professor von Harnack, who was for several years contemporary with him in the Leipzig faculty, has borne witness that he never knew another who practised so habitually the imitation of Christ.

It was easy for one who had been brought up in America to be at the front in Germany of the progressive party in politics, and he was no less original and enterprising in the promotion of

religion. He attended regularly the annual gathering of the Friends of the Christian World, where he was a speaker and formed friendships with men and women interested in social advance. He was in the fullest sympathy with the efforts of such leaders as Stöcker and Naumann, and he organized clubs for working-men in his own neighbourhood, where he stimulated social aspiration, yet endeavoured to counteract the atheistical tendencies in the German Social Democracy. He went very far in urging the Church to meet the Socialists halfway, and he was specially impressed with the necessity of winning the children for the Christian Church.

When the War broke out in 1914, it might have been expected that Gregory could have nothing to do with it, as he was long past the age of military service, and his duties at the university demanded his presence. But he was seized with a strange uneasiness, as if he could not keep away from the field of action when great issues were to be decided ; and, after ten days of consideration, he went and offered himself to the military authorities. A volunteer of sixty-seven might have been regarded as a ridiculous figure ; a volunteer with Gregory's position and antecedents, however, was not to be rejected ; for he could express to the world the convictions which were in him. He did issue a declaration of war of considerable length, and it was bitterly anti-British. In a war with France alone he would not have taken part, he said, or even perhaps in one with France and Russia united ; but, when England came in—" England, the country of selfishness ; England, which murdered the Boer women and children ; England, which had brutally oppressed Ireland for centuries ; England, which sucked the blood of India, and allowed its inhabitants to perish with hunger—as soon as it was made clear that England was standing behind France and Russia, every one, I said to myself, who can carry a musket must go."

When a youth in Philadelphia he had just missed serving in the American War, and the remains of the training he had then received were in his bones, so that he did not require long to be perfected in the necessary evolutions. He entered the army as a private, and in the biography the steps are minutely traced by which he rose to the rank of officer. With his fellow-privates he was quite at home, and not a few of his younger comrades displayed towards him an affectionate respect. When one who was a vegetarian, a teetotaler and a non-smoker

appeared at the officers' mess, the welcome he received was not always flattering. But there was so much of good humour in his bearing of trials, calling himself a maid-of-all-work, that in general he was regarded with a kind of amused wonder, and many a story about the grey-haired volunteer was in circulation through the ranks. Various were the duties assigned to him ; but, for the greater part of the time he was serving, he was entrusted with the burial of the dead and the care of the graves ; and in such an office the punctual habits of his life enabled him to excel. Many a time he found and conveyed home the bodies belonging to families which corresponded with him about their dead ; and, when he found on a dead enemy a letter with an address, he would post it to a mother in France.

It may have been because he was unaccustomed to riding that, towards the close, he fell from his horse, suffering an injury to a limb which occasioned him much pain. But worse was to follow. He was at a town of the name of Neufchapel, not far from Rheims, when the shot and shell of the enemy became exceedingly severe. On 9th April 1917, a shell burst through the wall which separated his bedroom from the place in which his batman was sleeping, and a splinter, entering Gregory's side, caused his death the same day.

The most tragic feature of the whole story is revealed by comparing this date with the date on which America entered the War—6th April 1917—for this proves that he must have known for several days that his native country had declared war on his adopted country. In fact, a son and daughter of his own were at the time in America ; he had nephews in the American army ; and it was pretty certain that some of his kith and kin would be crossing the ocean to participate in the conflict on the opposite side. Even the German biographer has the grace to see and acknowledge that, in these circumstances, it was better that Gregory was not longer spared.

This Gregory episode is not likely to be forgotten in Germany, but will be made to shine in popular histories of the late war and be told to children and children's children ; and, although we know that at the critical moment he committed a fatal mistake, we will not allow this to dim the memory of the scholar's labours and sacrifices in clearing the sacred text from the accumulations of human infirmity, or to cloud our belief that the service which he rendered to the Word of the Lord was inspired by love to the Lord of the Word.