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JOURNAL OF
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THE LATE PROFESSOR ASA GRAY.

Professor Asa Gray, who is referred to in the foregoing discussion, was regarded by men in both hemispheres as occupying a foremost, if not the foremost, place among American men of science. He died on the 30th of January, 1888, in his seventy-eighth year, and the following notice of such a man may well appear in these pages :—

“By the death of Professor Asa Gray, which occurred lately at Cambridge, Massachusetts, the scientific world loses not only one of its most eminent minds, but also one of its most pleasing personalities. Born in the State of New York, Asa Gray was a type of the New Englander in his character and in his peculiarities. The curious mixture of simplicity and shrewdness, with a strong under-current of humour ever ready to make its presence apparent, which distinguishes the old-fashioned New Englander, has seldom been better exemplified than in the personality of the deceased Professor of Natural History at Harvard. Nor was the strong religious tinge of the descendants of the English Puritans wanting to complete in him the picture of an American of the old school, which is in danger of being swallowed up in the flood of heterogeneous elements which is nowadays invading the States. The pioneer in America of the Darwinian doctrine of evolution, and the intimate friend, correspondent, and admirer of Darwin, Asa Gray nevertheless declined to carry his admiration so far as to give an unreserved assent to his friend's teaching. The sincerely religious strain in his character forbade a full acceptance of the logical conclusions on spiritual subjects which must have resulted from such acceptance. He formed, indeed, a sort of common ground, a *point d'appui*, both for science and religion, and it was in that capacity that he appeared at Lambeth Palace at a dinner given by the late Primate to eminent scientific personages in the year 1881. On such an occasion, when science was the guest of religion, Asa Gray was distinctly in his element. By those of his countrymen who knew him, and his many and various friends in England, the death of Professor Asa Gray will be sincerely regretted as much on personal as on scientific grounds.”