"PROF. CHARLEY": A SKETCH OF CHARLES THOMPSON

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"Prof. Charley": A Sketch of Charles Thompson by A. E. L.

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A. E. L.

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An Thomas

MAY 9, 1874.

"Prof. Charley"

A Sketch of Charles Thompson by
A. E. L.

. Daughter of the

Rev. William A. Stearns, D.D., Late President of Amherst College

With an Introduction by Joseph Osgood Thompson, Ph.D., Associate

Professor of Physics in Amherst College

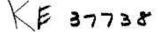
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1902





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INTRODUCTION

WHEN, in the course of the civil war, General Butler was making himself odious to the white and correspondingly beloved by the black population of New Orleans, a colored minister proposed the following toast: "Here's to General Butler, God bless him! Though he has a white skin he has a black heart." A similar sentiment, with an interchange of two words, I harbor concerning the subject of the following sketch, "Professor" Charley Thompson.

For me to introduce this man to Amherst alumni would be like Ascanius introducing Hector to a Trojan audience. There is not an Amherst man, from the time of William Augustus down to the reign of Georgius Primus, who does not think with pleasure of the smiling face and shuffling gait that characterized Charley while acting the part of Aquarius in the Amherst zodiac constellations. But recent events

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in Charley's life may have escaped the notice of some of the alumni. His wife, Eliza, died a year ago. His mortgageburdened farm had to be sold. At his present age of eighty-two, he is unable to earn his daily bread. In the last years of the illness of his insane wife, his tender devotion to the girl he had promised "to love and cherish" was beautiful and impressive. "I promised Dr. Stearns I would allers take good care of Eliza, and I allers will" was his invariable reply when urged to have his wife taken to an asylum. When, finally, she died, he thought his last and best friend had been taken from him. "Dr. Stearns is dead, Dr. Tyler is dead, and now Eliza is dead, and nobody cares for me now."

To demonstrate the incorrectness of the concluding statement, and to help provide for his future comfort, the following sketch has been written.

Joseph O. Thompson.

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"PROFESSOR CHARLEY."
OCT. 31st, 1898.