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SUMMER CONFERENCE GUIDE

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SUPPLEMENT

The Presbyterian
Outlook



letter, especially the last sentence of a letter. But we must not forget that back of the letter was a life that had been made meet for the Master's use.

6. And there was Dr. George R. Stuart, a golden-hearted Methodist minister, lecturer, and author, who had filled large churches in Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Birmingham. He never lacked for an audience. I shall never forget his lecture to a large group of ministers in the old auditorium on the time element in a church service. He began by asking us to take out our watches and watch a minute go by. Then he asked whether it seemed like

a long or a short minute. We all agreed that it seemed long. Then he said that time always seems long when we are thinking about it and watching it go by. That being true, the minister should never say or do anything that would keep people conscious of the time element. There should be no clock in the church where the people can see it. The minister should not keep looking at his watch, or fumbling with his watch chain. Nor should the minister say that his sermon had three or four heads, and then speak twenty minutes on the first head. Most people can multiply. The minister should not say "lastly,"

and then last on. As for the minister himself, he should not overlook the time element, but try to bring the whole sermon into reasonable limits, giving to each part of the service its proper proportion of time.

Dr. John A. Hutton, editor of *The British Weekly*, who was present, was deeply impressed by Dr. Stuart's lecture, and devoted a whole chapter to it in a book which he published upon his return to England.

There is something a great deal worse than a long sermon; and that is a short one that seems long.

If It's Presbyterian History

By THOMAS H. SPENCE*

AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION long before its twenty-first birthday is the unusual achievement of one of Montreat's unique institutions, the Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches. Seven years ago the general secretary of the Alliance of Reformed Churches holding the Presbyterian System, wrote from Edinburgh, referring to the Foundation as known and honored far beyond the bounds of the United States.

The Historical Foundation is a religious and educational organization, established by the General Assembly of 1926 to collect, preserve, and promote the use of materials pertaining to the entire Presbyterian family of churches. Inaugurated upon the basis of a valuable Presbyterian collection made by Dr. S. M. Tenney, who was to serve as curator from 1926 until his death at the close of 1939, it was located for somewhat more than one year at Texarkana, Texas, and settled in its present location on the ground floor of Assembly Inn, at Montreat, in the fall of 1927.

The Foundation in Use

Twenty-three graduate schools have directed their students to Montreat for study in the Foundation, with Yale sending a larger number than any other university. The latest visitor from that center confessed that his trip to the Foundation was occasioned by an inability to locate an essential volume somewhere. Within a three-week period in 1946 students from the Universities of North Carolina, Northwestern, Pennsylvania, and Yale carried on research at Montreat. Four candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Edinburgh have utilized the Foundation's holdings in resident study.

But the institution is primarily designed for the benefit of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, and its chief service is rendered to con-

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stituents of that body. The strategic location at Montreat enables large numbers of Southern Presbyterians to combine study or browsing with summer visits to this ecclesiastical capital. Hundreds of ministers have consulted the collections of the Foundation, as is true of laymen and members of the Woman's Auxilliary.

Within the last year each of four representatives of our church, including the stated clerk of the General Assembly, devoted more than one hundred hours to research in the Foundation.

There Is a Museum

The museum is probably the chief center of attraction for the several thousand visitors who call each year. A pulpit built in 1777 for the Bethany Church, near Statesville, N. C., a communion table and benches from the Salem (Black River) Church near Sumter, S. C., a large number of communion services and tokens, a fine model of the Tabernacle, lighting fixtures from various Presbyterian churches, and other articles of ecclesiastical association are among the interesting things to be seen.

In 1889 a Bible was presented to the Castanea Grove Church of Gaston County, N. C., by the widow of General Stonewall Jackson. This volume, bearing the autograph of its donor, is among the treasures of the Foundation. A copy of the King James Version of the Bible, printed in 1611, the first year of publication, finds an honored place among the exhibits, along with a first edition of the Genevan (Breeches) Bible of 1560.

Late purchases include the first edition of Calvin's *Institutes* to be published at Geneva (1550), and the earliest printing of that classic in English (London, 1561). The *Shorter and Larger Catechisms* and the *Confession of Faith* appear in printings antedating their adoption by the British Parliament in 1648. Above 130 different printings of the Westminster Confes-

sion may be consulted as well as 39 of the Cumberland Presbyterian Constitution.

Educational efforts of Presbyterians are represented by more than 4,500 catalogues of colleges and seminaries, various diplomas, some of them in manuscript, and an erroneously dated one issued by Davidson College in 1841. These materials have served a variety of purposes from enabling a woman living on Fifth Avenue in New York City to obtain an annuity policy to providing a prospective student at a Midwestern university with advanced credits.

Twenty thousand printed books, 10,000 volumes of periodicals, 32,000 pamphlets, 50,000 manuscripts, and 11,000 photographs are included in the holdings of the Foundation. Two hundred and two volumes of these periodicals represent the ancestry of THE PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK.

362 Volume History

An extensive composite church history is being compiled under the direction of the Foundation. Already embracing 362 large volumes, it is expanding all the while, and now contains manuscripts relating to more than 2,750 different local congregations. This *History of Churches and Woman's Work in the Presbyterian Church in the United States* was prepared by some 7,000 historians of the Woman's Auxilliary and has attracted the interest and attention of individuals and scholarly societies outside the church. It is believed that more than 90 per cent of all Southern Presbyterians visiting the Foundation will find materials from their home church in this history.

Plans for a building for the exclusive use of the Foundation have been drawn by one of the world's leading library architects. An excellent lot on Assembly Drive has been secured, and more than \$66,000 of the \$75,000 judged necessary for the provision of an adequate structure has been raised. For, while rooted in the past and ministering to the present, the Historical Foundation is not unmindful of the future.