

**UNION WITH GOD IN THOUGHT  
AND FAITH: REFLECTIONS ON THE  
ENLARGEMENT OF RELIGIOUS  
LIFE THROUGH MODERN  
KNOWLEDGE**

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Union with God in Thought and Faith: Reflections on the Enlargement of Religious Life Through Modern Knowledge by David Scull

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IN BOYHOOD.



## Memoirs of David Scull.

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DAVID SCULL was born at Sculltown, Salem County, New Jersey, First-month 17th, 1836. He came of a distinguished line of English ancestors, going directly back, on his father's side, to the time of King William Rufus. Among his' ancestors, on his mother's side, was Dorothea Scott, of Scott's Hall in Kent, one of the foremost families of the county. She became a prominent minister of the Society of Friends in the first period of the Quaker movement, and when on a visit to the court in 1661, to congratulate Charles II on his Restoration, she was supposed to have presented to the king a little book written by herself, now excessively rare, with the title "A Call to Repentance." With her began the Quaker strain in the family, destined for many generations afterwards to be of powerful influence in the Society of Friends.

The Sculls were the founders of Sculltown, and there were among them many who were prominent Friends. David Scull's grandfather, Gideon Scull, gave to Woodstown Friends the ground for their meeting-house, and, like his grandson, he was always zealous to promote the interests of the Society.

David Scull's early education was acquired at Westtown Boarding School. In 1849 he entered the Introductory Department of Haverford School, and was graduated from Haverford College in 1854. At his funeral, an elderly Friend, who had been at school and college with him, was overheard to say that although he had known David Scull from the time he was a boy of six years old, he had never heard him say a word which could not have been said aloud at his own funeral.

Already in his college days he began to show deep spiritual interests, and though full of vivacity and boyish delights, his mind turned easily to serious concerns. In one of his addresses before the Logonian Society given, apparently, in his senior year, he presents with

considerable power the beauty of classical literature and its cultural value. "But," he concludes, "there is another literature and a higher, justly called sacred, which claims the attention of all. And the scholar who makes ancient (i. e. classical) literature alone the object of his attainments, falls far short of the attainable standard of perfection. It is a treasure which he will share in common with the poor and lowly, a body of truths which require not the soil of genius, or of talent, such as Plato and the heathen philosophers sought for but found not, such as even modern philosophers have sought in vain, who, though they might speak in a hundred tongues, would find themselves strangers to *one small voice* whose teachings would be unheeded and unknown."

He was married in 1861 to Hannah Ellicott Coale, of Baltimore. She had come to Philadelphia to be bridesmaid at the wedding of a friend, and here David Scull first saw her. She was a very attractive girl and he was a young man of beautiful features, a noble presence and charming manners. They soon discovered their