

THE UNION SEMINARY MAGAZINE

NO. 3—JAN.-FEB., 1896.

I.—LITERARY.

A SKETCH OF THE MISSIONS OF THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

In the last issue of the *MAGAZINE* we gave sketches of the Missions in the Indian Territory, in China, in Italy, in the United States of Columbia and in Brazil; in the order of their establishment. In the present paper we propose to sketch in a similar way the other missions of our Church. We shall present these, also, in the chronological order of their founding; and accordingly begin with

THE MEXICO MISSION.

This mission was opened in 1874. During the preceding year the Rev. A. T. Graybill had, with the approval of the Executive Committee, explored Northern Mexico with reference to the establishment of a mission somewhere along the borders of the Rio Grande. Matamoras was fixed upon as the site of the mission. And in 1874 Mr. Graybill accompanied by Mrs. Graybill, returned to this point to initiate what has since turned out to be a very fruitful work. Linares was opened in 1887, and Victoria in 1892. Hence there are now three main branches of the Mexico Mission.

The following laborers have been employed in the Mexico Mission, viz.: The Rev. A. T. Graybill, 1874—, Mrs. Graybill, 1874—1876; Rev. J. G. Hall and Mrs. Hall, 1877—1895; Miss Hattie Loughridge, 1879, who became the second Mrs. A. T. Graybill, 1880—1889;* Rev. L. Walton Graybill and Mrs. Graybill, 1881—1882; Miss Janet Houston, 1881—; Miss Anne Dysart, 1882—; Miss S. E. Bedinger, 1886—; Miss C. V. Lee, 1890—; Miss Minnie Gunn, 1892—; Miss Ella Cummins, 1894—; Mrs. A. T. Graybill, 1895—.

* She died in the field.

WOULD A MULTIPLICITY OF SEMINARIES MULTIPLY THE NUMBER OF OUR CANDIDATES:

The above editorial from the pen of an associate editor is an earnest inquiry as to how we may increase the number of our candidates for the ministry. This is a question that has pressed itself upon the minds and hearts of the students of our seminary for many years. Their deep interest in this matter is shown by the fact that each year for the past five years the students have sent one of their number to the colleges of Virginia and one to the colleges of North Carolina to present the claims of the ministry to the college students of these two states. We may say that the visible results of these visits have not been as great as we had hoped. There has been no marked increase of candidates. The truth is that the number of candidates in the entire Southern Assembly is on the decrease. Last year there were twenty less than the year before. "How may we increase the number of candidates?" has been the subject of a number of articles in our religious weeklies during the past year. Our associate editor has given a good answer to the question, we believe. But we had scarcely finished reading his editorial when an entirely new answer was suggested by a statement from the pen of a distinguished and honored minister of our church. Arguing in another connection, he makes this statement: "One of the most useful results of a seminary is the special influence which its presence exerts upon the young Christians of a vicinage in turning their thoughts to the sacred work. We find that churches and schools near a seminary rear about *ten* (italics ours) times as many candidates as those in remote Presbyteries." The answer that this quotation suggests is this—increase the number of seminaries and you will very materially increase the number of candidates. This seems a good answer to the question, but we could only wonder whether the facts and figures in the case would corroborate the statement. So we have collected some statistics and made some computations. On this theory we should expect to find the largest proportion of candidates in the Synods of Virginia, South Carolina, Kentucky, and Nashville. The table below gives the number of candidates, the entire number of communicants, and the ratio of candidates to the communicants in each Synod. We have arranged them

with referencè to the proportion of candidates each has at present. Arkansas heads the list.

SYNODS.	CANDIDATES.	COMMUNICANTS.	NUMBER OF COMMUNICANTS TO EACH CANDIDATE.
Arkansas.....	17	4,586	270
Mississippi	42	13,735	327
Memphis.....	22	8,173	370
Texas.....	40	14,979	375
North Carolina.....	73	30,278	415
South Carolina.....	44	18,512	421
Alabama	25	11,636	465
Nashville	27	13,073	484
Kentucky	34	19,302	568
Florida	6	3,532	580
Virginia	60	40,080	668
Missouri	16	11,821	739
Georgia	19	14,292	752
	424	203,999	481

These figures speak for themselves. They need no comment. They do not seem to indicate that a multiplicity of seminaries would multiply the number of candidates, but they *do* indicate that when the great need of the gospel is pressed upon the hearts of the Christian young men of our church by their own personal observation they respond to the call, for it will be observed that those Synods which are most destitute of the gospel have as a rule the greatest proportion of candidates.

*
* *

A DISCLAIMER.

We have received a letter from Rev. Dr. R. L. Dabney, a portion of which is published below, in regard to a statement which appeared in the last number of our MAGAZINE and which he desires to have corrected. In justice to ourselves, we may say that the statement to which he refers was based upon a statement made before the Synod of Virginia at its last meeting by a member of that body

who has been a regular attendant at its meetings since the war, and as the statement was not challenged at the time we supposed to be correct. The following is the statement referred to: "The first public advocate of some change was an eminent and honored servant of the church, then a professor in the Seminary, who, shortly after the war, made a powerful speech on the subject to the Synod of Virginia, not indeed advocating removal to a *city* but stating with great force the disadvantages of the present site and demonstrating the necessity of seeking another. The professors and directors generally agreed with him, but the movement took no practical shape at that time because of the impossibility of securing the necessary means to effect the change."

In justice to Dr. Dabney, we cheerfully insert the part of his letter which relates to this article. It reads as follows:

"Dear Bro.,—Your last number, in your article on the Seminary removal, contains words to this effect: That an influential member of the Faculty in one of the years soon after the war made a strong speech in the Synod of Virginia in favor of the removal of the Seminary which has influenced the brethren ever since. This is followed by such remarks as make it point to me apparently. If I am mistaken in your meaning I must ask you to excuse the mistake. If I am correct, I must request you to read the following statement and give it place in your next issue. Dr. Henry M. White writes me thus: 'I am sure that the question of the removal of the Seminary was not brought forward at any of them (to-wit) any meeting of the Virginia Synod.' Drs. J. R. Graham and A. C. Hopkins testify the same. Such is my own recollection. I attended all of the Synods in those years. Of course I made no such speech in Synod. * * * * Of course all thoughtful men foresaw and lamented the difficulties which the Seminary would meet from the prostration of Southside Virginia. I among them. I urged upon both the Seminary and College the best preventive which I could devise for those difficulties, which remedy was not removal nor anything like it, and least of all removal to a city. My plan was rejected, I may say with scant courtesy, and I acquiesced completely."

*
* *

A MISSIONARY CLASS.

A notice of the recent departure of Rev. W. B. Harrison for Corea reminds us that his class ('94) stands out as the greatest mis-

sionary class in the history of Union Seminary. Of its eighteen members, five are already in the foreign field and another will sail next fall. Of the five who have already entered the work Rev. H. W. White is in China, Rev. W. Mc. Buchanan in Japan, Rev. C. R. Morton and Rev. C. R. Womeldorf in Brazil, and Rev. W. B. Harrison in Corea. Rev. C. C. Owen, who is now pursuing the study of medicine at the University of Virginia, will sail in the fall, so we are informed. What an inspiration this class should be to all the classes which follow it at Union!

