

Henry Scott.

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THE prominence given to this name in the third edition of Dr. Robertson's *Grammar of the Greek New Testament*, recalls the tribute which the late Dr. J. H. Moulton paid to him in the second edition of his *Prolegomena*: 'My special thanks are due to Mr. H. Scott, of Oxton, Birkenhead, who went over the index of texts and two or three complicated numerical computations in the body of the book, and sent me unsolicited some corrections and additions, for which the reader will add his gratitude to mine.'

How largely Professors Moulton and Robertson were indebted to this modest student for his minute care in checking figures and compiling statistics may be gathered from the tables which Dr. Robertson furnishes as an appendix to his third edition, duplicates of which had previously been sent to Dr. Moulton for use in his Grammar.

It was the privilege of the writer to know this remarkable man for some time by correspondence, and during the last year of his life in warm personal friendship. A short account of him may prove interesting to the readers of THE EXPOSITORY TIMES.

Henry Scott was born not far from Wolverhampton in 1843. When seven years old he came to live at Oxton, then a village near to Birkenhead, and went to a private school of which the Rev. Dr. Wall was master. He showed in his boyhood a great aptitude for Greek, but entered upon a business career and finally became the managing director of a well-known shipping firm in Liverpool. So great was his love of the Greek Testament that he regularly rose at five every morning, and put in some hours' study before business. The same zeal secured some time every evening for further work in the same field. Although he had other interests, such as gardening and chess, he described himself as *homo unius libri*. The Greek Bible and especially the New Testament claimed nearly all his leisure hours. Beginning with Buttman and with Moulton's Winer he worked his way through every verse of the New Testament and noted every grammatical peculiarity. As far back as the year 1885 he began and carried through

a MS. Grammar of the Greek Testament in several large volumes. Long before Dr. Moulton showed in his *Prolegomena* the need for a new Grammar based upon the later researches in comparative philology, Mr. Scott had worked his way through Brugmann and Delbrück's *Grundriss der vergleichenden Grammatik der indogermanischen Sprachen*, applying the results to the problems of word-formation, accidence, and syntax in the Greek Testament. Although not a university man, and not a Greek scholar in the technical sense of the word, nothing seemed to escape his interest if it had any bearing upon his favourite study. While his son, Mr. Cyril Scott, the well-known composer, was living in Germany for his musical training, Mr. Scott visited that country and bought such books as Thumb's *Hellenismus*, then only just published and scarcely known to most British students. It is pretty safe to venture the statement that nowhere else in this country would it be possible to go into the study of an unprofessional layman and find such a library as his. *Kühner-Blass* and *Kühner-Gerth* were there, Hatzidakis' *Neugriechische Grammatik*, Hirt's *Handbuch der griechischen Laut- und Formenlehre*, and many more. Nor were the less purely linguistic sides of N.T. study ignored. He was evidently in close touch with the best literature on the Synoptic Problem, and Von Soden's four large volumes on the text of the N.T. were conspicuous on his shelves. The remarkable thing is not so much that a Liverpool business man found time to study such books, as that he applied himself to the bearing of all that he read upon the grammar of the Greek Testament. Every line on every page of Moulton, Radermacher, Thackeray, Blass, Robertson, to name no others, was carefully read and tested, and he probably had a minute index of every technical book he read. How highly Dr. Robertson valued his assistance is indicated in a letter which says: 'Nobody has helped me as much as you. I am continually amazed at the wealth of your knowledge of the Greek N.T.' This is no slight praise from the author of the monumental Grammar. Yet so modest and reticent was this learned student that even his own vicar

had no suspicion of his parishioner's interest in Greek until he visited him during that illness which ended fatally on June 20, 1919. A devout and loyal member of the Church of England, he found spiritual support in her services, but turned with continual eagerness to the written word. It was a deep disappointment to him that Professor

Moulton delayed the completion of his *Grammar*. He mourned his loss with deep regret, and left all his own MS. notes on N. T. Greek to the editor of Moulton's *Grammar* to assist in its completion. Mr. Henry Scott should ever be an inspiration to the unprofessional student of the Greek Bible.
