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# THE ASSEMBLY HERALD

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A. W. HALSEY, D. D., JOHN DIXON, D. D., WILLIAM H. SCOTT, Committee.

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Acknowledgment of contributions to the Boards will be found at the close of the magazine

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# The Assembly Herald

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## *A New Scholastic Year*

*By the Rev. William P. Finney, Secretary pro tem. of the Board of Education.*

By the time these lines appear in print many of our schools and colleges will have opened their doors for another year of study. From city and country the youth of our land, about 20,000,000 strong, will be leaving their occupations and their pleasures of the vacation period, and wending their way to the halls of learning. If from some point of vantage we could actually behold this great movement, it would doubtless strike us as a most impressive spectacle; for the mere reading of the figures can scarcely give us any adequate idea of what they really mean. If, for example, an attempt were made to seat this vast company in one great place of assembly, the Colosseum of Rome, probably the most spacious amphitheatre which man has ever reared, would not suffice to hold them; indeed, it would require the seating capacity of not less than two hundred and fifty Colosseums. And if to that great place of assembly there were one hundred entrances, through which were pouring night and day one hundred living streams, allowing no more than thirty seconds for each individual to pass within and find his seat, the last week of September would go by, and all of October, and all of November, and still many thousands of that mighty throng would yet be without, pressing for entrance. Surely in the face of a movement like this, upon the part of so large a proportion of our population, it can scarcely be possible to over-estimate its importance. It augurs well for the continued enlightenment and progress of this nation.

We are told that when the Great Teacher was on earth, and saw the multitudes of his day, He was moved with compassion towards them, and He began to teach them many things. And for how many things is knowledge

still the solvent. It has been well said: "That nation is wise which sends its children to school." We trust that this may be a prosperous year for the many institutions of learning scattered over the land, and for those who enjoy the privilege of attendance upon them.

The Board of Education is looking forward to an especially active and busy scholastic year. Last year the number of students under the care of the Board was 699, an increase of 41 over the previous year. For the past three years the number has been gradually increasing, and a further increase may therefore be looked for this year. In addition to this, those candidates who were in course of preparation for the Cumberland Presbyterian ministry, together with new candidates from the same territory, are, in accordance with the action of the last General Assembly, now placing themselves under the care of our Board. How many of these there may be is not yet definitely known, but probably the number will not be less than 100. The Board welcomes these increased numbers to its rolls, and cheerfully assumes the added responsibility of their care and aid. But it will at once be seen that unless the Church and the friends of this cause respond with increased liberality to its claims, it will be impossible to maintain the present measure of assistance, namely \$100 to students in the collegiate and theological courses, and \$50 to those in the academic. The General Assembly has recommended the month of October as a suitable time for the churches to make their offerings to the Board of Education, which gives opportunity of early fruitage from the plantings and waterings of the Education Committees at the fall meetings of presbyteries and synods.

## *The San Francisco Theological Seminary*

*Rev. Professor Edward A. Wicher.*

Among the many notable structures which suffered in the disaster of April 18th, there is one which has a peculiar interest for Presbyterians throughout America. It is the San Francisco Theological Seminary located at San Anselmo. While, by reason of its situation across the bay, it was out of the range of the conflagration, nevertheless, it suffered from the shock of the earthquake.

rainfall, which came on the third night afterwards when everyone thought the rains to be over for the season and which was doubtless induced by the atmospheric conditions caused by the great fire, did further damage to the books in the library.

Now, however, work upon the damaged building is being pushed rapidly and it is expected that it will be completely restored by



MONTGOMERY HALL (DORMITORY), SAN FRANCISCO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

The Seminary buildings, apart from the professors' houses, number three—Montgomery Memorial Chapel, Montgomery Hall and Scott Hall. The Montgomery Memorial Chapel was not affected in any way by the shock, so that nothing more need be said concerning it. The Montgomery Hall, which is the dormitory, was injured only slightly through the cracking of the chimneys and the falling of plaster. The Scott Hall, which contains the library, class rooms, professors' rooms and assembly hall, was most seriously injured. Some stones of the tower fell inwards, wrecking a part of the roof and breaking the plaster of the ceilings of the halls beneath. The unexpected

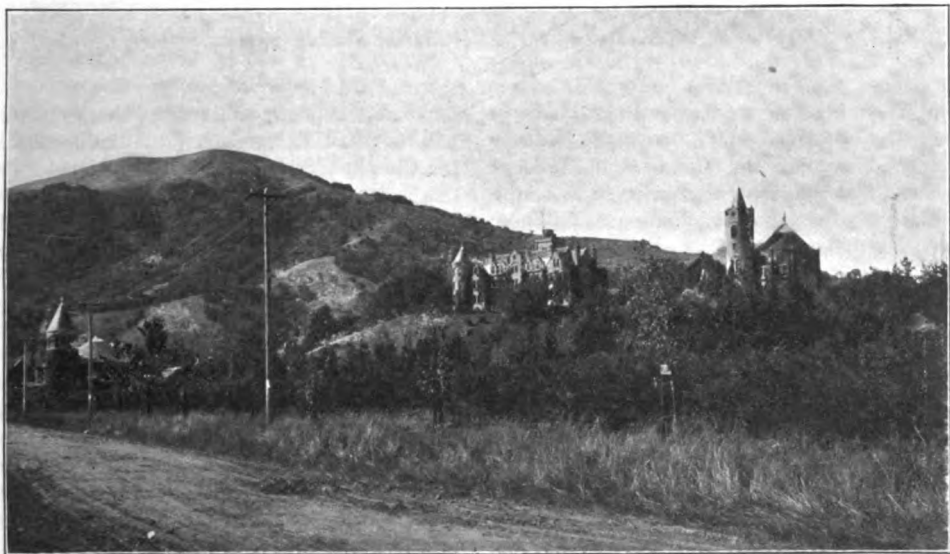
the opening of the session on September 20th. Even if this should not be wholly effected, the Seminary will be as efficiently equipped for work during the coming session as at any previous period. The dormitory has been largely refurnished, the library is being replenished with new books and the Montgomery Memorial Chapel contains abundant accommodation for the conduct of classes, should additional rooms be temporarily required. The scholarship endowment remains unaffected.

It was thought at first that the general endowment would be seriously impaired through the loss of San Francisco property. Even this, however, promises to turn out bet-

ter than the most sanguine of us at one time dared to hope. The one serious loss of the Seminary has been the indirect loss, the personal loss sustained by its close friends who believed in it, and were planning for its expansion and enlarged service, but who, having lost heavily, will now be unable to do the things they had planned to do.

Mention should be made of the splendid courage and enthusiasm shown by the students during the trying days which followed upon the initial shock. It is in such times that one learns of what stuff men are made. There were hundreds of poltroons, then, who

penters, stonemasons and teamsters by turns. When there were rumors of danger from bad men, they were made deputy-sheriffs. They kept the valley clean from rough characters, and arrested a villainous Chinese who was prowling about the refuge of our Christian Chinese girls. They cooked their own dinners out of doors over a few bricks. During the intervals of brick-laying and police-duty they played tennis. For all through the dust and disorder they were light hearted. And their infectious good humor was a benediction to the community. To see them in fresh summer suits upon the tennis court, ten days after the



GENERAL VIEW OF SAN FRANCISCO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY BUILDINGS.

snatched at the free transportation offered by the railroads, rushed out of the city and the state to all parts of the Union to spread around the nightmare ravings which have since been reproduced at intervals in eastern papers. But our students were not of these. They stood their ground and worked at anything and everything that came to hand. When brick-layers could not be had, they drew on overalls and built the chimneys of the professors' houses. They gathered together the books from the library, cleaned them and stored them in safety. They helped to procure food for the destitute and especially for the Chinese orphans, who were camping upon the grounds of the Seminary. They were car-

shock, helped to restore confidence in an orderly progress of the world.

And one must also speak a word of praise of the Directors of the Seminary, who, on May 9th, gathered in the First Church of Oakland, at one of the most largely attended meetings in the history of the Board. There was so much to be done, there were so many meetings of various boards, commercial and benevolent, that no one thought that we could get a quorum. It was not even possible to call the meeting regularly. And yet business men whose own fortunes were hanging in uncertainty, whose time was demanded by many distracting claims, and ministers whose work was either thrown into confusion or removed

by long distance from the place of meeting, gathered to discuss the situation of the Seminary and to devise plans for its up-building and expansion. Nothing could better illustrate the place it holds in the affections of the Pacific Coast.

With a Board of Directors enthusiastically agreed upon going forward, an Association of Alumni bound by sincerest affection to the interest of their Alma Mater, a faculty unanimously assured of the great future of the

Church's work upon the Coast, and a student body loyally attached to that institution from which they derive light and faith, there can be no uncertainty concerning the future usefulness of our Seminary. We, who have passed through the disasters together, believe as firmly as ever in California and we love it more. And we further believe that in building up this Seminary we are building up the States of the Pacific Coast in righteousness and faith.

## *Cumberland Presbyterians and an Educated Ministry*

*By W. J. Darby, D.D., Secretary of the Educational Society of the former Cumberland Presbyterian Church.*

In its Report to the General Assembly at Fresno, California, May, 1905, the Educational Society of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church stated what it believed to be the true attitude of the denomination as a whole regarding the question of an educated ministry. The Report said:—

"We are disposed to emphasize as second to no other interest of the Church, the importance of an educated ministry. We are aware that there are those who hold that the positive stand taken by the General Assembly and our subordinate judicatures concerning the necessity for a higher standard of preparation for the ministry, is a departure from the position assumed by the fathers and founders of our branch of the Church. Such is not the case. We are simply asking judicial sanction of what has all along been claimed to be the very spirit and genius of our denomination on this subject. Again, it is claimed by some that insistence upon this higher standard deters many young men from offering themselves for the ministry. It is hardly possible that any young man who is divinely called to preach the Gospel will suffer himself to resist such a call on account of the years of discipline through which it is proposed he shall pass previous to ordination. If any are thus deterred by this consideration, it may well be assumed that the Church loses but little thereby. Any probationer who can possibly take a complete College and Seminary Course should be required to do so before he is set apart to the full work of the ministry. If this is

impossible in exceptional cases, the Presbytery will not fail to recognize the fact. Should the Church yield to any popular outcry against this proper standard for an educated ministry, it will be untrue to its sacred trust of to-day and likewise untrue to the not less sacred tradition of our past as a denomination."

At the meeting of the General Assembly, special emphasis was laid upon this portion of the Board's Report. It was endorsed with hearty unanimity. At the succeeding General Assembly, in May last, when it was understood that the Board was reporting for the last time to a separate Cumberland Presbyterian Assembly, reference was made to the above portion of the Report of the year previous, in the following language:—

"The attitude of this denomination regarding an educated ministry, as we apprehend it, was set forth in the Report of this Board a year ago, which Report was unanimously endorsed by the General Assembly. Just at this period of our history as a denomination, it has seemed to us fitting that we should see to it that Cumberland Presbyterians are properly understood on this subject. Reference to the utterance of a year ago is sufficient, and repetition is unnecessary. In the broadest sense of the term, we believe and have ever believed in an educated ministry. In the deepest significance of the words, we believe in a ministry filled with the Holy Spirit. Culture for the highest type of the Gospel ministry and Evangelism for the masses of the people.—these are the two-fold qualities needed in the ministry of