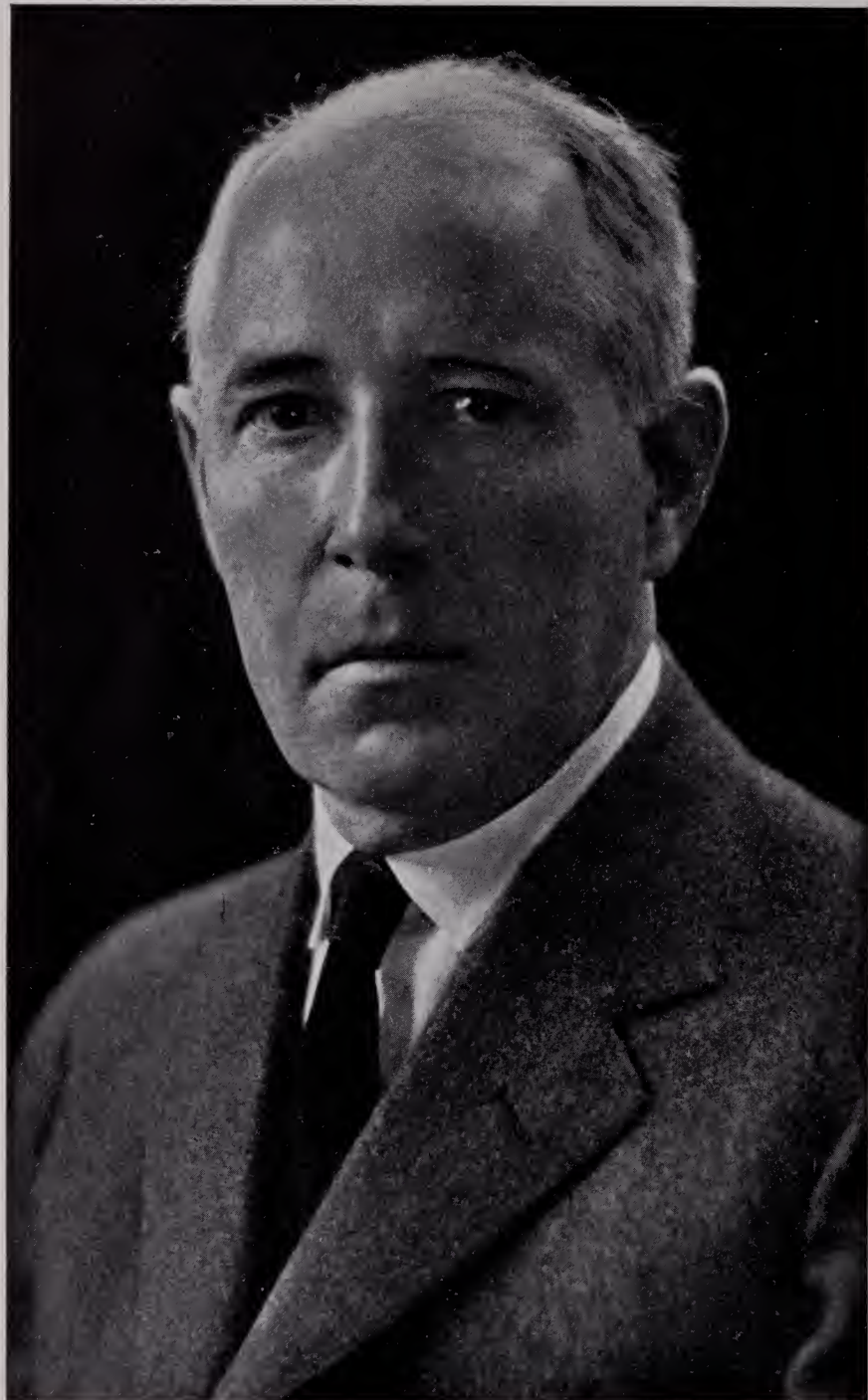


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WILLIAM PARK ARMSTRONG
1874-1944

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A NEW STATUS FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

THE creation of the Council on Theological Education of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. is a landmark in the history of Presbyterian Seminaries. After a lapse of nearly a century, theological education becomes once again the concern of the whole denomination. The way has at length been opened for the seminaries to make a creative contribution to the life and thought of the Church as a whole, in a way that was impossible in recent generations of Presbyterian history.

The new Council, which is probably the most representative body in the Presbyterian Church, including in its membership, not only representatives of the seminaries, but also of the Church Boards, the Colleges and the Church at large, has proposed to itself four principal aims:

I

The first aim of the Council on Theological Education is to *achieve solidarity among the seminaries of the Presbyterian Church*. We have happily reached a point in Presbyterian history when no unworthy rivalry inspires the leadership of the Church's seminaries. Those responsible for their direction are bound together by a close and understanding friendship. While devoted to the development of their individual institutions, they set the interests of the church as a whole above that of institutional glory. It is their hope and prayer, that as they work together in the cause of theological education, and put themselves at the service of the Church, they may succeed in bringing about such a unity in the Presbyterian family as it has not known in many decades.

As a contribution to inter-seminary solidarity and the welfare of sister seminaries which experience a more difficult time in their efforts to serve the Church, Princeton Seminary has accepted a reduced share of the Church's benevolences. While the consequent reduction in income may seriously affect our Seminary's budget, it is hoped that this circumstance may be offset by two compensating factors: the development and gratitude of sister seminaries, and a firm resolve on the part of friends of Princeton that their personal gifts and prayers shall be correspondingly increased, in order that the program of this Seminary may not have to be curtailed.

II

The Council aims, in the second place, to *make Presbyterian seminaries second to none in educational efficiency*. It is inspired by no less an ideal than that the denominational centers for the training of Presbyterian ministers shall be equal, and if possible,

JOHN T. MANSON

1861-1944

The Board of Trustees adopted the following Memorial Minute concerning the life and work of the late Mr. John T. Manson.

Mr. John T. Manson was born in the city of New Haven, Connecticut, August 30, 1861. This city continued to be his home until the time of his death, February 21, 1944. During his life he was actively identified with many civic, financial, and religious movements, both in the city of New Haven and in the larger world with which he was associated.

Mr. Manson was a man of deep religious convictions, and was most zealous in his efforts to have the Gospel proclaimed and the Kingdom of our Lord extended. With this in mind, he gave many years of service as a member of the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. He was a Director, and latterly the President of the American Bible Society. For a number of years, he was prominent in the work of the General Assembly, serving as a member of many important committees, and one year was the Assembly's Vice Moderator. His

interest in Christian Education led to his acceptancy of Trusteeship, and his giving generously of his means to Lafayette College. Moreover, his interest in preparing men for the Gospel ministry led him to accept election to the Board of Directors of our Seminary in 1918, in which office he continued until the consolidation of the Seminary's two Boards in 1929, when he was elected a Trustee, which office he held until the time of his death. His interest in, and approval of the work of the Seminary were further evidenced by his generous endowment of the Chair of New Testament Literature and Exegesis.

Mr. Manson was a man of noble bearing, pleasing personality, a genial courtly Christian gentleman; highly esteemed, greatly respected by those who knew him and were privileged to serve with him.

We, therefore, record our gratitude to God for this good servant, our appreciation of his deep interest in the Seminary which he served so well, and also express our sorrow that we shall no longer have his goodly fellowship.

WILLIAM PARK ARMSTRONG

1874-1944

The Faculty of Princeton Theological Seminary records with sorrow the death of the Rev. William Park Armstrong, D.D., who died in Princeton on March 25, 1944.

Dr. Armstrong, a son of the late William Park and Alice Isbell Armstrong, was born in Selma, Alabama, on January 10, 1874, and died in the Princeton Hospital on March 25, 1944.

Like his father before him, he attended the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University. On his graduation in 1894 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, he entered Princeton Theological Seminary, where he took the regular three years' course and also fulfilled the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts granted him by Princeton University. He then devoted two years to graduate study at the Universities of Marburg, Berlin, and Erlangen. In 1899 he became Instructor in New Testament Literature in the Seminary and in 1900 he was ordained to the gospel ministry. That same year, the New Testament professorship having become vacant upon the resignation of Dr. George T. Purves to accept a call to the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York, Dr. Armstrong was entrusted with the entire work belonging to this chair. He discharged these enlarged responsibilities with such competence, fidelity, and success that in 1903, when he was only twenty-nine years of age, he was elected to succeed Dr. Purves in what is now known as the Helen H. P. Manson Professorship of New Testament Literature and Exegesis. This position he occupied till 1940, when, his health becoming impaired, he sought relief from the strain of teaching the large undergraduate classes and devoted himself, as Graduate Professor of New Testament Exegesis, to the special needs of candidates for the higher degrees. He thus fulfilled a ministry of instruction in this institution extending through an unbroken period of nearly forty-five years. In the history of the Seminary only two professors—Dr. Charles Hodge and Dr. William Henry Green—exceeded him in length of service.

Dr. Armstrong's inaugural address on "The Witness of the Gospels" was marked by the apologetic aim that was destined to characterize his Biblical scholarship as a whole. Most of the articles which he

contributed to *The Princeton Theological Review* reveal his special interest in the problems pertaining to the narrative of the Resurrection. These discussions disclose breadth of conception, keen understanding of the issues involved, thorough mastery of the relevant literature, adequate bibliographical information, scrupulous fairness toward opponents, and admirable lucidity and precision of statement. He was a contributor to *The Presbyterian and Reformed Review*, *The Bible Student*, *Hastings' Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels*, and *Orr's International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*; he was one of the editors of Dr. Benjamin B. Warfield's works; and from 1909 to 1917 he bore the main editorial responsibility for *The Princeton Theological Review*. By way of commemorating his professorial ideals and achievements, the Faculty heartily endorses the noble tribute paid him by his successor on the occasion of his inauguration:

"In long years of a richly blessed ministry he has built up the frame and the traditions of New Testament studies here in the Seminary. . . . The high level of his scholarship, his fearless recognition of critical problems in the presence of obscurantism and dead traditionalism, the clarity of his judgment, the rich spirituality of his outlook, his profound knowledge of the human heart, and his undaunted presentation of the truth of the Gospel in an age that hates commitment and definiteness, have made him one of the outstanding figures of this Seminary and of the Church."

In 1915 Professor Armstrong received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Temple University. Among other honors that were bestowed upon him were many that gave public recognition to his exceptional ability in the realms of finance and business administration. The son of a

banker, he became well versed in the principles of banking, and for thirty-seven years he was a director of The Princeton Bank and Trust Company and Vice President for twelve years. In 1921-22, at the request of the Trustees of the Seminary, he performed the duties of the office of Assistant Treasurer and Superintendent of Grounds and Buildings. In this capacity he introduced an improved system of accounting which, with minor alterations, has been used ever since. From 1929 to 1937 he was a member of the Board of Pensions of the Church. He served for three years as a trustee of the First Church of Prince-

ton and for a like period as a trustee of the Princeton Hospital.

The Faculty records its sense of the great loss it has sustained in the death of this honored member. It bears witness to the purity and vigor of his evangelical faith, his courage in expressing his convictions, his justice and fairness, his friendly disposition and genial humor, the sincerity and depth of his piety, and the strength and dignity of his Christian character. It holds him in affectionate remembrance and gives God thanks for his long and faithful service in the ministry of the gospel.