

"The heroic past challenges us; the needy present pleads with us; the awful future warns us that we deny not our faith nor fall in our trust."—Edward Mack.

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EUGENE C. CALDWELL, *Editor-in-Chief*

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EDITORIAL STAFF—EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, EUGENE C. CALDWELL; ASSOCIATE EDITORS, JAMES SPRUNT AND T. LAYTON FRASER; MISSIONARY EDITOR, W. B. PATTERSON; BOOK EDITOR, ERNEST T. THOMPSON; REVIEW EDITORS, EDWARD MACK AND W. TALIAFERRO THOMPSON.

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THE UNION SEMINARY REVIEW, being the only publication of its kind in the Southern Presbyterian Church, is an open forum where any one who stands for "the faith once for all delivered to the saints" is welcome to present his views on the great questions of the hour. Each contributor is solely responsible for the views expressed in his article.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES

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### NEW EDITORIAL STAFF.

The Union Seminary Review Association has elected a new editorial staff, as follows: Editor-in-Chief, Eugene C. Caldwell; Assistant Editors, James Sprunt and T. Layton Fraser; Missionary Editor, W. B. Patterson; Book Editor, Ernest T. Thompson; Review Editors, Edward Mack and W. Taliaferro Thompson; Business Manager, F. E. Manning; Assistant Business Manager, J. C. Wool.

For two years Dr. W. Taliaferro Thompson has served as Editor-in-Chief with signal success, and his resignation is accepted only at his earnest insistence, in order that he may devote more time to extension work. From all over our Church calls are coming for his services. Only by being released from the duties of Editor-in-Chief can he answer these pressing and

## CHARLES CAMPBELL HERSMAN.

BY REV. THOMAS CARY JOHNSON, D. D., LL. D.,  
*Professor in Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va.*

Charles Campbell Hersman was born of excellent lineage on a farm near Lexington, Kentucky, June 16, 1838.

At an early age he was carried by his parents to Monroe County in the State of Missouri, where they settled on a large farm. When he was thirteen years old he lost his father, who, however, had left ample means for the liberal education of his children.

Charles was fond of books from his early childhood, availed himself of every opportunity to read, and acquitted himself well in the country school of the neighborhood.

In the spring of 1855 he was sent to the Van Renselaer Academy, an institution under the Presbytery of Palmyra, and at that time presided over by the Rev. J. P. Finley, D. D., afterwards a professor in Westminster College, and a very godly man. Here, in April, Charles Hersman began the study of Greek and Latin, and, by the close of the term, in June, he had so far mastered the forms and the constructions that he was able to read the "Life of Epaminondas," by Nepos, and the "Anabasis." Returning to the academy in the fall he continued his studies, but was compelled by delicate health to return home the following April.

In September, 1856, he entered the freshman class of Westminster College, Fulton, Mo. Amongst those who guided and stimulated him in this college were four remarkable men. The Rev. S. S. Laws, D. D., was, at that time, president of the college, a subtle metaphysician and a clear and efficient teacher. The Rev. M. M. Fisher, D. D., a Latinist of wide recognition, was in charge of the Latin classes. Professor F. T. Kemper, A. M., famed for his ability as a teacher throughout Missouri and beyond, was professor of Greek. Alfred Marshall Mayer, a man who afterward became internationally famous, was professor of Physics.

Young Hersman responded nobly to his great opportunities. While in the college he was noted for his exemplary conduct, strenuous application to study, and for his powers of acquisition. In one of the largest classes graduated by Westminster in all its earlier history he won for himself the first place.

In the fall of 1860 he entered Princeton Seminary, whence he was graduated in the spring of 1863. In that school he sat under Drs. Charles Hodge, William Henry Green and Alexander T. McGill. Here, also, Mr. Hersman attended closely to his studies; and so impressed Dr. Charles Hodge with his general scholarship and his special scholarship in Greek, that he is said to have pronounced him "one of the best Greek scholars he had ever known among the students; and to have recommended him for election to the chair of Ancient Languages in Carroll College, Wisconsin."

Though Mr. Hersman had looked forward to the work of the pastorate in Missouri, he accepted the chair in Carroll College, going thither in the fall of 1863. The place did not prove a pleasant one to him, however, and he resigned in the following May.

He was then elected to the chair of Greek in his *alma mater*; and began his work in that chair with the session of 1864-'5. This post he held till 1880, having the Latin classes, also, on his hands for a portion of the time. He was next elected to the presidency of the college, and held that position for seven years. He filled his successive positions in Westminster with distinguished success, and left there a name honored by, and dear to, his students, colleagues, the church and the community. The entire Synod of Missouri held him in the highest esteem as scholar and teacher and Christian man.

In the fall of 1887 he went to Columbia Seminary to become professor of Biblical Literature.

A year later, having been called to the Chancellorship of the Southwestern Presbyterian University, he accepted that position and removed to Clarksville in September, 1888, where, in addition to the duties of the Chancellorship, he served as professor of Hebrew and New Testament Literature.

During his tenancy of this honorable and important position, he advanced the interests of the University materially, and in the favor with which it was regarded by its patrons, so that when the authorities were compelled to accept his resignation, they did it with extreme reluctance.

From Clarksville he was called to the Chair of Biblical Introduction and New Testament Literature in Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. In this institution he served with distinction from 1891 to 1908. when, having reached the age limit, he was made professor *Emeritus*. He impressed his students not only with his wide scholarship and profound insight into the teachings of Scripture, but with the unusual beauty of his Christian character. One of his old boys has written to this effect:

“He seemed to know everything pertaining to the New Testament Scriptures, the views of every commentator worth the knowing. He seemed to know New Testament Greek as his mother tongue.

“He could bring forth from the treasury of God’s Word things new and old. He drew legitimately from New Testament passages an amazing wealth of spiritual truth. He was a safe and true expositor.

“The spirit of Christ radiated from his daily life; and every student felt its power. The fruits of the Spirit were manifest in him. He was truly a man of God. His godliness and learning—his thorough and comprehensive scholarship in every department of the New Testament Scriptures have made a lasting impression on the lives of his students.”

Another one of his old students dwells upon his “tenderness in dealing with his students”—his “utter want of malice, his indisposition to retaliate, and his marked humility, freedom from conceit notwithstanding his vast learning,” his “ever sitting at the feet of Jesus Christ,” his honesty, freedom from duplicity, his being far removed from littleness, insincerity, ecclesiastical politics—his incapability of double conduct, or double interpretation of Scripture.”

During the period of his professorship *Emeritus*, in addition to considerable service in the Seminary, he served nobly this

community at large, as long as physical conditions permitted, i. e., almost to the time of his death, as teacher of the Bible class in the Sunday School of the Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, There is no telling how much good he did in this relation, nor how much the people round-about loved him. His presence in the community was a benediction.

His abilities had been recognized not only in the ways already pointed out, but by the bestowal of the honorary degrees of Doctor in Divinity and Doctor of Laws.

While a student in college he had met an amiable and accomplished woman, had wooed and won her to be his wife. She shared his labors, honors and sorrows and blessed him with wifely affection down to a good old age. God had blessed them with three children, two of whom acquitted themselves nobly while their lives were spared, but preceded their parents to the grave; the third, his youngest daughter, was spared to minister to him: till God took him to be with the ascended Lord.

He died on the 7th of June, 1924, as he had lived, with faculties little impaired, in a simple childlike trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, notwithstanding all the contrary currents of the age with which he kept well acquainted.

He was a loyal friend, a good neighbor, a worthy citizen, an instructive preacher, a learned and profound teacher, deserving of all the honors and the love which he received, a trophy of the saving grace of that God whose mercy reacheth unto the clouds.\*

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\*For the facts concerning the earlier portion of Dr. Hersman's life, stated in this paper, we are greatly indebted to a paper by Rev. J. A. Quarles, D. D., LL. D., published in the Union Seminary Magazine, Nov.-Dec., 1891, on *Dr. Hersman*.