George Washington Doane, D.D., LL.D., was pre-eminently fitted to be a leader and ruler of men. As a bishop of the Episcopal Church he greatly magnified his office, and made full proof of his ministry. Among his peers, he was peerless in magnetic power and episcopal grace. He was one of the notables of his generation.

He was born at Trenton, N.J., May 27, 1799. In his childhood, the family, who were Episcopalians, removed to New York City, and he was sent to the school of the Rev. Dr. Edmund Barry, of linguistic fame. In his tenth year, his father became a resident of Geneva, N.Y., where the son entered Mr. Hubbell's school, and was fitted for college. He graduated from Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., in 1818, with distinguished honor.

His attention was now turned to the law, and, for a short time, he pursued his studies in the office of Richard Harrison, Esq., of New York City. But, under the influence of Prof. (afterwards Bishop) Brownell, then of New York City, he abandoned the law, and joined a theological class under the care and teaching of Bishop Hobart, Dr. Jarvis, and Prof. Brownell. At the same time, he devoted several hours daily to teaching, for the support of his mother and sisters.

He was ordained, April 19, 1821, a deacon, by Bishop Hobart, in Christ Church, N.Y.; was presently appointed an assistant minister of Trinity Church, N.Y.; and was ordained to the priesthood, August 6, 1823, also, by Bishop Hobart, in Trinity Church. In September, 1824, he became Professor of Belles-Lettres and Oratory, in the newly-organized Washington (now Trinity) College, Hartford, Conn. To secure funds for the college, he travelled extensively in the Southern States. He was now associated with the Rev. William Grosowell in editing the Episcopal Watchman. A close and intimate life-long friendship was formed between them. Bishop Doane named, for his friend, one of his sons, who is now the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany. The same year (1824) he published his "Songs by the Way; chiefly Devotional; with Translations and Imitations,"—in which appear the two well-known hymns:

"Softly now the light of day," etc.,

and

"Thou art the Way;—to thee alone," etc.

His contributions to the Watchman, also, were frequent.
In 1828, he accepted a call from Trinity Church, Boston, as Assistant to the Rev. Dr. John S.J. Gardiner, at whose decease, July 29, 1830, he was chosen in his place, as Rector. In 1829, he married Miss Eliza Greene Perkins. His church was the most influential of the denomination in the city, and he occupied a commanding position, filling it with credit and honor. On the death (July 26, 1832) of the venerable Bishop Croes, of New Jersey, Mr. Doane was chosen (October 3) his successor, and (October 31) he was duly consecrated as the Second Episcopal Bishop of New Jersey. He fixed his residence at Burlington, N.J., and, the following year, became the Rector of St. Mary’s Church, of that town. He now entered on a remarkable career of Episcopal enterprise, labor, and prerogative, scarcely paralleled in the history of the American Church.

He founded (1837) a Church School for Girls (St. Mary’s Hall), over which he presided and watched with great assiduity and zeal. To obtain a training-school for his ministerial candidates, he founded, in 1846, and presided over Burlington College. His financial projects, entered into with characteristic ardor, but with a lack of commercial foresight and prudence, involved him in serious pecuniary embarrassments, resulting in painful controversy, and judicial proceedings on the part of the Church authorities.

His attachments were ardent and faithful, especially towards the young, with whom he was a great favorite. He was in full sympathy with the Oxford Tractarians, and on a visit to England, in 1841, was received with distinguished honor. As one result of Tractarianism, he had occasion to mourn over the perversion of his eldest son to the Church of Rome.

He stamped his own image on the Diocese of New Jersey. Under his administration, its clergy increased from 18 to 99, its parishes from 30 to 84, and its communicants from 657 to 5,000. He abounded in labors, and was, in consequence, prematurely cut off. While annual offerings rose from less than 400 to 50,000 dollars.

He died after a short illness, at his "Riverside" home, Burlington, April 27, 1859, nearly sixty years old.

His Biography, Poems, Sermons, Charges, and numerous other writings, were published (1860) by his son, Bishop Doane, of Albany. One of his sweetest poems, written in Northfield Vicarage, England, 1841, is here subjoined:

(See next page)
"Hoc Erat In Votis."

"This was in all my prayers, since first I prayed:—
A Parsonage, in a sweet garden's shade;
The Church adjoining, with its ivied tower;
A peal of bells, a clock to tell the hour;
A rustic flock, to feed from day to day,
And kneel with them, at morn, and eve, and pray.
He, who 'doth all things well,' denied my prayer,
And bade me take the Apostle's staff and bear,
The scattered sheep o'er the hill and dale pursue,
Feed the old flocks and gather in the new;
Count ease, and health, and life, and all things loss,
So I make known the blessed bleeding Cross.
These quiet scenes, that never can be mine,
This homebred happiness, dear friend! be thine;
Each choicest gift, and influence from above,
Descend on thee, and all that share thy love;
Peace, which the world gives not, nor can destroy,
The prelibation of eternal joy."

The Poets of the Church
pp. 196-199
Edwin F. Hatfield
Anson D. F. Randolph & Co.
New York
1884
George Washington Doane, Bishop of New Jersey, published in 1834 his famous evening hymn, a graceful lyric full of gentleness and piety:

"Softly now the light of day
Fades upon my sight away;
Free from care, from labor free,
Lord, I would commune with thee.

He also wrote the militant evangelical hymn "Fling Out the Banner." Some books have felt it necessary to modify the force of this hymn by changing the words "Fling out the banner" to "Uplift the banner." They had better leave it as it is.

George Washington Doane, who was, like Sears, a graduate of Union College, in New York, and who later became Bishop of New Jersey, was the author of one of the favorite evening hymns, "Softly Now the Light of Day," a graceful lyric, full of gentleness and piety.

The Hymn as Literature
Jeremiah Bascom Reeves
The Century Co.
New York & London
1924
George Washington Doane was born in Trenton, New Jersey, May 27, 1799. He was partly educated in New York by the Rev. Edmund D. Barry, a classical instructor who taught three generations of pupils, and who died rector of the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew in Jersey City, at the age of 76 in 1852. Pursuing his studies at Geneva in Western New York, Mr. Doane entered Union College, where he was graduated in 1818. He was then for a short time a student of law in the city of New York, in the office of Richard Harrison. In 1821 he was ordained deacon in the Episcopal church by Bishop Hobart, and was for four years an assistant minister in Trinity Church, New York. In 1824 he was appointed Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres in new Washington, now Trinity, College, Hartford, Ct. In 1828 he went to Boston as assistant minister of Trinity Church, of which he became rector in 1830. In 1829 he was married to Eliza Greene Perkins. On the 31st of October, 1832, he was consecrated Bishop of New Jersey, and the next year became rector of St. Mary's Church, at Burlington.

At this beautiful town on the banks of the Delaware Bishop Doane, in addition to the more immediate duties of his diocese, has devoted himself to the cause of education, in connexion with two institutions known as St. Mary's Hall and Burlington College. The former, commenced in 1837, is a female seminary; the latter is an incorporated institution for the usual purposes of education and was commenced in 1846.

In 1841 Bishop Doane visited England at the request of the Rev. Dr. Hook to preach the sermon at the consecration of the new parish church at Leeds—the first instance of an American bishop preaching in an English church under the new act authorizing the admission of transatlantic clergy.

The literary productions of Dr. Doane have been numerous, though mostly confined to sermons and charges, and church periodical literature. He has edited the Missionary, a monthly religious newspaper and journal of his diocese. In 1842 a volume of his sermons was published by the Rivingtons in London.

He is the author of numerous short poems chiefly of a lyrical or simple devotional character, which have appeared from time to time in the journals. In 1824 he published a volume of his early poetical writings entitled "Songs by the Way, chiefly devotional; with Translations and Imitations." Several of these have been included in the collection of hymns in use in the Protestant Episcopal Church. The translations are of Latin hymns, from the Italian of Metastasio and from the odes of Horace. He has also edited Keble's Christian Year, introducing additions from Crosowell and
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In all these, and in the prose writings of Bishop
Doane, there is an elegant taste, evidence of good Eng-
lish scholarship, and spirited expression. His pulpit
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the Christian Year, the sacraments, and the prayer-book;
his orations and general addresses.

The following poems are printed with this sketch:

On a Very Old Wedding Ring
Evening
Our Father Who Art in Heaven
Love and Death
The Pleasures of a Country Life.

Cyclopaedia of American Literature
vol. 2 pp. 78-80
Evert A. Duyckinck & George L. Duyckinck
T. Ellwood Zell
Phila., N.Y. & London
1875
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Phila., N.Y. & London
1875
GEORGE WASHINGTON DOANE

For twenty-six years Bishop of New Jersey and Rector of St. Mary's Church, of Burlington, was in some respects one of the most remarkable of the men who rank among the historical personages of America. Had he continued in his chosen profession, the law, he would have been one of the most learned and eloquent members of the bar, and might have gained the Supreme Court bench; had statecraft attracted him, the Presbytery might have been within his reach; had not his life been so filled by his activities in advancing the cause of the Church, as defender of the faith, the music that was in his soul, the fertility of his imagination, his facility in metrical composition, and his love of literary expression, as evidenced in his volume of "Songs by the Way," published in 1824, would have given America another distinguished poet.

This great prelate was a native of New Jersey, born at Trenton May 27, 1799. While yet a boy his parents moved to New York City, where he became a pupil in the private academy of Dr. Barry, one of the foremost teachers and scholars of his time. About 1806 the family removed to Geneva, N. Y., where his teacher was Dr. Axtell, a Presbyterian clergyman, who required the boys to learn and recite the shorter catechism of that society. Young Doane denied knowledge of any such catechism, and would recognize no other than the one his mother had taught him. He was whipped and disgraced for his obstinate stand for principle, but his spirit was not quelled. He repeated the offense. When sent to the seat of disgrace near the door so many boys, who like him knew only the Church Catechism, took their seats beside him that the rule was repealed, and a separate class recited every week in the Catechism of the Church. This incident illustrates not only his perfect loyalty to the church and the unconquerable courage of his devotion, but also the leadership as a boy which manifested itself so strongly in his manhood.

After his graduation from Union College, in his twentieth year, he went to New York City, where his father had moved, and entered the law office of the eminent Richard Harrison. Disliking the law, he abandoned this first plan for a career, when he felt the working of a call within him to embrace the higher calling of the Priesthood. In 1819, the year following the death of his father, he became a candidate for Holy Orders in the Diocese of New Jersey. While pursuing his studies for the ministry, under Bishop Hobart, he supported himself and family by establishing a classical school for boys. The success and popularity of this school attracted attention and led to a professorship in Trinity College, in 1825, where he gained distinction during the three years he remained there.
It was these experiences that moulded his mind and fixed his purpose for the great work of his life, Christian education in the American Church, not only from the pulpit and the chancel rail, but by promoting the founding of parochial schools throughout the Diocese, and his own noble foundations in Burlington, St. Mary's Hall and Burlington College.

During Mr. Doane's ministerial life in New York as Deacon, and as Rector, from 1821 to 1824, he was in Trinity Church, under and with Bishop Hobart. His first sermon was preached for the Rev. Peter Williams, the pastor of St. Philips colored congregation in New York City. In addition to his work in Trinity Church he was, in connection with the Rev. Dr. Upfold, the founder of St. Luke's Chapel in New York.

His love of reading led him to seek a professorship where he could add intellectual to spiritual work. He left New York for Hartford, Connecticut, in 1824 on invitation from Dr. Browne, the founder and President of Washington College, with whom he had served in Union College. While in residence at Washington College Mr. Doane was an active and earnest missionary to many points near Hartford, and flourishing parishes bear witness to the effectiveness of his labors.

From Hartford Mr. Doane went in 1828 to the Rectorship of Trinity Church, Boston, where he remained until his elevation to the Episcopate of the Diocese of New Jersey. During the period thus hastily sketched Mr. Doane was employing his splendid talents contributing to literary journals and conducting church papers. In 1820 he established the Episcopal Watchman and became its editor, and was associated with Dr. William Croswell in the editorship of the Banner of the Church. In 1828 the African Mission School Society was organized for the purpose of educating colored schoolmasters, catechists, and missionaries, to be sent to Africa under the General Missionary Society, and Mr. Doane was made a director and one of the executive committee.

Among his many efforts to touch others with the fire of his own zeal in this work was the establishment of a Missionary Lecture in Boston. His greatest work and service to this cause was rendered later in life. He was one of a committee of the Board of Directors of the Missionary Society, in 1835, to consider the organization of the Society. He brought to this project all the earnestness of his nature, and the draft of the plan made by him shows that the American Church owes him a debt of unforgotten gratitude. He preached the sermon at the consecration of Dr. Kemper, the first Missionary Bishop of the Church. Had he himself been called to the most remote corner of the earth as a part of God's vineyard, he would have gone cheerfully, but it was his more important task to awaken and inspire others to that glorious service.
The call to the Episcopacy of New Jersey was most unexpected. It came on the sixth ballot at the convention held in New Brunswick, on October 3, 1832, about one month after the death of his venerable predecessor, Bishop Cross. Bishop Doane did not remove to New Jersey until the Spring of 1833. He continued to officiate in Trinity Church, Boston, until Easter. His first purpose was to make Newark his residence, and he was strongly urged to do so. He tells in his secondaddress to the Convention the circumstances which led him, after a temporary residence in Burlington, to make the decision which meant so much to St. Marys parish: "The death of Rev. Dr. Wharton, and the peculiar circumstances of the Parish of St. Marys, Burlington, presented a conflicting duty. After mature deliberation, with inquiry of those whose judgments in the matter were best instructed, it seemed incumbent on me to assume the charge of the interesting parish thus vacated; which I did—for the first six months—and afterward as its Rector."

It was on October 1, 1833, that Bishop Doane accepted the permanent Rectorship of St. Marys. He continued in the active discharge of its duties until his death, on April 27, 1859, in the twenty-seventh year of his episcopate. Of his faithfulness to his charge the records of St Marys and of the Diocese of New Jersey bear witness. The old church was twice enlarged. The new St. Marys, than which there is no nobler building in American church architecture, lifts its shapely spire in memory of the loftiness of his aims and the beauty of his ideals. The Delaware became a classic and sacred stream when he founded on its banks the twin seats of learning, St. Marys Hall and Burlington College. The number of communicants in the Parish grew from thirty-five to three hundred; the baptisms numbered nine hundred and ninety-one; the confirmations eleven hundred and nineteen; and the contributions, not including the cost of the church building, were thirty-six thousand dollars.

In the Diocese his constant labors were even more notable. When he came into the Diocese "its parishes were feeble; its clergy few; its contributions small; its influence slight." He extended his visitations to every county in the State. Mark the change during the twenty-six years of Bishop Doane's episcopate. Its clergy, from eighteen, grew to ninety-nine; fifty-four parishes were added to its thirty; one hundred and thirty-six clergymen were ordained and eighty instituted; fifty-eight churches were consecrated; the confirmations reached, in all, seven thousand four hundred and thirty; the communicants from six hundred and fifty-seven became five thousand; the Sunday School teachers and scholars multiplied tenfold.
How wide were his interests and labors. And yet he was ever enthusiastically identified with the affairs of the town and its people. The printed volumes of his addresses and sermons in themselves would represent the life work of a less able man. When the Historical Society of New Jersey was formed he was among its earliest members. His eloquent voice was uplifted in behalf of the church and other worthy causes in both hemispheres. He was equally identified with the affairs of the town, aside from the parish. He was enthusiastic in promoting the best interests of the people of Burlington, and his relations with them were intimate. He was more than the clergyman to them; he was their faithful friend, always ready to lend a helping hand and cheering voice.

In a severe winter Bishop Doane would be found organizing a soup society. When the Apprentice's Library was founded he assisted greatly. When the Burlington Lyceum (now the Cuty Hall) was erected he was president of the syndicate of gentlemen who financed it, made the address at its opening, and lectured in the Hall frequently. In his addresses to the people of Burlington, on secular occasions, he was very apt to voice his pride in the town by making use of the quotation--"I am a citizen of no mean city."

Both of Bishop Doane's sons rose to distinction as church dignitaries. His older son, George Hobart Doane, saddened his father's heart when he went over to the Church of Rome, and became Vicar General of the Diocese of Newark, N. J., and was elevated to a place in the Vatican at Rome.

William Crosswell Doane, the younger son, who followed his father as rector of St. Marys for a brief period, has sustained the name of Doane for episcopal prominence as the nationally known Bishop of Albany.

The History of Burlington, New Jersey
William E. Schermerhorn
Enterprise Publishing Co.
Burlington, N. J.
1927.

Rev. GEORGE W. DOANE, A.M. Coll. Wash. E4th. Prof., a resident of Boston, Mass., was a member of the Philomathean Society. (1818(Died: 1859)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830
For many years George Washington Doane was a notable figure in the religious life of America. Born in 1799, graduating with the highest honors from Union College at the age of nineteen, ordained to the Episcopal priesthood, a teacher in Trinity College, Hartford, then rector of Trinity Church, Boston, when thirty-three years old he was made bishop of New Jersey. Here he remained till his death in 1859, witnessing during those twenty-seven years and astonishing growth throughout his diocese. He was an indefatigable worker, shrinking from no toil or hardship, thinking nothing of keeping at a task for twenty hours out of the twenty-four. He was a High-Churchman, of the militant sort, and wherever he went he fearlessly propagated his beliefs. He loved controversy and he had it to his heart's content. "My father was a man of war from his youth," wrote the son.

But if he was an ecclesiastical warrior, he was something more; he was a Christian poet. Two generations have gone by since he died, and the old-time controversies are quite forgotten; but the man himself is lovingly remembered, for not a week, scarcely a day, passes, that his hymns are not sung in home or sanctuary. His son, the Rt.Rev.William C. Doane, for many years Bishop of Albany, has told us how his father's poetical writings were simple necessities. He could not help them. His heart was so full of song. It oozed out in his conversation, in his sermons, in everything he did. Sometimes in a steamboat, often when the back of a letter was his only paper, the sweetest things came."

While he wrote many lyrics, he is chiefly remembered for three. In 1824, just as he was entering on his life work, he published a small volume, now very scarce, "Songs by the Way." One of the songs was entitled "Evening," based on the words of the Psalmist, "Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice." It was at once recognized as a hymn of rare beauty, and two years later it was given a permanent standing by being received into the American Prayer Book Collection. Originally there were four stanzas, as follows:

"Softly now the light of day
Fades upon my sight away;
Free from care, from labor free,
Lord, I would commune with thee.

"Thou, whose all-pervading eye
Naught escapes, without, within,
Pardon each infirmity,
Open fault, and secret sin.
"Soon, for me, the light of day
Shall forever pass away;
Then, from sin and sorrow free,
Take me, Lord, to dwell with thee.

"Thou, who, sinless, yet has known,
All of man's infirmity;
Then from thine eternal throne,
Jesus, look with pitying eye."

In most hymn books the piece appears in this form, but it is stronger with the last stanza omitted; the first three are complete in themselves. This hymn is sung the world over, wherever the English tongue is spoken. It is great in its simplicity. In 1837 Bishop Doane founded Saint Mary's Hall, a church school for girls, at Burlington, New Jersey. He is buried in the neighboring churchyard. We are told that "every Wednesday evening, in the chapel service, 'Softly now the light of day' is sung as a sort of requiem, or memorial, by young voices that are taught to reverence the founder whom they only know by tradition."

In "Songs by the Way" there was another poem which found a place in the Prayer Book Collection, and which is in extensive use both at home and abroad--the one beginning, "Thou art the Way: to Thee alone." It is based on the words of Jesus, in John 14. 6. Metrical expositions of Scriptures are apt to be stilted and spiritless, but this one is a success. We cannot agree with those who declare that it is "the first of American hymns," for Bishop Doane himself rose higher on occasion; but it certainly merits the place which it has held in our hymnody for nearly a hundred years--really useful if not great.

"Thou art the Way:--to thee alone
From sin and death we flee;
And he who would the Father seek,
Must seek him, Lord, by thee.

"Thou art the Truth:--thy word alone
True wisdom can impart;
Thou only canst inform the mind,
And purify the heart.

"Thou art the Life:--the rendering tomb
Proclaims thy conquering arm;
And those who put their trust in thee
Nor death nor hell shall harm.

"Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life;
Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win,
Whose joys eternal flow."
In the Episcopal Church Bishop Doane was known as the missionary bishop of America. It was during his boyhood and student days that the wave of missionary enthusiasm swept over the country, when Missionary Boards and Societies were organized, and Monthly Missionary Concerts were held in the churches; when collections were taken and shiploads of workers sent to the field. The Protestant Episcopal Board began its history in 1820. Fifteen years later, its constitution was completely changed, placing the Board on a broader foundation, with a vision and a program. In the work of reorganization, young Bishop Doane had a conspicuous part, and on through the years his inspiring leadership was constantly in evidence. One of his greatest sermons, still read with delight, was preached in 1837, on "The Missionary Charter of the Church."

We are not surprised that his noblest lyric is a trumpet call to the church, to "Fling out the banner!" of Jesus Christ to all the earth. The figure is taken from the words of the Psalmist: "Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth." Undoubtedly this hymn, with its swift succession of vivid pictures and its ringing challenge, is one of our greatest missionary lyrics. But even the best words, to be popular in song, need an appropriate melody. Professor Breed calls attention to the fact that it was the happy joining of this hymn to the spirited tune by J.R. Calkin that had much to do with bringing it into widespread use.

"Fling out the banner! let it float
Skyward and seaward, high and wide;
The sun that lights its shining folds,
The cross, on which the Saviour died.

"Fling out the banner! angels bend
In anxious silence o'er the sign,
And vailly seek to comprehend
The wonder of the love divine.

"Fling out the banner! heathen lands
Shall see from far the glorious sight,
And nations, crowding to be born,
Baptize their spirits in its light.

"Fling out the banner! sin-sick souls
That sink and perish in the strife
Shall touch in faith its radiant hem,
And spring immortal into life."
"Fling out the banner! let it float
Skyward and seaward, high and wide,
Our glory, only in the cross;
Our only hope, the Crucified!

"Fling out the banner! wide and high,
Seaward and skyward let it shine;
Nor skill, nor might, nor merit ours;
We conquer only in that sign."

The Story of the American Hymn
pp. 148-153
Edward S. Ninde
The Abingdon Press
New York
1921.
A meeting of the Alumni of Burlington College was held in the College Library on Saturday last, George W. Miller, Esq., Chairman, and the Rev. Hobart Chetwood, Secretary.

Resolutions were adopted appointing the Chairman and Secretary, with one member of each class, a Committee to receive contributions, and to adopt measures necessary to the erection of a monument to the memory of Bishop Doane; also inviting the present and former students of the College, the graduates, with the present and former pupils of St. Mary's Hall, to unite in the erection of this memorial.

New York Daily Tribune
p. 6 col. 6
May 7, 1859.