

THE UNION SEMINARY MAGAZINE

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I. LITERARY.

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UNION SEMINARY has been called again to mourn the loss of one of her able and accomplished teachers. On the 2nd of October, 1893, Dr. Thomas Ephraim Peck, Professor of Systematic theology, passed into the everlasting peace, after months of suffering from Bright's disease of the kidneys and an attendant failure of the functions of the heart.

Dr. Peck was born in Columbia, South Carolina, on the 29th of January, 1822. He was the son of Ephraim Peck, a native of Connecticut, and Sarah Bannister Parke, daughter of Thomas Parke, LL. D., Professor of the classic languages in the College of South Carolina. His father, a man of delicate constitution, had come south for his health, and opened a small mercantile establishment in Columbia. After a few years residence he united with the First Presbyterian Church, and developed a strongly marked and active Christian character. On the 4th of January, 1821, he intermarried with a daughter of Professor Parke, and after a married life of somewhat over eleven years, died leaving four living children, two sons and two daughters. Thomas, the oldest child was ten years old at the time, and William, the youngest just two months old. The daughters Mary, Susan and Ann Catharine grew to womanhood and married, the first Rev. Samuel H. Hay, the second Rev. Lucius Simonton. After the death of her husband Mrs. Peck lived with her father until his death in 1840. She opened a school for small children and soon her school-room was full. For many years she pursued this business for the support of her children. Mrs. Peck was a remarkable

III. MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TOWARDS FOREIGN MISSIONS.

REV. T. C. JOHNSON, D. D.

[The following extract is taken from Dr. Johnson's History of the Southern Presbyterian Church, soon to be issued under the auspices of the Christian Literature Company, of New York, and we are indebted to them for the privilege of publishing these advance sheets.—Eds.]

One of the first as well as the most notable things which the Assembly [of 1861] did, was to organize a permanent agency for conducting Foreign Missions. And as the principles of organization involved in the establishment of the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions were applied in all the Executive Committees established by the Assembly, we may, with profit, bring out somewhat fully this plan of the Assembly. Nor can this be better done than by transcribing here the vital parts of the resolutions which the body passed as a means to the organization of said committee; and the vital parts of those resolutions touching its attitude to the missions committed already by Providence to its care, and to the un-Christian and Papal peoples over the face of the globe.

For the organization of a permanent agency for conducting Foreign Missions, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, 1. That this General Assembly proceed to appoint an Executive Committee, with its proper officers, to carry on this work, and that the character and functions of this committee be comprised in the following articles as its constitution, viz:

ARTICLE I. This committee shall be known as the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the Confederate States of America. It shall consist of a secretary, who shall be styled the Secretary of Foreign Missions, and who shall be the committee's organ of communication with the Assembly and with all portions of the work entrusted to this committee; a treasurer, and nine other members, three of whom, at least, shall be ruling elders or deacons, or private

members of the church, all appointed annually by the General Assembly, and shall be directly amenable to it for the faithful and efficient discharge of the duties entrusted to its care. Vacancies occurring *ad interim* it shall fill if necessary.

ART. II. It shall meet once a month, or oftener, if necessary, at the call of the chairman or secretary. It may enact by-laws for its government, the same being subject to the revision and approval of the General Assembly.

ART. III. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to take direction and control of the Foreign Missionary work, subject to such instructions as may be given by the General Assembly from time to time; to appoint missionaries and assistant missionaries; to designate their fields of labor, and provide for their support; to receive the reports of the secretary and treasurer, and give such directions in relation to their respective duties as may seem necessary; to authorize appropriations and expenditures of money, including the salaries of officers; to communicate to the churches from time to time such information about the missionary work as may seem important to be known; and to lay before the General Assembly from year to year a full report of the work and of their receipts and expenditures, together with their books of minutes for examination."

The cumbrous and scripturally unwarranted machinery of boards, as well as voluntary societies is done away. The fifth wheel of the chariot is cast aside, a simple committee, directly and immediately responsible to the General Assembly, as the Assembly's executive agent, does the work which had in the old Assembly been done at one time by voluntary societies, and later by largely irresponsible boards. The Assembly had quietly made a long stride toward a more Scriptural form.

The Southern Assembly of 1861 did much more than to frame a good agency for conducting Foreign Missions. It betrayed a glorious missionary zeal. The new church had in its heart the Savior's last command to the nascent church of the Apostles. Already during the summer of 1861 and before the Atlanta Convention, Dr. J. Leighton Wilson and other brethren in Columbia, S. C., had called the attention of the church throughout the Confederacy to the demands of the Presbyterian missions among the tribes of the Indian Territory; and had raised and dispersed about four thousand dollars. After the Convention, Dr. Wilson, with its endorsement, continued

his efforts to support these missions and also made a personal visit to that interesting but perturbed field. When the Assembly at Augusta met, about \$20,000 had been expended in the support of the mission since May, by the Southern Presbyterians. Dr. Wilson read a report of his work as provisional secretary. On occasion of that report, the Assembly passed a series of resolutions, the following excerpt from which will at once interest the reader and enlighten him further as to the aims of the new-born church towards missions.

Resolved, 2. That the Assembly accepts with joyful gratitude to God, the care of these missions among our Southwestern Indian tribes, the Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks, Seminoles, and Cherokees, thus thrown upon them by his providence; missions whose whole history have been signalized by a degree of success attending few other modern missions—to a people comprising nearly seventy thousand souls, to whom we are bound by obligations of special tenderness and strength, and whose spiritual interest must ever be dear to the Christians of this land. And the Assembly assures those people, and the beloved missionaries who have so long and successfully labored among them, of our fixed purpose, under God, to sustain and carry forward the blessed work, whose foundations have been so nobly and deeply laid. We therefore decidedly approve of the recommendation of the report, that six new missionaries be sent to this field speedily, two of them to commence a new mission among the Cherokees, and that a few small boarding schools be established with the special design of raising up a native agency.

3. That in the striking fact that the same upheaving and overturning that have called us into existence as a distinct organization, and shut us out from present access to distant nations, has also laid thus upon our hearts and hands these interesting missions with their fifteen stations and twelve ordained missionaries and sixteen hundred communicants, so that, at the very moment of commencing our separate existence we find them forming in fact an organic part of our body; and also in the gratifying promptitude with which our church has advanced to their support, the Assembly most gratefully recognizes the clear foreshadowing of the Divine purpose to make our beloved church an eminently missionary church, and a heart-stirring call upon all her people to engage in this blessed work with new zeal and self-denial.

4. The Assembly further rejoices to know that there are a few of the sons of our Southern Zion who are laboring in distant lands, and approves heartily of the action of the committees in forwarding funds for the support of the missions in which they are engaged, trusting that the committee to be appointed will, as soon as possible, ascertain the facts on the subject necessary to their future guidance; and takes this occasion hence to direct the longing eyes of the whole church to those broad fields where Satan reigns almost undisturbed—to India, Siam, China, Japan, and especially to Africa and South America, which have peculiar claims upon us as fields where we are soon to be called to win glorious victories for our King, if we prove faithful; and solemnly charges them that now while in the convulsions that are shaking the earth we hear the tread of his coming footsteps, to take the kingdom bought with his blood, they should be preparing to meet him with their whole hearts and their largest offerings.

5. Finally, the General Assembly desires distinctly and deliberately to inscribe on our church's banner as she now first unfurls it to the world, in immediate connection with the headship of our Lord, his last command: 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature'; regarding this as the great end of her organization, and obedience to it as the indispensable condition of her Lord's promised presence, and as one great comprehensive object, a proper conception of whose vast magnitude and grandeur is the only thing which in connection with the love of Christ, can ever sufficiently arouse her energies and develop her resources, so as to cause her to carry on with the vigor and efficiency which true fealty to her Lord demands, those other agencies necessary to her internal growth and home prosperity. The claims of this cause ought therefore to be kept constantly before the minds of the people and pressed upon their consciences. The ministers and ruling elders and deacons and Sabbath School teachers and especially the parents ought, and are enjoined by the Assembly, to give particular attention to all those for whose religious teaching they are responsible in training them to feel a deep interest in this work, and to form habits of systematic benevolence and to feel and respond to the claims of Jesus upon them for personal service in the field."

Such are the resolutions adopted by the Augusta Assembly as expressing its attitude toward Foreign Missions. There is an

exalted heroism in them, a sublimity of faith to which history furnishes few parallels. Surrounded by "a cordon of armies," in a country, itself on the point of being one of the world's theatres of most terrific war, the Church quietly looks forth on the world as its field, and quietly, fearlessly, and earnestly, prepares for its present and its future labors. Sacred writ tells us that, in the time of Zedekiah, when the Babylonian army was besieging Jerusalem, and on the point of taking it, Jeremiah having been shut up in prison for having predicted the city's overthrow, said, "the word of the Lord came unto me saying, Buy the field that is in Anathoth, for the right of redemption is thine to buy it." Jeremiah bought the field and weighed out the money, seventeen sheckles of silver. His heroism was mightier than that of kings. His faith assured him that there was light beyond the clouds. This Church in vision pierces the confines and the gloom of war; and true to the principles which God had given her grace to see, prepares for their exemplification as God shall give her opportunity.

THE STUDENT VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT, AND THE DETROIT CONVENTION.

E. R. LEYBURN.

This generation has been called the Epiphany of young men. The world no longer needs to be told of the Young Men's Christian Association, and the wonderful work it has done and is doing. The Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions is a newer enterprise, but one that is destined to have a large part in shaping the future history of the world.

Like most other great things, this movement had a small beginning. In the winter of 1885-'86, a returned missionary from India was staying at Princeton, N. J., while his son was at college there. Two or three times each week, this old missionary gathered a few of the college boys into his parlor to speak to them of the great needs of more missionary workers, and to pray with them for the coming of Christ's kingdom. The following summer, in response to Mr. Moody's invitation, several hundred young men gathered at Mt. Hermon, Mass., to spend a few weeks in Bible study. This little band from