

THE AUBURN SEMINARY REVIEW.

[Entered at the Post Office at Auburn, New York, as second-class matter].

VOL. II, No. 2.

MARCH, APRIL, 1898.

Published bi-monthly on the 1st of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Subscription price, \$1.00 per year, in advance. Single copies, 25 cents. Excess postage to foreign countries will be added to subscription.

Remit to the order of THE AUBURN SEMINARY REVIEW,
Auburn, New York.

DIRECTORS.

From the Faculty.—President Henry M. Booth.
Professor Arthur S. Hoyt.

From the Students.—Tracy B. Griswold.
J. Elmer Russell.
Darwin F. Pickard.

EDITORS.

DAVID HOWARD CRAVER.

MURRAY SHIPLEY HOWLAND.

Our last issue contained an open letter to the alumni from the Rev. W. S. Jerome, Necrologist of the Seminary, presenting Auburn's need of a new general catalogue. The letter has awakened much interest, so much so that we have been requested by a subscriber to receive contributions for the carrying out of Mr. Jerome's plan. This we will gladly do. Any funds received by us will be handed to Mr. Gates, the Treasurer, to be used for the publication of a new catalogue. Mr. Jerome has kindly consented to do the work of preparing the catalogue, for which we return grateful thanks. Mr. Jerome keeps in close touch with the alumni and is the most competent person who could undertake this work. The expense of the proposed publication would be from \$700 to \$800. Already two alumni have expressed hearty interest in the undertaking and have promised generous contributions toward the expense.

Dr. Duffield and I talked over this subject the last time we met, which was last spring at Harrisburg and also two years ago at St. Louis. I have always told the brethren here, as I wrote to Dr. Nelson, that Dr. Duffield wrote that protest, but that you were the author of the articles incorporated called the *True Doctrines*.

Is there no danger that we are about to form a union that may reproduce the acts of 1837?

Yours with great respect,

THOMAS BROWN."

Dr. Dickinson kindly granted my request, that he would entrust that original autograph to the custody of the seminary in which he was a professor at the time when he wrote it. Accordingly, with the glad approval and co-operation of my colleagues, a suitable portfolio was prepared to contain it and related documents, from which I have now so largely quoted. The whole collection now lies before me, having been kindly lent to me by its present custodian for this purpose. It is, I think, the most precious thing in the library of Lane seminary, and one of the most remarkable documents in the ecclesiastical history of this century. It will add to the interest as well as the completeness of this statement, although involving some repetition, to present here one more of the papers contained in that portfolio, written by Dr. Dickinson himself, and printed in one of the newspapers of 1869, *The Evangelist*, I think.

"HISTORY OF THE TRUE DOCTRINES."

"A few days before the meeting of the General Assembly of 1837, there was held a large convention of old school ministers and laymen from different parts of the country. As a part of their action they prepared a list of errors charged to prevail in the Presbyterian church, understood to mean the new school portion of the church. This list and a remonstrance urging action on the subject were ordered to be presented to the General Assembly about to convene; and they were accordingly put before the assembly. During the exciting scenes of that memorable assembly, the new school members were in the practice of holding separate meetings, in the evening, for consultation. On one of those occasions I stated that it seemed to me due to ourselves and the new school body at large to disavow the errors, and say distinctly what views we held, as opposed to the errors charged. The suggestion was at once approved, and, by way of carrying it out, I was requested to prepare a paper to be laid before a future similar meeting. In the preparation of

this paper, under the several errors were put down what was regarded as the scriptural truth in the case—the whole, when finished, denominated *Errors and True Doctrines*. This paper, thus prepared, is the original draft in my own handwriting, and was presented by me as my report at a subsequent meeting of the brethren. It was discussed at length, amended somewhat, and unanimously approved as a correct expression of the theological views held by the new school generally on the points of doctrine presented in the list of errors. I was then requested to get it before the assembly as part of a speech on any appropriate subject brought up for consideration. This I attempted the next day, but was defeated in the attempt. Subsequently the errors charged by the convention came up in the assembly for consideration, and on that action Dr. George Duffield gave notice of a protest, and obtaining a copy of this paper, embodied it in his protest. He thus got it before the assembly and secured its publication in the minutes of the assembly. It is an exact copy of the original draft of the *True Doctrines*. In this form it, of course, became public. It was adopted by the famous convention of ministers and laymen at Auburn, N. Y., in August, 1837; and it has been published several times since, commonly perhaps under the designation of the *Auburn Declaration*.

The paper, in its original form, with its many erasures and interlineations, has been lying quietly to the present time, with other private papers deemed as of possible historical importance. As the question of authorship has at length come to be a matter of inquiry somewhat extensively, I have thought myself called on providentially to make this historical sketch of facts in the case.

BAXTER DICKINSON,
135 Byerson Street,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

March, 1869.”

To this is appended the following certificate :

“The Rev. Baxter Dickinson, D. D., has put into my hands the paper above described, in his own handwriting, with many erasures and interlineations, and I have compared it with the record in the Minutes of 1837, pp. 484–6, and with the (so-called) *Auburn Declaration*. They are *verbatim et literatim* the same.

EDWIN F. HATFIELD,
Stated Clerk of General Assembly.

New York, March, 1869.”

NOTES—*a*. Attentive readers have noticed in the above transcript of letters written long ago, a few places where the sign (.)