

....*The Life and Letters of John Howard Raymond*, Vassar's first president, by his eldest daughter (New York: Fords, Howard & Hui-  
bert), is something more than a labor of filial  
love. It was due to the man that his life  
should be written, if for no other reason, on  
account of his connection with four different

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educational institutions in the State of New York. Dr. Raymond was never more than a fair preacher and he had no great reputation among scholars. He possessed more than ordinary ability for the work he was called on to do. Beginning at Madison University, in the village of Hamilton, in this state, a small institution with a large name, he went on in growing power to devote five years to the organization of the University of Rochester. A very similar work was done by him in Brooklyn, in connection with the Polytechnic. In 1861 Mr. Vassar began work on the institution which was to take his name at Poughkeepsie. On Jan. 24th in that year he wrote to Dr. Raymond inviting him to become a trustee on the board which he proposed to assemble, to receive the property he wished to devote the new enterprise and to take the steps required to carry out his plans. In 1864 Dr. Raymond became the first president of the new college, which was now nearly ready to open its doors and begin the work of instruction. About one-third of the book is devoted to the history of Vassar College, and it is none too much. This work is done fairly well; but not as fully nor with as much of broad acquaintance with the question of higher education as it should be. One thing which has proved most fortunate to Vassar, the editor of this biography clearly understands that it was not founded to promote any particular view of education and was not committed from the start to any educational *ism*. There is quite enough, probably too much, of affectionate eulogy in these pages, and there is some entertaining biography. The book will, no doubt, be more alive to the earlier graduates of Vassar than to ordinary readers. To us it is rather disappointing, as it not only makes out a less important history than we expected, but fails to delineate a hero who comes up to the encomiums lavished on him in the book, or, we may add, in justice to Dr. Raymond, to the estimation in which he has been held.