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A Glory and a Shame of a Great Church

By T. R. Beeber, D.D.

It is a great Church that has committed unto the Board of Relief the privilege of caring for its worn-out ministers and the widows and orphans of those who have passed on to their reward.

It is great in its history and traditions, in the part it has played in the development of the life of our country; great in its wealth, its prestige and its power; great in its courage, its enterprise and its enthusiasm when it is roused, and in its versatility of resource and capacity of grappling with emergencies as they arise; and great in its scholarship, and learning, and culture; great in the roll of its membership and the larger number of its adherents; and greatest of all in the ability and the piety and the moral worth and stability of character of the rank and file of its ministry.

And there are two leading peculiarities in the life of this great Church: One is its insistence upon an educated ministry, which is undoubtedly its glory, and the other is its thoughtlessness concerning its inadequate provision for its superannuated ministers, which is its shame.

A GLORY OF THE CHURCH.

The first is its insistence upon an educated ministry. It has always demanded the leadership of trained minds in its pulpits. It has always required that its ministers should be men of ability and of high character, of sound learning, of rich culture, and of full knowledge of the Word of God, and with a strong intellectual grip on the great Calvinistic system of doctrine for which the Church has always stood. And it has always held that there is no substitute for the sound scholarship and high character which it has demanded. There is no fluency of speech or natural oratorical gift that can take the place of these things, and give a man a position

in its pulpit and among its teachers and leaders.

And with great wisdom it has taken this position, for its educated ministry has always been one of the leading forces in the unquestioned success which it has won in the past. The witness of its own historians and the witness of men of other denominations who have made a study of its life and progress combine to emphasize the fact.

It has been the leadership of the trained mind in the pulpit that has put the iron into the blood of the men in the pew and lifted them into the place they have always occupied as the shaping forces in the life of the communities where the Church has been planted. And it will be an evil day for the life of this great Church when it lowers its demands upon those who would teach its system of truths and lead in its labors and activities.

But the very high standard it has always set for the men who would enter its ministry has put upon them a great expense in gaining an education that will meet its requirements. It is necessary for them to give from seven to nine years to the work of preparation and to spend from three to four thousand dollars, and sometimes from five to ten thousand. And the result is that when the ministers come forth from their schools of learning to enter the pulpit, their patrimony is often wholly exhausted, and sometimes, too, they are in debt to others, which all their instincts as honest men demand that they should liquidate at the earliest possible moment.

The salaries that are paid the ministers of the Church, while they average higher perhaps than those paid in many other denominations, are yet always gauged to the necessary living expenses, whether they be large or small, and afford no margin for making provision for the days when sickness or

Board for Freedmen

EDWARD P. COWAN, D.D., SECRETARY

A Gratifying Endorsement

In seeking for a worthy successor to Dr. Sanders as President of Biddle University, the Board of Missions for Freedmen received various suggestions from friends of the institution, both white and colored. The Board accepted all these suggestions in the spirit in which they were given, knowing that they were prompted by a deep and sincere interest in the institution and in the work it represents. All these considerations were given careful attention, and many of the names mentioned were of men in many ways qualified to fill the high and responsible position.

The Board, however, anxious as it was to make no mistake, after careful and prayerful consideration concluded to suggest to the Board of Trustees the name of Rev. H. L. McCrorey, D.D., then Dean of the Theological Department and Professor of Hebrew and Greek Exegesis at Biddle. On June 4, the day for the annual meeting of the Trustees, our Board received a telegram from S. F. Wentz, secretary of that Board, as follows: "Board of Trustees of Biddle University has unanimously endorsed Dr. H. L. McCrorey as President of Biddle University."

Since the selection of Dr. McCrorey as a successor to Dr. Sanders, our Board has received many expressions of satisfaction and gratification over his selection. While a number of friends of the institution earnestly urged and advocated other worthy men, the Freedmen's Board has so far received no expressions of disappointment from these friends, and there is every reason to believe they will all join together in heartily supporting Dr. McCrorey in the arduous duties that will now devolve upon him.

Soon after his election the Board of Missions for Freedmen received a letter from Dr. McCrorey from which the following is an extract:

"Biddle University, July 8, 1907.

Dear Brethren:

The Board of Trustees of Biddle University notified me on the 4th inst. that I had been appointed President of Biddle University.

I accepted the position. And now I say the same thing to you that I said to them, that if there is any honor attached to the position, as for me, it is overshadowed by the increased responsibility. I shall endeavor to have the approval of God stamped upon every act of mine in connection with the affairs of Biddle.

I shall always seek wisdom and strength from the Father of Lights with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

From all indications, I shall have the cooperation of the faculty, and also of the alumni of the institution. Such will contribute largely to the success of the work. I am expecting to spend the entire summer in planning for the next scholastic year."

The Board also received the following from Rev. Thomas D. Duncan, of Perry, Oklahoma, who for many years was a member of the faculty of Biddle University before the school was placed in charge of colored men:

"When the death of Dr. Sanders became known to those who are interested in the work of our Church for the Freedmen, many of us felt that the loss was irreparable.

The presidency of such an institution as Biddle University demands a man of very exceptional gifts and graces, and Dr. Sanders possessed the requisite qualities in an eminent degree.

The question as to who should take up his work was one that no doubt gave the Board of Trustees very serious concern.

Those who are acquainted with the new President, Rev. H. L. McCrorey, D.D., must feel satisfied with the selection, and be gratified that he has been chosen for a position to which he has risen by faithful and conscientious work.

He is a young man whom the writer has known since he was enrolled as a student of the preparatory department in 1886.

His steady advancement in scholarship and position has been the natural outcome of a very single-minded and steadfast character.

The early years of his life were spent on a farm in South Carolina. Previous to his coming to Biddle he had attended Normal School, at Winnsboro, S. C., three years, and had taught several terms of public school.

His work as a student at Biddle was characterized by a habit of thoroughness and efficiency. He was equally proficient in literary and industrial work.

At the end of the first year he had ac-

quired so much skill from the industrial department that he was employed as a carpenter during the vacation, and his employer, Mr. Ahrens, of Charlotte, N. C., spoke of him as a very efficient workman.

Throughout his college and seminary courses he took high rank in his classes, and since then has improved every opportunity for higher attainments. He has steadily advanced from one position to another until for the last six years he has been Dean of the Theological School at Biddle University.

In fitting himself for theological work he spent several summers at the University of Chicago, studying Hebrew and its kindred languages.

Thus he appears to have been led to equip himself for the position to which he now has been called, and in the prime of life he takes up a work in which all his natural and acquired ability will be needed, and he should have the sympathy, prayers and practical help of the whole Church.

In business affairs he will be found as capable as in other respects, always prompt and honorable, aiming to do the right thing at the right time. This is the estimate of one who has made a study of character in the young men who have come under his observation."

A Plea for Biddle University

By One of Her Sons.

Dear Dr. Cowan:

This will inform you and the Board of Missions for Freedmen that the Alumni of Biddle University view with growing and increasing alarm the future outlook of their Alma Mater, in consequence of the ever-increasing demands made from year to year upon the benevolent and missionary boards of the Church. The union also between the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church lays an enlarged and very great burden upon the Home Board in its efforts to care for those who have come to us because of this union.

Beside this the Home Board must at the same time provide for and care for the spiritual needs of those who come to our shores from other lands in increasing numbers from year to year.

It is to be observed that more intense and vigorous efforts are being made, and will continue to be made from time to time, to raise the means necessary to meet the growing and enlarged demands made upon the Home Board. There is a strong probability as the contributions increase in consequence of vigorous efforts and strong appeals made by the representatives of the Home Board, that the Board