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I.—LITERARY.

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## A MODEL MISSIONARY—THE APOSTLE PAUL.

W. S. CURRELL.

[Address before the Society of Missionary Inquiry Union Theological Seminary.]

It is with no little trepidation that I, a layman, venture to speak to theological students upon a subject intimately associated with their daily toil. And in the Seminary Chapel, too! A place, the very atmosphere of which reeks with the forensic tortures of many a trial sermon. I remember distinctly some years ago I posed by request as critic of a seminarian who was striving manfully to marry a text to a sermon, when the two seemed to the critic's eye to be divorced forever by nature and by grace. I remember, too, how sedulously I avoided him for days afterwards in the vain hope that I should escape the disagreeable duty of giving him an unwelcome opinion of his heroic effort. The conditions are reversed to-night, but the speaker on this occasion craves indulgence rather than criticism, and would appeal to the heart rather than to the head.

The Bible is an amazing book. It is like a jewel with many facets polished with all the exquisite skill of the lapidary. A child can take up this jewel, turn one of its angles towards the Sun of Righteousness and reveal new spiritual beauties to the Sage. A savant of the schools can take this same jewel, place himself between it and the same Sun, or hold it up before the day-light of his intellect, and we see only him and his intellectual subtlety. I would approach my theme to-night in the attitude of a self-forgetful little child. I would hold up before you an old truth ably handled by many a great

Norfolk, to deliver a number of lectures during the present session upon hymnology. No man in our church is better fitted to deliver these lectures. Dr. Lacy has made a careful study of the great hymns and hymn writers, and his lectures will, we are sure prove a source of great profit to all who hear them.

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### ENTHUSIASM.

The price of success anywhere is close, continual application. Michael Angelo sat for months trying to release an angel imprisoned within a block of marble. The result was a piece of sculpture that has made him famous. Da. Vinci labored for years to represent on canvas the last supper of our Lord. Oftimes he become so much interested in the work as to neglect eating for a whole day at a time. Jesus Christ himself at one time in his ministry worked with such intense earnestness that his disciples and brethren thought him mad. In the minister no less than elsewhere earnestness is an absolute requirement.

It should be found in him—1st, because of the ultimate aim of his work—the salvation of immortal souls. Could we realize the value of these souls ten times the energy would no doubt be shown for their salvation. God estimated them above his son. Christ estimated them above his life. The Spirit shows the value which he attaches to them by dwelling with them, warning, comforting and sanctifying. The salvation of a single one makes the angels rejoice. Such interest on the part of the angels and even of the great triune God points to an infinite worth. Such souls form the invaluable prize for which the minister labors. Shall it not call forth every spark of his latent energy?

Again ought every minister to be characterized by this spirit of earnest, active work, because of the vast need of the work. For eighteen hundred years Christ's command to preach his gospel to every creature has been standing. To-day of the one billion and a half people in the world not quite the half billion pretends to serve the Lord. Of the 70,000,000 people of the United States a little less than 25,000,000 are connected with any church. Of the 1,700,000 in N. C., only 56 per cent. are church members. Possibly in our own neighborhoods every other man is without the Son of God, and therefore abiding under the wrath of a justly angry God. As in the light of eternity we understand the value of an undying soul

and realize that vast numbers in our very midst are without the fold will it not kindle a zeal within us that halts at nothing?

Still another incentive to zealous work is the rich reward which follows. Such work reacts upon the heart of the worker. It is twice blessed. "It blesseth him that gives and him that takes." What is the cause of long-faced Christians? It is found in a half-hearted service. What is the secret of doubts and fears and uncertainties? It is the failure to present ourselves as living sacrifices which is our reasonable service.

If there is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, equally great is the joy in the heart of him who sees men yielding to his warnings and invitations. The reward begins at once to follow the work. It ends in eternity. In that day "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteous as the stars forever and ever."

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We are glad to note that the Third Volume of Dr. Peck's Miscellanies will be issued within a very few days. The volume will contain about four hundred pages. One half the volume will consist of a full discussion of the first eight chapters of Acts, the balance consisting of briefs, outlines, sermons, and lectures on various parts of the Acts. Those who have seen the other two volumes know what it means when we say that this one will probably be the most valuable in the series.

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### CONFERENCE OF THEOLOGICAL FACULTIES.

The following resolutions grew out of the discussions that were held at the conference of the Faculties of all our Theological Seminaries at Charlotte last May during the sessions of the General Assembly.

*Resolved*, 1. That in the judgment of the Faculties of our several Seminaries, the needs of our Seminaries and the exigencies of the time alike call upon those of God's people to whom he has given the means, seriously to consider whether there is any way in which they can more truly honor Christ, or more effectually promote his glory, than by dedicating a