

THE  
UNION SEMINARY MAGAZINE

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NO. 3—JAN.—FEB., 1897.

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I.—LITERARY.

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THE OXFORD MOVEMENT IN THE SOUTHERN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Oxford Movement in the Church of England began about 1833. It was a reaction against liberalism in politics, latitudinarianism in theology, and the government of the Church by the State. It was, at the same time, a return to Mediaeval theology and worship. The doctrines of Apostolical Succession, and the Real Presence—a doctrine not to be distinguished from the Roman Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation—were revived. And along with this return to Mediaeval theology, Mediaeval architecture was restored; temples for a stately service were prepared; not teaching halls. Communion tables were replaced by *altars*. And the whole paraphernalia of worship was changed; so that, except for the English tongue and the mustaches of the priests, the visitor could hardly have told whether the worship were that of the English Church or that of her who sitteth on "the seven hills."

It must be admitted that there was some good in the movement. The Erastian theory as to the proper relation of Church and State is wrong. The kingdom of God should not be subordinate to any "world-power." No state should control the Church. And certainly such latitudinarianism in doctrine as that of Bishop Coleuso and others called for a protest. But the return to Mediaeval theology and Mediaeval worship was all wrong.

We have no good ground for doubting the sincerity of many of the apostles of the movement. Unfortunately, more than

EXTRACTS FROM AN ELDER'S DIARY. *Edited by Rev. Joseph B. Stratton, D. D., Natchez, Miss.* Pp. 171, 12 mo. Price 75 cents. Richmond, Va. Presbyterian Committee of Publication.

This is a very commendable book. We should be pleased to hear of its being widely read by our Elders. It is praiseworthy for the following reasons: 1. It is characterized by a truly Christian Spirit. This elder seems to be trying to follow Christ. He is a business man; but his main business is to serve the Lord. The tone of the book makes it helpful to all readers even as a good elder's life ought to be to all his people. 2. The author thinks that an elder ought to *furnish himself* for the work required of the elder in the Scriptures. His simple story of his own effort to comprehend his duties, to know his place and work in the church should prove stimulating and give light to many of our elders. 3. The author thinks that the elder should really think about his work as it comes up from day to day and that he should try to *plan it well* and do it accordingly. We fancy that some of these thoughts will strike more than one of our elders as novel. He has hardly thought of his work as an elder as requiring careful planning and laborious execution.

This journal too would give to the earnest elder a thousand helpful hints about the way in which he can best serve the Master in his office.

We have wished more than once that we knew who the elder is whose Diary has been so well edited by Dr. Stratton. We would treasure the name of so good a man.

In our eyes the editor would have done well to have left out the account of one or two death-bed testimonies in which the miraculous and the natural stand side by side. Other readers, however, may find special delight in these very stories. Perhaps we are a bit skeptical in respect to such stories.

THOS. C. JOHNSON.

THE GENESIS OF THE WESTMINSTER ASSEMBLY: OR A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EVENTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH OCCASIONED THE CALLING OF THAT VENERABLE ASSEMBLY OF DIVINES AND CHRISTIAN STATESMEN. A centennial offering to the Sabbath schools and youth of the Presbyterian church. *By F. Patton, D. D., Pastor of the Presbyterian church, Dardanelle, Ark.* Pp. 83, 12 mo. Paper cover. Price 10 cents. Richmond, Va.: Presbyterian Committee of Publication. 1889.

This pamphlet has been before the church for several years. The Committee has, however, within the last few days, dropped another copy on our desk. No doubt these enterprising gentlemen think our readers should again be notified of the possibility of securing this useful little tract for 10 cents. And in view of the general interest, in all that pertains to the Westminster Assembly, just now pervading the church, we take pleasure in saying a word about this work.

It is a fairly reliable, instructive and useful pamphlet on the subject. For our own part, we think the author's estimate of Anne Boleyn is