

# The Princeton Seminary Bulletin

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## THE SEMINARY IN WAR TIME

### I

WITH the entry of the United States into the world struggle the fact of war ceased to be a distant reality of which only echoes reached our cloistered quiet. From being a tragedy which we lamented, a subject of earnest discussion and the theme of much prayer, war was transformed over night into a challenge to action.

While the Christian Church as such does not make war and never can be at war, the country to which, under God, the Church in America owes many of its precious liberties, is at war. Millions of Christian men and women in the United States who are members of the Church are involved directly in the war effort. The Church has a responsibility to undertake the shepherding of these millions and to aid, by all the means in its power, a multitude of others who do not belong to its membership. It is obligated also to confront, in the name of God and in the spirit of Jesus Christ, the new human situation created in this country following the disruption of normal life. Having this in mind, Princeton Seminary girded itself immediately to play its part in meeting the new needs of the Church and the nation.

### II

The realities of the new situation were vividly brought home to the Seminary campus when one of the most distinguished members of the Senior Class, son of a Presbyterian minister, and a graduate of Harvard University, was called up for service in the army as a reserve officer. In view of the circumstances of the case and the distinguished record of the student in question, the Faculty of the Seminary agreed to allow him to terminate his studies in January and graduate with his class in May.

The campus was subsequently visited on two successive weeks by the Chief Chaplain of the Navy, Captain Robert D. Workman, one of our own Alumni, who presented the challenge of the men in the fleet for the dedication of life to chaplaincy service. Our students have been encouraged to believe that there are few places where they can render more needed service at the present time than with the men who have surrendered their all in response to the call of their country. We make it equally clear that the chaplaincy, whether in the Army or in the Navy, is so important that

## DONALD MACKENZIE

1882 - 1941

THE Faculty of Princeton Theological Seminary records with sorrow the death of the Reverend Donald Mackenzie, D.D., Professor of Biblical Theology, who died in Princeton on October 19, 1941, after a severe illness of some weeks, pre-health.

Dr. Mackenzie was born on May 30, 1882, in the Island of Lewis, Ross Shire, Scotland. After completing his preparatory studies in Nicolson Institute at Stornoway, he entered Aberdeen University and in 1905 received from this institution the degree of Master of Arts with highest honors in philosophy. From 1906 to 1909 he was Assistant Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in his *alma mater*, and later he also served for some time as Examiner in that department. In 1909 he was a student at the Universities of Halle and Berlin, and in 1910 he graduated from the United Free Church College in Aberdeen. That same year witnessed his ordination and his entrance upon the first of those four pastorates in his native land—Craigdam, Oban, Tain, and Aberdeen—to which he devoted eighteen of the thirty-one years that were to form his allotted span as a minister of the gospel. In the World War of 1914-18 he served as chaplain of a Scottish regiment in France.

He made his first visit to the United States when he came to deliver early in 1927, a series of lectures on the Elliott Foundation in the Western Theological Seminary at Pittsburgh. The impression he made was reflected in the comment published

in the Bulletin of that institution: "With his wide learning and accurate scholarship, he combines humor and interest in everyday life. His geniality quickly won the hearts of his audience, which steadily grew larger as the course proceeded." Soon thereafter he was elected to the Professorship of Systematic Theology in Western Seminary. During his tenure of this post—from 1928 through 1933—he won distinction not only as a teacher, but also as a preacher, a lecturer, an author, and a leader in religious conferences. In 1931 Washington and Jefferson College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity, an honor that was duplicated three years later by his own University of Aberdeen.

Dr. Mackenzie was twice called to Princeton Seminary. In 1931, when an enlargement of the Department of Theology was under consideration, he was asked to become Professor of Dogmatic Theology. This invitation he declined; but when in May, 1933, he was elected to the Charles T. Halley Professorship of Biblical Theology, vacant since the retirement of Dr. Vos, he accepted the appointment, beginning his work in January, 1934. He brought to this chair a combination of exceptional talents and attainments: an incisive and energetic mind, thoroughly disciplined by the study of the classics and enriched by an intensive cultivation of the fields of philosophy and theology; the spiritual wisdom, the generous sympathies, and the broad knowledge of men and affairs that form one of the rewards of an extended pastoral

service; didactic gifts that betokened a keen insight into biblical truth, a sure grasp of the essential meaning of a text, a genuine concern for exegetical accuracy, and an easy command of clear, vigorous, and often most felicitous forms of expression; a forceful and magnetic personality, full of enthusiasm for his own sacred task and inspiring his students with a lofty conception of their vocation as ministers; and a noble Christian character that with its rugged strength and genial friendliness was an impressive and winsome embodiment of the faith that he professed and that he delighted to interpret and inculcate. It is not surprising that his classes cherished a high esteem and an affectionate regard for him.

In 1933 Dr. Mackenzie delivered the Sprunt Lectures at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. They were later published under the title *Christianity—The Paradox of God*. Among other products of his pen are his numerous scholarly articles in Hastings' *Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics* and in Hastings' *Dictionary of the Apostolic Church*. He was also a frequent contributor to *The Expository Times*.

In meetings of the Faculty Dr. Mackenzie was a helpful counselor. He could often make a valuable suggestion born of his intimate knowledge of theological education and Presbyterian methods and practices in his native Scotland. In debate he was positive, straight-forward, patiently sincere, advocating his opinions with a sturdy persistence, but always willing, after having liberated his conscience, to use his freedom by acquiescing in the will of the majority. In his judgment of students' delinquencies he might be severe,

but his kindness and his desire to be fair were beyond question. He was ever ready to take his full share of the work of the several committees of which he was a member, and in these small groups his humor and geniality often turned an otherwise dull hour into a pleasant meeting.

The Faculty records its deep sense of the loss it has sustained in the death of this distinguished and beloved member. It expresses its gratitude for his staunch convictions regarding the Reformed faith and the Presbyterian polity; for his fidelity to truth and to duty; for all that he was enabled to achieve in his varied services to the cause of Christ; and for those traits of character that endeared him to his many friends.

And lastly the Faculty extends to Mrs. Mackenzie and her children the assurance of its sincere sympathy.

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#### DR. MACKENZIE'S LAST MESSAGE TO HIS STUDENTS\*

DR. Mackenzie's Seminary boys, who have so wonderfully demonstrated their affection for him, may like to know that almost his last clear conscious thought was of them and their chosen life-work.

All through his stay in Hospital his mind was deeply occupied, as it had been all his adult life, with his work as a Christian minister and teacher.

On his last Saturday, although desperately ill, he uttered from time to time, sentences from sermons and lectures, and his last long statement spoken with wonderful clearness and distinctness was a beautiful prayer of pastoral benediction such as he

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\* Taken down and prepared for the students by Mrs. Mackenzie.