

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE AUTHOR OF PROTEUS.

Proteus, A Rhapsody on Man, is an extraordinary and fascinating prose-poem which indicates that its author was a remarkable personality. Selected portions of it are given on another page of this issue, and at our request Mr. Charles Kassel of Fort Worth, Texas, a personal friend of Mr. Wheelock, has furnished us with the following sketch of his life:



EDWIN MILLER WHEELOCK.

Edwin Miller Wheelock was born in the city of New York in 1829, and died at Austin, Texas, on October 29, 1901. After graduating from the Law Department of Harvard, he took the theological course at the Divinity School of the same university, and in 1857 was ordained as minister of the Unitarian Society at Dover, New Hampshire. In that pastorate he continued for five years, when, the Civil War breaking out, he resigned to enlist as a

private in the Fifteenth New Hampshire Volunteers. Later he was made chaplain and as such accompanied his regiment to New Orleans. There, in connection with Rev. George H. Hepworth, he was commissioned as a Lieutenant and detailed by General Banks to investigate complaints of abuse and ill-treatment toward plantation negroes, and subsequently was commissioned as active member of the military board to establish Freedmen's Schools in Louisiana.

The war ending, Mr. Wheelock moved with his family to Texas. Here he occupied a number of important public trusts, being at one time State Superintendent of Public Instruction, at another Superintendent of the State Institute for the Blind. For several years he was Reporter of the State Supreme Court.

In 1887, Mr. Wheelock organized a Unitarian Society in Spokane, Washington, and for two years served as its minister. He then returned to Texas and not long after began his pastorate of the Unitarian movement in Austin. He continued in that work for eight years, when the gathering infirmities of age compelled his resignation. His death occurred two years later.

Striking of person, endowed with an intellect in which the poetic and the practical mingled in rare combination, master of an eloquence which made his discourses models of impressiveness and beauty, the author of *Proteus* might have graced a distinguished pulpit and achieved a conspicuous place in literature; but he was of a retiring disposition and unambitious of applause,—traits of character deepened by the mysticism which throughout his life held for him so rich a charm. The sentiment was often upon his lips that the fittest theatre for the exercise of our benevolence and our talents is the familiar one about us, and of his own loyalty to this principle the world could ask no nobler proof than the story of his life affords.

At his death, Mr. Wheelock directed all his manuscripts destroyed. Fortunately, this little work had been printed in earlier years for circulation among friends and a few copies were found among the author's papers.

AN ESPERANTO GRAMMAR.

The subject of an International Auxiliary Language in general, and of Esperanto in particular has been discussed from various viewpoints in several numbers of *The Monist*. For a review of the subject considered on both its practical and philological sides we refer the readers to the following articles: An International Auxiliary Language (With Editorial Reply). By L. Couturat. *Monist*, XV, 143; Ostwald's Pamphlet on Universal Language. By Paul Carus, XIV, 591; Esperanto. By Paul Carus, XVI, 450; Philologist's Views on Artificial Languages. By Paul Carus, XVII, 610; Report of the Delegation for the Adoption of an International Language, XVII, 618.

The editor of the "First American magazine" of this international language, the *Amerika Esperantisto*, 1239 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, sends the following communication:

To the Editor of The Open Court:

Notwithstanding the great amount of publicity which has been given to Esperanto, the international language, I find that at this time not more than one-tenth of the people of the United States have even a vague idea of its purpose and scope, and perhaps not one in a hundred has a reasonably definite conception of it. As a sort of counter-irritant to the irresponsible criticism