

IN MEMORIAM

PETER AINSLIE, D.D., LL.D.

Rev. Peter Ainslie, minister of the Christian Temple, Baltimore, Md., died on February 23, 1934. Born at Dunnsville, Virginia, on June 3, 1867, and educated at Transylvania University, at the age of twenty-four he was called to the pastorate of the church with which he continued his ministry until his death forty-three years later. During these years the congregation planted and sponsored eight other churches and established a variety of social and educational activities. In addition to the heavy load of pastoral and administrative work that he carried, he was deeply interested in the cause of world peace and was a trustee of the Church Peace Union, but his greatest concern was for the unity of the church and he was most widely known for his activity in the interest of reunion. He founded *The Christian Union Quarterly* in 1911, and was its editor until his death. He was President of the national convention of Disciples of Christ in 1910, and in that year he took the lead in organizing the Association for the Promotion of Christian Union, of which he was president until 1925. Opposition to his liberal views on the part of the more conservative element of his denomination led to his retirement from that office but served only to confirm his devotion to the widest possible fellowship of Christians. The formula under which he finally organized his attitudes and his program for unity was "the equality of all Christians before God." His earliest publications were text-books for the study of the Old Testament and the New Testament. In 1913 he delivered a series of lectures at Yale Divinity School, which were published under the title *The Message of the Disciples for the Union of the Church*. He was a member of the deputation sent to Great Britain in 1913-1914 by the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States in preparation for the World Conference on Faith and Order. His later books, both dealing with the theme of reunion which was central to his thought, were *If Not a United Church—What?* (1920) and *The Scandal of Christianity* (1929). While he was always more interested in the making of the history of Christianity in what he considered its next inevitable phase than in the study of the past, he was an active member of the American Society of Church History for many years.

W. E. Garrison.