

THE
PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.

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I.

THE IDEA AND AIMS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
REVIEW.

THERE has been for some time a conviction, constantly widening and deepening, that a Review is needed that will adequately represent the theology and life of the Presbyterian Church. This need has been felt all the more that in former years our Church derived so much strength and advantage from the Reviews so ably conducted by Drs. Charles Hodge, Albert Barnes, Henry B. Smith, and others. Two years ago, the *Presbyterian Quarterly and Princeton Review*, which had gathered up into itself the various older Presbyterian Quarterlies, was sold out by the proprietors and editors, and the *Princeton Review* appeared in its place, devoting itself chiefly to Philosophy, Science, and Belles-Lettres, and presenting an array of scholarship and talent unprecedented in the history of periodical literature. Yet this very fact called the more attention to its defects in those very respects that made the older Reviews so important to the Presbyterian Church; consequently the desire for a representative Presbyterian Review grew to be so strong and irrepressible, that several efforts have been made during the past year, in various parts of the land, culminating in the present enterprise, which seeks to combine all the varied interests and sections of our Presbyterian Church in order to secure a Review that will truly represent it by a strong, hearty, steady, and thorough advocacy of Presbyterian principles. The managing and associate editors have been requested by a large number of theologians,

ministers, and elders, in the various sections of the Church, to undertake this work on the following basis:

“The REVIEW is to embrace in its articles the range of the theological sciences and cognate literary and philosophical subjects, with special attention to the leading questions of the day; giving the freshest results of Biblical criticism and historical investigation; full and thorough reviews of the most important theological publications in different countries; and brief summaries of theological intelligence and church statistics. It will be the aim of the REVIEW to treat all these subjects in a broad and catholic spirit, comprehending those historic phases of Calvinism which combined in the Presbyterian Church at the re-union on the basis of the Westminster standards, together with the symbols of the Reformed Churches. The name shall be THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW. No article is to be published without the approval of both of the managing editors. The managing editors shall hold themselves, and be regarded as, responsible for the contents and internal character of the REVIEW, the associate editors aiding them to secure its highest excellence, efficiency, and success. Prof. A. A. Hodge, D.D., of the Princeton Theological Seminary, and Prof. C. A. Briggs, D.D., of the Union Theological Seminary, are to be the managing editors. Prof. Herrick Johnson, D.D., of the Auburn Theological Seminary; Prof. S. J. Wilson, D.D., of the Western Theological Seminary; Prof. James Eells, D.D., of the Lane Theological Seminary; Prof. Francis L. Patton, D.D., of the Seminary of the North-west; and Rev. Talbot W. Chambers, D.D., of the Collegiate Reformed Church, New York, are to be the associate editors.”

We take our stand, therefore, by the standards of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, which are the Word of God, the Westminster Confession and Catechisms, the Form of Government and Book of Discipline, together with the symbols of the Reformed Churches. We take our position among the Quarterlies as a denominational Review on the basis of the Reunion of 1869; all those historical phases of Calvinism which then combined, being represented in the editorial corps and the stockholders of the REVIEW, securing a fair and equitable representation in its pages. We hope to secure the hearty co-operation of all parts of the Presbyterian Church in our work—not at the sacrifice of any convictions or methods,

but rather by gathering together in unity the historic variety for the common welfare of the whole.

Our spirit is broad and catholic—the spirit of Reunion going forth in sympathy and love to those other branches of the Presbyterian Family which are not in organic union with us. We desire and earnestly seek their co-operation in the REVIEW, and indeed that of all those who adopt the Presbyterian form of government, the Reformed or Calvinistic statements of doctrine, and the Evangelical principles of life and conduct, or who would study with interest our Presbyterianism from the point of view occupied by other Churches of Christ. While Presbyterian, we yet heartily rejoice in every good word and work on the part of other denominations, whom we respect all the more for firm adherence to their own principles. We will join them in the great Christian movements of the age—for the conversion of the nations, the overthrow of infidelity, and the extermination of vice and crime.

Uniting with our Presbyterian brethren throughout the world in the Presbyterian Alliance and with our Evangelical brethren in the Evangelical Alliance, we shall, notwithstanding, give our chief attention to the theology and life of the particular Church in which God has cast our lot, to labor for its progress with love and enthusiasm. We shall not hesitate to maintain and enforce Presbyterian polity over against Episcopacy and Congregationalism; Calvinistic doctrine over against Lutheranism and Arminianism; while we unite with these, our brethren, in presenting a united and aggressive front to Romanism, Socinianism, Rationalism, and Communism.

The REVIEW will be a theological Review, and, as such, comprehensive of the various departments of theological encyclopædia. We shall endeavor to represent adequately all parts of theology, and yet propose to give our chief attention to those parts that seem from time to time to need defence or advocacy. Such departments we conceive to be at present—Biblical Criticism, Historical Investigation, Apologetics, Symbolics, Ethics, and the practical work of the Church. The Sciences, Philosophy, General History, and Belles-Lettres will have but a subordinate place; coming properly into our sphere only so far as they are related to

the various departments of theology. A leading feature of the REVIEW will be the careful examination and criticism of the most important publications in different countries. These will be prepared by a large number of professional scholars, who will each assume the subject most suited to him. There will also be a department for Biblical, Historical, and Bibliographical Notes and Queries, including such theological intelligence and Church statistics as may seem appropriate to the design of the REVIEW, without intruding on the field so well occupied by our numerous Presbyterian newspapers. We also propose from time to time to reprint, with notes, some of the more valuable documents and tracts illustrating the history of Presbyterianism.

The managing editors will be exclusively responsible for the contents and internal character of the REVIEW, but not in such a sense that they are to be regarded as adopting either jointly or individually the views advocated in the various articles, but in the sense that the contents and internal character of the REVIEW will be in accordance with the original basis of agreement, and reflect the various existing and previous characteristics of the Presbyterian Church. Each author will be held responsible for the views expressed in his article; the editors only for the *propriety* of admitting those views into the REVIEW. The editors may not infrequently feel called upon to publish views to which neither of them can subscribe, and will be responsible only for the views expressed in the articles that bear their names.

Being fully persuaded of the infallible truth and divine authority of our whole Bible, we propose not merely to defend it against the assaults of Rationalism, but rather to attack Rationalism itself with the weapons of the most searching Biblical criticism and exact historical investigation, and overcome it by the force of the truth which is divine and consistent wherever found, not fearing lest the foundations should be destroyed, if perchance we may find a few weak points in our extended lines that need strengthening and reinforcement.

Regarding theology as the queen of all the sciences, we do not propose to enter into warfare with any of them, but rather to employ all the results of true science, whatever they may be, for the advantage of theological science. We have no

fear of the truth, or for the truth, but rejoice in it, and are assured that it is mighty and will prevail.

Sincerely receiving and adopting the Westminster Confession of Faith as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures, and approving the government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church, and the various symbols of the Reformed Churches, we confidently appeal to our ministry, elders, and people, and all friends of theological learning, to aid us in the advocacy of those principles which have been inherited by us as the most precious legacy of the great struggle for liberty and righteousness in Great Britain in the seventeenth century, and which in our own land have had so much to do with moulding its civil institutions, as well as with building up one of the strongest institutions for good in compact and well-organized Presbyterian churches.

THE EDITORS.