

# THE UNION SEMINARY REVIEW

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## UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN THIS PRESENT AGE.

BY REV. BENJAMIN RICE LACY, JR., D. D.

*On the Occasion of His Inauguration as President of Union  
Theological Seminary in Virginia, May 11, 1927.*

It has been a year now since I was called to become President of this Seminary. I wondered why you called one with such little acquaintance with theological education or the problems which confront a modern seminary. I had hoped to have the counsel and advice of Dr. Moore at least for a time, but within a little over a month after my election, and before I had an opportunity even to consult him once, he had passed from us. My study of the problems of theological education has been broken and fragmentary and I cannot hope to bring you much that is either fresh or original. Some things, however, have impressed themselves upon me with great force and I wish to share with you my thoughts on this subject: "Union Theological Seminary in this Present Age."

### *I. Development of Professional Schools.*

We are fond of emphasizing the fact that the first college in America, Harvard, was founded for the purpose of educating ministers. The gates of Harvard carry the following quaint inscription:

"After God had carried us safe to New England, and wee had bilded our houses, provided necessaries for our livli-hood,

ings, are merely the means by which the object and basis of saving faith are revealed, and they never represent themselves as such object and basis." Preach Christ as He is presented in the Scriptures, and trust the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of men to receive Him as the only Saviour from sin. When He becomes the object and basis of saving faith, the question of the inspiration of the Scriptures will fall into its proper place. In support of his position he quotes the answer to Question 4 in the Westminster Larger Catechism, "How doth it appear that the Scriptures are the Word of God?" The gist of which is that while the Scriptures manifest themselves (*to the believer*) to be the Word of God, the Holy Spirit who works saving faith in the sinner, "witnessing by and with the Scriptures in the heart of man, is alone able to convince him that they are the very word of God".

Dr. Anderson is not questioning the infallibility of the Scriptures, but is seeking to make clear their function in pointing not to themselves but to Christ as the object and basis of faith.

The titles of the remaining sermons will serve to indicate the practical nature of the themes: Christ's Method of Dealing with the Sinner, Christ's Method of Dealing with the Moralist, The Law's Failure, The New Freedom, Christian Liberty Limited by Love, Visions and Visionaries, What God Can Do With a Man, The Peace of God and The God of Peace.

The author shows himself to be a conservative without being a reactionary. He is modern without being a "modernist".

R. F. CAMPBELL.

Asheville, N. C.

**GREAT SERMONS OF THE WORLD.** *Compiled and Edited by Rev. Clarence E. Macartney, D. D.* The Stratford Co., Boston. Pp. 586. \$3.50. Here we have one of the notable books of the year, the best of the collections of "Best Sermons" issued so far. Dr. Macartney, himself an effective preacher, faced an ambitious task when he proposed to select and gather together in one volume the greatest sermons of all time. It is too much to expect anything like unanimous agreement touching the sermons selected, though on not a few of them quite all would agree and probably in a straw ballot Dr. Macartney's selections would carry by a handsome majority. "The Sermon on the Mount" is given, appropriately, first place, "Isaiah 63-64", the second, and Peter's Sermon on the Day of Pentecost the third. The sermons that follow these, all the way from the days of Clement of Rome to our own, constitute a splendid series. Chrysostom and Augustine; the Venerable Bede and Thomas á Kempis; Luther, Calvin and Bossuet; Howe, South, Edwards, Wesley, Whitefield; Samuel Davies, Rowland Hill, Robert Hall and Christmas Evans; Nott, Chalmers, Irving, Finney, Newman, Bushnell, Guthrie, Henry Ward Beecher, Frederick W. Robert-

son; Liddon, Spurgeon and Brooks; Francis L. Patton, R. J. Campbell and G. Campbell Morgan, are represented in the volume by sermons, which exhibit an attractive variety of theme and treatment. The volume is made more valuable by introductory notes concerning each preacher and the sermon selected—from Clement on. The book merits a wide circulation among our ministers.

J. GRAY McALLISTER.

*Union Theological Seminary.*

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR. *By William Carter, Ph. D., D. D.* Fleming H. Revell Company. New York. Pp. 185. \$1.50. Sermons by the pastor of the Throop Avenue Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn. They are more practical than profound, and manifest the zeal and kindness of the author. Dr. Carter is evidently a man of simple faith and a passion for the moral and spiritual betterment of his hearers.

ERNEST THOMPSON.

*Charleston, W. Va.*

THE DAYS OF THE SON OF MAN: A SERIES OF SERMONS ON THE GREAT DAYS OF THE CHRISTIAN YEAR. *By Rev. W. Mackintosh Mackay, D. D., Sherbrooke Church, Glasgow.* 287 pages. \$2. George H. Doran Company, New York. These twenty sermons, by one of Scotland's leading preachers, are scholarly, scriptural, short, clear, intensely practical and expressed in a style remarkably clear and attractive. A study of them would be a splendid course in practical homiletics as well as food for the soul.

EUGENE C. CALDWELL.

*Union Theological Seminary.*

### COUNTRY CHURCH.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL VILLAGES, WITH MAPS AND CHARTS, ETC. *By Edmund deS. Brunner, Gwendolyn S. Hughes, Marjorie Patten.* This book of 320 pages is gotten out by the Institute of Social and Religious Research, and is published by George H. Doran Company, New York. Price, \$3.00.

It gives the results of the intensive study of 140 agricultural villages carefully selected throughout the United States.

It treats of the relationships of the villages to the outlying country districts. The inter-relationships of the economic, social and religious life are discussed along with the antagonism and co-operation existing. The book is a rich mine in factual values. It shows the general neglect of the country people by all denominations as evidenced by quotations like the following:

"Open-country churches do not receive as generous treatment from home mission agencies as do those located in the centers." "In no