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I.—LITERARY.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

BY PROF. W. W. MOORE.

I. THE BEGINNING, 1812-1823.

The Presbyterian Church in America was composed originally of emigrants from Great Britain and Ireland, and for a number of years the ministers of their various congregations were drawn from beyond the seas. As the church grew, however, and the population of the country increased, the supply thus obtained proved to be inadequate, and the necessity for a native ministry became more and more apparent. Academies and colleges were accordingly established from time to time during the eighteenth century at various places, such as Princeton, Lexington and Hampden-Sidney; and the candidates educated in these institutions received their theological training from the president of the college, when he chanced to be a minister (as was commonly the case), or from other approved divines here and there throughout the country. But not until 1812, the year of our second war with England, did the church establish an institution to be devoted exclusively to theological education. In that year Princeton Seminary was founded, with the Rev. Archibald Alexander (formerly President of Hampden-Sidney College) as its organizer and first professor. In the same memorable year the Synod of Virginia adopted the plan of a Seminary to be located within her bounds, inaugurated measures to raise funds for its sup-

OUR CHINA MISSION.

PROF. T. R. ENGLISH.

At the meeting of the General Assembly in 1866, the Southern Presbyterian Church resolved to establish a mission in China. The Rev. Elias B. Inslee, of the Synod of Miss., who had for a number of years been laboring in that land as an independent worker, was present at that meeting, and plead the cause of China so well, that he was authorized to return to that land of darkness as the representative of the Southern Presbyterian Church, and to open a mission there. He arrived in China early in the year 1867, and succeeded in opening a station in the populous city of Hangchow, in the province of Chekiang.

In the Autumn of 1868 Rev. Messrs. Helm, Houston and Stuart were sent out to aid him in the work so auspiciously begun. Rev. T. E. Converse and wife followed in 1869. Three years later Dr. and Mrs. DuBose and Mrs. Randolph went out, and in 1873 this little band of pioneers was still further strengthened by the arrival of Dr. John W. Davis, Mr. G. W. Painter and Miss Safford, and a new station was opened in the city of Soochow. Time forbids us to trace in detail the growth of the work from these apparently insignificant beginnings. Suffice it to say, that under the blessing of the great head of the church, this work has expanded year by year, so that at this time our church has in China a mission with 12 stations, 67 missionaries, 9 native preachers, 58 other native helpers, 7 Bible women, 4 churches, 15 chapels, 281 communicants, and 726 day pupils. The stations occupied are for the most part on the Grand Canal, and are all of them in the two provinces of Chekiang and Kiangsu, which together have a population of 58,000,000.

But what share has Union Seminary had in this work so full of promise? That it is a *missionary* Institution is abundantly evidenced by the fact that since the Civil War 45 of her Alumni have been engaged in the foreign field, besides several others now under appointment, and waiting to be sent out; while of the 58 ordained missionaries now in the field 24, nearly one half, have gone forth from her walls.

For some reason, however, a smaller proportion of her sons have gone to China than to other foreign fields, only 14 out of

the 45 having gone to this portion of the great harvest field. The lack of sufficient data forbids any attempt to give any detailed account of the labors of these men, but in the following list may be found their names, fields of labor, and periods of service, so far as they could be ascertained.*

1. Rev. M. H. Houston, D. D., Wheeling, W. Va., class of '68, was one of the first of the sons of Union Seminary to enter China as a representative of the Southern Presbyterian Church. In the Fall of 1868, in company with Messrs. Helm and Stuart he went to Hangchow, and for seven years labored there most successfully. In 1875 he was compelled to return to the U. S. on account of impaired health, and for two years, under the direction of the Committee of Foreign Missions visited the churches in the interest of this great work. From '77 to '81 he was engaged in the home field, but in the latter year, his health now being restored he returned to China, and again took up his work in Hangchow.

The death of Mrs. Houston in 1882 necessitated his return to this country for the purpose of making provision for his motherless children. After two years spent principally in visiting the churches in the interest of missions, he was elected Secretary of Foreign Mission by the General Assembly of 1885. After eight years of most efficient service in this responsible position, he felt impelled to return to his loved work in China. Accordingly in 1893 he returned to his old home in Hangchow, where he was able to resume the work of preaching after an absence of eleven years. The next year he went to Ling-Wu, where he labored with most remarkable success until his return to the United States in 1897.

2. Rev. T. E. Converse, D. D., Louisville, Ky., class of '68, in company with his wife, went out in 1868, and joined the mission at Hangchow. The following year he returned to the United States, and since that time has been engaged in the home field as Pastor and Editor of *The Christian Observer*.

3. Rev. Ben Helm, Elizabethtown, Ky., class of '68, went out in the Fall of that year, and began work at Hangchow, where he labored successfully for ten years. In 1877 he was compelled by the failure of his health to suspend his work,

*The preparation of this sketch was entrusted to a member of the China Mission, and his unexpected failure to do so, through providential hindrances, necessitated the preparation of this hasty and meager sketch from such data as were accessible.

and since that time he has been engaged in the home field.

4. Rev. John W. Davis, D. D., Salisbury, N. C., class of '72, went to Soochow in 1873, and since that time has labored there continuously and faithfully. Besides his evangelistic work, he has labored with his pen most efficiently, having translated into Chinese the Gospels, Acts, and Psalms, and prepared quite a number of works for Chinese readers. He is now a member of the committee on the translation of parts of the Old Testament. In 1878 he found an efficient helpmeet in Miss Alice Schmucker, of the Northern Presbyterian Mission.

5. Rev. Geo. W. Painter, Wythe County, Va., graduated in the class of '73, but having scruples as to his fitness for the ministry, he offered himself as a teacher for the foreign field. He went to Hangchow in 1873, and after a period of efficient labor there, he was licensed and ordained in 1879 by Rev. J. L. Stuart, and this action was confirmed by the General Assembly of the following year. He still continues to labor in Hangchow, and has been largely engaged in evangelistic work in the surrounding districts.

6. Rev. A. Sydenstriker, Greenbrier county, W. Va., class of '80, accompanied by his wife, reached Hangchow in October, 1880. In '81 he was transferred to Soochow, but returned to Hangchow the following year, where he continued to labor until 1884. Towards the close of that year, owing to the failure of his health, he removed to Chefoo in the province of Shantung, where he labored for a year or more. In '86-'87 he was located in Chin-Kiang, and then, assisted by Dr. Woods, opened the new station of Tsing-Kiang-Pu, where he continued to labor until 1894. In that year he assisted in opening the new station of Suchien, and labored there until 1896, when he took charge of the work at Chin-Kiang.

7. Rev. J. F. Johnson, Gallatin, Tenn., class of '82, went the same year to Hangchow, and the following year assisted in opening the new station of Chin-Kiang, where he remained two years. In 1884 he returned to Hangchow, where he labored most earnestly until May, 1888, when failing health compelled him to seek a change of climate. He went first to Chefoo, but gaining no relief he returned in the fall to the United States, and died in California shortly afterwards. His death is the only one that has occurred among those that have gone forth from this institution to China.

8. Rev. H. M. Woods, D. D., Charlottesville, Va., class of

'83, with Mrs. Woods, went in 1883 to Chin-Kiang, where he remained until 1887. In conjunction with Rev. A. Sydenstriker he then opened the new station of Tsing-Kiang-Pu, and in this field he is still actively engaged.

9. Rev. J. E. Bear, Churchville, Va., class of '86, joined the mission at Chin-Kiang in 1887, and still continues to labor in that field. In 1892 he found a helpmeet in Miss Laura A. Murrah, who had been in the field as a missionary since 1884.

10. Rev. R. V. Lancaster, Cumberland C. H., Va., class of '87, went to Hanchow in 1887, and the following year was joined by Mrs. Lancaster. After five years of service he returned to the United States in 1892, and since that time has been engaged in the home field.

11. Rev. J. R. Graham, Jr., Winchester, Va., class of '89, with his wife, went in 1889 to Tsing-Kiang-Pu, where he has continued to labor since. He and his family are now at home enjoying a well-earned furlough.

12. Rev. P. F. Price, Cloverdale, Va., class of '89, went to Soochow the same year and remained there until the following year. Taking to wife Miss Essie Wilson of the Hangchow Mission, in connection with Miss Houston and Rev. W. B. White, he opened the new station of Sinchang, where he still continues to labor.

13. Rev. B. C. Patterson, Fishersville, Va., class of '91, labored in Tsing-Kiang-Pu from 1891 to 1894. In 1893 he was united in marriage with Miss Annie R. Houston, M. D., of the Sinchang Mission, and the following year he assisted in establishing the Suchien Mission, where he still continues to labor.

14. Rev. H. W. White, Winchester, Va., class of '94, assisted in opening the station of Suchien the same year. In 1897 he went to Chuchow, where he still labors, with his wife, nee Miss Augusta T. Graves, of Va.

No one has gone from Union Seminary to China since 1894, but it is hoped that some of those who are offering themselves for the foreign work from the present graduating class will be sent to this most needy and almost boundless field.