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DEATH OF PROFESSOR ALEXANDER  
DIMITRY.

It is our melancholy duty to announce with this issue the death of Prof. Alexander Dimitry. In the fullness of years, after a life of strenuous endeavor and distinguished usefulness, and with his great faculties unimpaired to the last, he has passed from the struggles of time to the awards of eternity, leaving behind him a memory that will be gratefully and admiringly cherished by his compatriots in the service of his country and by his collaborators in the cause of education.

Professor Dimitry was a man of immense natural strength in mind and body. Even in old age his eyes had the lightning flash, his voice the trumpet peal of the born orator, capable of the strongest feeling and endowed with a gift of vivid expression sometimes almost terrible with fierce intensity. But the heart of the man was as the heart of a woman, tender and true. Many years of his life an instructor of youth, and all his life a student, his learning was vast and varied. His library was one of the largest and also one of the most select private collections of books in the United States. He had little taste or patience for the finished prettiness of the literary dilettantes of the Victorian age; but he was familiar with the classical productions of antiquity and with the masterpieces in the polite languages of mediæval and modern times. Above all, Prof. Dimitry was an English scholar; for he was familiar with the whole history of the evolution of the language, and he was intimately acquainted with all those confluent tongues whose contributions mingle in the broad, deep river of English speech.

Prof. Dimitry was born in New Orleans on the 7th of February, 1805. On his father's side he was literally descended from the heroic race of ancient Greece. He bore the ideal head of the cloud-compelling Zeus, and in the peculiar character of his intellect there was much that was suggestive of the old Greek type of mind. His parents were persons of ample means, and from his earliest years he was the apt pupil of the most capable instructors that his native city then afforded. M. Denis was his private tutor, and taught him the accurate use of the language of the colony. His subsequent teachers were a Mr. Camp, who instructed in English, and Henry P. Nugent, an Irish patriot, who opened a school attended by the children of the most respectable citizens of New Orleans. Prof. Dimitry's companions in this school were the scions of the Lewisises, the Hunters, the Conrads, the Kenners, the Cenases and the Stewarts. Having distinguished himself in this academy, he was sent to Georgetown College, then as now under the care of the Jesuit Fathers, and graduated with high honors from that institution.

Returning to New Orleans he studied law in conjunction with his friend Christian Roselius, in the office of Messrs. Workman & Davezac; but he was not to find his vocation in the law.

He was at one time instructor at the College at Baton Rouge, at another time one of the editors and proprietors of the New Orleans Bee, then L'Abeille. He was, in fact, the Dean of the editorial fraternity of New Orleans.

Whilst acting as English editor of the Bee, his abilities were called into requisition by the Government. In 1835, upon a reorganization of the Post-Office Department, Postmaster General Kendall invited him to take the position of principal clerk of a section of mail contract in the southwestern part of the United States.

He was also one of the Commissioners of the Bi-lingual American-Mexican Commission, provided for by Congress to settle some very important questions. He resigned this position in favor of an ex-Senator from Kentucky, and accepted the more responsible duties of the Secretary. Mr. Marcy, one of the Commissioners, was from that time one of the most devoted friends of Dimitry.

Mr. Dimitry subsequently founded a college in the parish of St. Charles; but, soon after becoming superintendent of the public schools.

He was called in 1854 to Washington City by Gov. Marcy, then Secretary of State, to enter the State Department. Previously President Pierce had unexpectedly offered him the position of a Commissioner to examine and revise the decisions and awards of the United States Commissioners under the Echota treaty.

Upon the return of Gen. M. B. Lamar, Mr. Dimitry was appointed by the President as Minister Resident and Plenipotentiary *ad hoc* to Central America.

While in the State Department he delivered a course of lectures before the graduating class of the University of Georgetown: A great honor never before conferred on any of the alumni.

He returned to the United States at the beginning of the civil war, and his sympathies turned toward his native South. Whilst in Richmond he accepted the position of Chief of the Finance Bureau of the Confederate Post Office Department.

After the war he devoted himself, so long as his strength would permit, to his old work of teaching. And here the record ends. The master of written and spoken eloquence is silent now and still; but they who knew him will not forget him, nor can they think to look upon his like again.