

## Murray, A Victor B.A.

### Transcription of article published in the Primitive Methodist Magazine by Professor A.S. Peake D.D.

IN delivering a funeral oration, a minister once said that in deference to his friend's well-known dislike of flattery, he should on that occasion confine himself to the strict truth. Even were it not my practice to aim at under-statement rather than exaggeration, my friend's unaffected dread of the flatterer would check too fluent an appreciation.

Victor Murray was born on September 1st, 1890. After some years at an elementary school, he entered Morpeth Grammar School with a scholarship in 1902. He remained there till 1909, when he went to Magdalen College, Oxford, as a History Exhibitioner. He took his B.A. degree in History Honours in 1913. He was in France in 1910, and travelled in Germany in the summer of 1911. But the exceptional significance of his Oxford period does not lie on the more academic side, precious and fruitful though his training and the influence of the Oxford spirit were. Before he left school, he had been active in Sunday school and Endeavour work. He remembers with pride a sacred operetta "The Little Pilgrim's Progress," which he wrote himself for a children's concert when he was eighteen. He became a local preacher about the same time. His Oxford development could hardly have been divined from this record. It has always seemed to me nothing less than amazing that, going up to Oxford from a country grammar school, unknown, with no circle of friends, or education at a great public school, shy, with what seemed like an invincible Northumbrian shyness, he should, before the end of his second year, have been chosen as President of the Student Christian Movement for 1911-12, he a Primitive Methodist, and in the University of Oxford of all places! When he took his degree in 1913, he was elected to the Berry Scholarship at Mansfield College. He also accepted an invitation from the Oxford Christian Union to become its secretary. He threw himself with such energy into the work that by the end of his first term a membership of something less than two hundred had risen to one of not much less than four hundred. Both in Oxford and at Headquarters the most earnest desire was expressed that he should stay for three years to consolidate the work, an unprecedented experiment. This he did, though it involved the interruption of his Mansfield course and the resignation of his scholarship, since the work of the Movement taxed all his energies. In his vacations he has made much time to act as Student Pastor for Congregational Churches. The War has brought very difficult problems. He has kept the Movement going in Oxford; he has been in constant touch with the members at the Front. Three times each year he sends a letter, which is circulated to several hundreds, and brings him much correspondence. He is now, while retaining his Oxford secretaryship, acting as Travelling Secretary for the Student Movement, visiting the Universities and Colleges of the country, strengthening existing unions and founding new ones. His influence on young men is clear from what I have said. His outstanding quality is perhaps his genius for friendship.



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#### References

*Primitive Methodist Magazine* 1917/311