

**THE LIFE OF
THOMAS DIXON. A
MEMORIAL**

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The life of Thomas Dixon. A memorial by Samuel C. Logan

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SAMUEL C. LOGAN

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OF
THOMAS DICKSON.

A Memorial.

BY
SAMUEL C. LOGAN, D. D.

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The Memorial.



ITS OBJECTS AND LIMITATIONS.

I HAVE been requested to write a memorial of my departed friend, Mr. Thomas Dickson, which shall be especially intended for the use of his family and immediate friends. This work I cheerfully undertake, both out of interest in the living and of love for the dead. Mr. Dickson's long identification with the great schemes of industry in the Lackawanna Valley, and his high character as a citizen, would seem to demand that his life should not be permitted to pass away from the memory of the world without some monument commemorative of his work and his excellence. When future historians shall seek

to trace the history of the industries and record the wonderful development of society in the growing communities of north-eastern Pennsylvania, no doubt some permanent general record will show the connection of Mr. Dickson's life and labors with this development; and it is well that material should be provided by which such history may be made truthful and just.

It is perhaps impossible for one generation fully to apprehend the life, or appreciate the experiences, of the generation which precedes it. It is chiefly the issues of an active life, with its accomplished facts which touch other lives in this world, which may be expected to make lasting impressions on succeeding generations. A man's contemporaries are the most capable and appreciative judges of his personal character; while an after-generation may perhaps be the better judge of his acts, or of the wisdom of his plans. IT IS THE MEMORY OF THE MAN, not the register of his deeds, which is the more precious to his friends. The deeds are to them specially valuable only in so far as they perpetuate the picture of the man himself. It is the husband, the father, and friend, who should be embalmed in the deserted household and circle of affection. His works and activities will be measured by them, and become especially precious only in so far as they bring the man himself back in his earnest and active life to their hearts.

It is, indeed, one of the saddest thoughts of our lives here, that we not only pass away from visible and conscious contact with the world, which is so much to us, but that the very remembrance of us fades away from the world's vision, as the morning cloud before the dawning of the day. The remembrance of many of our acts and plans of life may remain in the world after we leave it, especially if their results continue to affect other lives. Dim and imperfect shadows of ourselves, in conspicuous positions, may now and then flash across the path of other seekers of position; we shall probably be lost to sight, even before the foot-prints we have made, in crossing the stage of action, have become untraceable. Yet it is we ourselves who desire to live in the hearts of all to whom we have tried to be helpful and true. It is what we are, or have tried to be, with all our mistakes and blunders, our imperfections and weaknesses, that we desire should remain in the memory and heart of those we leave behind us.

There are perhaps three separate forces which, more than all others, combine to determine the lives of such men as Thomas Dickson in this world. The influences of each of these forces must be considered in any true biography. The first of these is that which the Christian must recognize as the work of God, manifested in the individual characteristics of the soul. There is such a thing as a patent of personal origin, which must be carried with us through