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# THE UNION SEMINARY MAGAZINE

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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

mittee we are delayed at Hampden-Sidney for another year. Here in these quarters, though not altogether as comfortable as we expect to be at Richmond, the outlook for the year is encouraging. The old men with only two or three exceptions have returned. Twenty-six new men have matriculated. Making a total of sixty-three students in the Seminary. Of these forty-five are degree men. Davidson furnishes twenty degree men, Hampden-Sidney eleven. The others are from the various colleges of the South. Of the non-graduates the majority have taken at least three years in some good college, a few having completed one-half the Senior class. One student bears an A. M. Three others have taken a considerable part of the course necessary to that degree. Such facts harbor good things for our church. Her educated ministry is a part of her glory. To lower the standard of education would be to cripple her usefulness. At Union, at least, we find no indication of such an idea.

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### HYMNOLOGY.

Possibly no feature of public worship is so ineffectively used as that of song. The Scripture lesson is carefully read and expounded. The sermon is polished and delivered with force. The prayers are earnest and sincere. But the songs are often regarded as mere padding. If read at all by the minister it is done in a slipshod, hurried manner that convicts him at once of a lack of appreciation of the sentiment and spirit of the hymn. If entered into at all by the congregation it is in a lifeless way that shows they do not regard them as expressions of praise and adoration. Such neglect is inexcusable and all the more so because of the blessed results to be derived from sincere songs of praise.

Neither prayer nor preaching is more effective in stirring the emotions and lifting the soul into close communion with God. A spiritual song whose deep meaning has been made real to the hearts of a congregation is a most powerful ally to the sermon. It serves to banish any lingering worldly thoughts and thus make room for the truths which may be implanted through the preaching. It lifts the congregation into sympathy with the preacher. It softens the hard heart, and renders it more loving, pliable, and appreciative.

Realizing the great importance of this feature of worship the Faculty of the Seminary have secured Rev. W. S. Lacy, D. D., of

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. Ofttimes he became 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