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AS SPRING RETURNS

The return of spring, and the vernal splendor which begins to clothe the campus and environs, arouses a meditative mood. One feels the disposition to muse, "to look before and after, and pine for what is not." New vistas open up before us; the past also comes to remembrance.

I

While the shock that attended the passing of our late Dean, Edward Howell Roberts, has been softened somewhat as December 13, the day of his death, recedes into the past, his beloved figure lives on in memory. His loss is even more acutely felt today than at the time of his decease. On the Monday of Commencement, June 6, a Memorial Service for Dr. Roberts will be held in Miller Chapel. The Service will be under the auspices of the Alumni Association and will be held in the interval between the Club and Class dinners and the Reception at Springdale. In the meantime, Dr. J. Donald Butler has been rendering invaluable service as Interim Dean. A permanent appointment to the deanship will be made by the Board of Trustees at the Board's Annual Meeting towards the end of April.

II

On the occasion of a special meeting of the Board of Trustees on February 1, two memorable ceremonies took place in Miller Chapel. The first was the Installation of two new professors, the second, the dedication of a new Communion Table and the acceptance of a Celtic Cross.

After signing the traditional formula, the new professors, Dr. Elmer G. Homrighausen and Dr. J. Campbell Wyckoff, delivered deeply impressive inaugural addresses. Dr. Homrighausen becomes the first incumbent of the Charles R. Erdman Chair of Pastoral Theology. Dr. Wyckoff succeeds him as Thomas W. Synnott Professor of Christian Education. Their addresses are printed in this issue of the *Bulletin*. In these same pages readers will also find the very moving charge given to the new professors by the President of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Peter K. Emmons.

The new Communion Table was dedicated the same afternoon. Its chaste colonial form blends perfectly with the chancel in which it is located. Upon a bronze plate at one end of the table the following inscription may be read: "To the glory of God and in memory of Lewis Seymour Mudge, D.D., LL.D., a member of the Class of 1895, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, 1939-

1945, Moderator of the 143rd General Assembly and Stated Clerk, 1921-1938, this Communion Table is dedicated by his wife and son." The table, apart from the sacred use for which it has been given, will serve to enshrine the memory of a distinguished alumnus, Trustee and churchman. Lewis Mudge, Junior, is now a senior in the Seminary.

It was in every way fitting that the ceremony of dedication should be in charge of Dr. Eugene Carson Blake who is Dr. Mudge's successor as Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian General Assembly. Dr. Blake, who is himself an alumnus and Trustee of the Seminary, is also the recently elected President of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in America. His apt and thoughtful discourse and the dedication prayer which he offered appear also in this issue. As regards the Celtic Cross, the gift of Mrs. Charles D. Reimers of Fort Worth, Texas, and of her son, Carl, who also is a senior in the Seminary, it will serve to link Miller Chapel, and each worship service in that hallowed place, with one of the significant sources of the Reformed tradition.

III

There is clear evidence that our Faculty is moving steadily towards a new peak in literary production. Since the present school year began, three books have been published by Faculty members. In the fall a new book appeared written by Dr. Lefferts Loetscher, Professor of American Church History, entitled *The Broadening Church*, and published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. In the course of the winter, the Bobbs-Merrill Company of Indianapolis published a book specially designed for laymen, entitled *The Dawn of Personality*. It came from the pen of Dr. Emile Cailliet, Stuart Professor of Christian Philosophy. Shortly after Dr. Wyckoff's inauguration, the Westminster Press published a new volume which bears his name under the title *The Task of Christian Education*. At the present moment several other books written by members of the Faculty are in the press and will appear very shortly. The Faculty of Princeton Seminary is thus addressing itself in an increasingly significant way to the great issues of theological education in our time, and this fact is impressing many minds throughout the nation and the world.

Evidence of this has recently appeared in a chapter entitled "A Glance at the Future," which forms the conclusion of a new book by David Wesley Soper entitled *Men Who Shape Belief*. This book is the second volume of a series, *Major Voices in American Theology*. Among the names listed by the author as significant, because of the way in which they are applying theological ideas in various spheres of thought, are five members of the Princeton

Seminary Faculty, a larger number than is listed from any other seminary in the country. Clearly a new heyday is approaching, a tomorrow for which many have longed and prayed. Of the seventeen so-called "Major Voices" whose work is discussed by Dr. Soper in his two volumes, the only administrator in the group, for whom theological writing has had to be largely extracurricular, and who has never thought of himself as a technical theologian, is also a member of the Princeton Seminary family.

IV

A further word should be added about the Faculty. At the beginning of the second term, that is, early in January, we had the joy of welcoming to the campus the new professor of Homiletics, Dr. James W. Clarke, pastor for ten years of the Second Presbyterian Church, St. Louis. Dr. Clarke has come to us from one of the leading churches of the nation where he achieved a great reputation as a preacher and pastor. Impelled by a profound sense of vocation and a desire to dedicate all that he has during the years that remain to the training of young men for the Christian ministry, he left his parish at a very great financial sacrifice. His presence in our midst as the first incumbent of the new Francis Landey Patton Chair of Homiletics has brought a great thrill to our entire Seminary community.

During the third term of the present school year, three Faculty colleagues are on Sabbatical leave. Paul L. Lehmann is in Strasbourg, France, where he is engaged in research on some of the unpublished writings of John Calvin, and completing work on a new book on Christian ethics. Hugh T. Kerr, Jr., is in literary seclusion among the mountains of Mexico. Elmer G. Homrighausen has undertaken a special theological mission to the seminaries and churches of East Asia. His trip is sponsored and financed by the Nanking Seminary Foundation.

V

Many readers of the *Bulletin* will have heard of the new theological fellowship program which has been made possible by money made available by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and which functions under the auspices of The American Association of Theological Schools. The idea of this program is to make fellowships available for Christian young men of exceptional intellectual caliber, just graduated from college, who may not have decided definitely upon the vocation they will follow. During a year's theological study in some seminary of their choice, they are given an opportunity to consider whether the Christian ministry may not be God's will for their

lives. Fifty such fellowships have been awarded for the academic year 1955-56. Several of those Rockefeller fellows have chosen Princeton Seminary as the institution where they desire to study. The experiment is an interesting one, while it also has its perils, and we shall look forward to the outcome in prayer and hope.

I trust that when the next *Bulletin* appears it will contain the news that all the obstacles in the way of erecting our new Robert E. Speer Library have been overcome. May the fall season, when the leaves are turning brown, witness the beginning of operations upon the building for which we have longed and prayed, and which we so desperately need.

Let me conclude these musings by expressing the gratitude of our entire Seminary family to the host of Alumni and friends of the Seminary who in recent months have sent contributions for the on-going work of the institution, or have designated their gifts for special causes. Some of these gifts have come from abroad, from missionaries on the frontiers of the Kingdom and from members of national churches for whom Princeton Seminary is their Alma Mater.

J. A. M.