

THE UNION SEMINARY MAGAZINE

NO. 3.—JAN.-FEB., 1898.

I.—LITERARY.

THE REV. ROBERT LEWIS DABNEY, D. D., LL. D.

Robert Lewis Dabney was born in Louisa county in Virginia, on the 5th of March, 1820, of good old Hanover lineage. In June, 1836, he entered the Sophomore class, half advanced, of Hampden-Sidney College. He completed the remaining part of the Sophomore, and the Junior course, and left the college in 1837. He then taught a country school for two years. In December, 1839, he entered the University of Virginia, from which he retired in July of 1842 with the degree of Master of Arts. He again taught a select private school for more than two years. In October, 1844, he entered Union Seminary in Virginia, took the full three years course in two years and was licensed to preach in May, 1846. He spent one year as a missionary in his native county, at the end of which time he was called to be the pastor of Tinkling Spring church in Augusta county. Here he performed for a considerable time the functions of the pastorate to a large church and those of the head teacher of a classical school. After a pastorate of over six years he was elected to the chair of Ecclesiastical History and Polity in his *alma mater*, Union Theological Seminary, which he filled until 1870. Meanwhile, in 1869, he had been appointed Adjunct Professor of Theology, and he was made full Professor in this department in 1870. He continued to dignify this important chair until 1883, when owing to bronchial troubles he was warned by his physicians to seek a milder climate. Accordingly he accepted an invitation to the chair of Mental and Moral Philosophy in the University of Texas, at Austin,

II.—EDITORIAL.

THE FUNERAL OF DR. DABNEY.

The funeral services of Dr. R. L. Dabney were held in the College church, Friday, January 7th. For two days a gloom had pervaded the student body as well as the entire village because of the death of him who had done so much for our Seminary. No honor was thought too great to be paid the memory of the distinguished dead. Six of the students met the remains at Farmville and attended them to Hampden-Sidney. The entire body had planned to meet the hearse a mile out from the Hill and accompany it to the church. This was prevented by the failure to deliver a telephone message telling the time of arrival. As the body lay in state at the church from eight until three o'clock, it was guarded by relays of students, each relay acting one hour. Six of the students served as pall-bearers, the faculty acting as honorary pall-bearers. The theological mantle of Dr. Dabney having fallen upon Dr. Strickler, it was specially befitting that he should be master of the funeral services. His eulogy of Dr. Dabney was forcible and striking. We give it entire as follows:

"A prince and a great man has fallen in Israel." On such occasions, it is proper to take account of our loss, that we may rightly estimate what the Lord gave, and what the Lord hath taken away. That our departed friend and brother was, indeed, a prince and a great man in Israel—made so by God's gifts of nature and grace—all could agree. That he was a great teacher, scores and hundreds of our ministers, who have enjoyed the privilege of his instruction, have always cordially testified. That he was a great theologian, his numerous works, left as an invaluable heritage to the church, make abundantly evident. That he was a great philosopher, his frequent and important contributions to the philosophical discussions of the last thirty years, in our country, clearly demonstrate. That he was a great preacher, many present can bear witness from their own delightful experience, as for years they sat under his pulpit ministrations. That, as the result of thirty years' teaching in

the Seminary and of the contributions he has made to our religious and ethical and theological literature, he has left a deeper impression for good on our Southern ministry and Southern church, than any other man who has ever been connected with our denomination, few, I suppose, would question. That he was a great man in the excellence of his character—in conscientiousness, in integrity, in courage, in his supreme devotion to truth and to duty, and in zeal for the church and for God, none can doubt. That he was one of the most valuable gifts God has ever made to our church and to our country, all would admit. While, therefore, we to-day mourn over our loss (for God would not have us so lightly esteem so great a gift as not to be profoundly affected when it is withdrawn), we should mingle with our lamentations the most sincere thanksgivings to God that he ever made us so great a gift; that he preserved it to us so long; and that now, our brother after faithfully serving his generation until vital forces failed under the growing infirmities of advancing years, has gently fallen on sleep, and been received to his reward; and that those eyes, so long closed to the beauties of this world, and to the faces and forms of earthly love and friendship, have been opened to the glories of the heavenly kingdom, and to behold the loved ones gone before and the general assembly and church of the first born, and to see the King in his beauty, let us, then, be profoundly grateful, while we are, at the same time, tenderly sorrowful.

But it is not my purpose even to attempt to give you an adequate conception of Dr. Dabney's character and life. I leave that for the more competent brethren who will presently address you. I only wished, in introducing this part of the service, to avail myself of the privilege and opportunity of laying a little flower upon the bier of him to whom I am more indebted than to any other man living or dead.

Following Dr. Strickler, Dr. Henry M. White, of Winchester, and Dr. Moses D. Hoge, of Richmond, paid feeling tributes to the memory of their life-long friend. We cannot publish these addresses entire. Any outline would be worse than nothing. Suffice it to add one thought from Dr. Hoge: The great Southern theological triumvirate has been Thornwell, Palmer, Dabney. Two have passed to their reward. "The workmen die, the work goes on," yet the work is retarded. Christleib of Germany, Bursier of Paris, Spurgeon of Christendom, have passed from the scene of their labors. The work goes on, yet

it has been retarded. Men are needed to take up the work. Where are they to come from? Such men are the results of brain and application.

To the bereaved wife and family the Magazine extends its deepest sympathy. The church claimed Dr. Dabney. As such it would weep on its own account as well as mingle its sympathetic tears with those bound to him by closer ties.

[The next issue of the Magazine will contain a cut of Dr. Dabney.]

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

WHEREAS, on January 3rd, 1898, the Father of our spirits, whose workings, however mysterious, are all for good to them that love Him, did call from his pilgrimage into the eternal rest Rev. Robert Lewis Dabney, D. D., LL. D., we, the students of Union Theological Seminary, with which he was for so long connected, do hereby

Resolve 1. That while we lament the departure of one whose sound and sacred influences have directed our thoughts into the channels of truth, and whom we have learned to admire and to cherish therefor, we submit in reverence to the holy will of God, and do return to Him sincere thanks that the much which was for His glory in the life of His servant is imperishable.

Resolved 2, That we extend to the family of the one asleep our sympathy in this their bereavement, and do commend them to the One who is present amid all the trials which wrench the souls of His creatures.

Resolve 3, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the afflicted family, and that they be inserted in *The Union Seminary Magazine*.

H. G. RICHARDSON,	} Committee.
E. E. LANE,	
LEWIS WATSON.	

U. T. Seminary, Jan. 18, 1898.

MEMORIZING THE SCRIPTURES.

True education as shown in the very derivation of the word (*e* and *duco* to lead forth) is development. Western civilization has caught the idea and acted upon it and the result is