

# *Dr. Maurice Francis Egan*

By BRO. HUBERT KANE, O. P.

**D**R. MAURICE FRANCIS EGAN, who died on Jan. 15, has left especially in Catholic minds a memory that is sweet and enduring. His place in the affections of a multitude of friends and admirers is as honored as was his position in American life and letters. Dr. Egan had a rare genius for friendship, and this together with his noble and beautiful character graced every sphere of his varied activities. Universally respected and loved, he was a cynosure of Catholic eyes. For Dr. Egan was above all a Catholic. Loyalty to Catholic principles guided his whole life and inspired all his writings. His death has left a void sensible to all who can appreciate whatever is cultured and refined in Catholic life and literature.

Dr. Egan's career was full and complete. He was a scholar with sound tastes deeply rooted in the culture of the past, yet with wide sympathies and a just esteem of all that is good in the present. As author and critic he embodied in his writings the highest ideals of the traditional maker of literature, and he never failed to enhance their charm by revealing them in the beautiful light of Catholic truth. But it is to his services as professor and lecturer that we wish to call particular attention here.

At the University of Notre Dame and later at the Catholic University of America, Dr. Egan showed in his chosen field of literature the enthusiastic interest he took in the education of Catholic youth. He was a most delightful and original teacher. Literature to him was something vital. It was essentially an expression of the instinct of immortality, and as such it was sacred. It contained for him a sweet religious note, a yearning after the One Ideal, a longing of human genius after the Truth and Beauty Supreme; and so it was holy. Literature is the broadest of arts, and he was a master of many foreign literatures as well as our own and England's. Happy the students who were permitted to work under such a master! His lectures were entertaining, instructive, inspiring. His interest in those under him was personal and helpful to a marked degree and not a few able Catholic writers of today owe to him the first awakening of their aspirations and the early direction of their powers.



**Dr. Egan as Professor at the Catholic University of America**