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THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH COMMENCEMENT

NOTHING brings more cheer to all concerned with the progress of the Seminary than to witness the crowds that throng the old campus at Commencement time. Year by year the Commencement season becomes an ever more significant occasion. Alumni groups begin to vie with each other to have a large representation at reunions. The One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Commencement was in every way a joyous and memorable event.

Exercises this year began with a Baccalaureate sermon by the President of the Seminary in Miller Chapel on the afternoon of Sunday, May 14. They came to a close with the conferring of degrees and an address by the Rev. Dr. Hugh Thomson Kerr, of Pittsburgh, before an assembly of nearly two thousand people, who crowded the nave and gallery of Princeton University Chapel. At this ceremony, which was presided over by the Vice-President of the Board of Trustees, the Rev. Dr. Lewis Seymour Mudge, fifty-nine students received the degree of Bachelor of Theology and twenty-six the degree of Master of Theology. Dr. Kerr's address on "The Miracle of Preaching," was most inspiring. We are happy to reproduce it in the present number of the BULLETIN.

If we except the impressive ceremony in the University Chapel, the outstanding event of this Commencement was the Alumni banquet on Monday evening in the University Gymnasium. A company of three hundred and sixty-six sat down to dinner which was presided over by the Vice-President of the Alumni Association, the Rev. Dr. Robert Brewster Beattie, of the First Church of East Orange, New Jersey. Among those present for their fiftieth reunion was Dr. Edward Mack, of the Class of 1889, who a few days later was elected Moderator of the Southern Presbyterian Church. In the course of the evening the Westminster Choir, under the leadership of Dr. Williamson, sang some choice numbers. As usual, an unforgettable feature of the gathering was the singing of old club favorites under the direction of that loved and inimitable conductor, Dr. Charles R. Erdman. Two brief addresses were given, one by the Rev. Harold E. Nicely '24, Pastor of the Brick Church, Rochester, New York; the other by the President of the Seminary.

The principal address of the evening was made by Dr. Theodore M. Greene, Professor of Philosophy in Princeton University. His subject was "The Gospel and Modern Man." This was one of the greatest and most significant discourses to which

many of those present had ever listened. With perfect diction, rich sonorous voice, matchless precision of expression and passionate earnestness, this great Christian layman opened up the religious situation in our time. In doing so, he sounded a ringing challenge to the Church and the clergy to meet the needs of our contemporaries. Professor Greene's masterly dissertation, in somewhat more extended form, is also printed in the present number of the BULLETIN.

The sentiment has sometimes been expressed that in recent years the schedule on Commencement Monday has been too crowded. An attempt was made this year to remove the ground of this criticism. In order to allow more time for club luncheons, the afternoon address in Miller Chapel was omitted. That made it possible for the club reunions to enjoy unhurried fellowship until the hour of the President's reception. Next year a further modification in the daily schedule will be introduced. The Trustees have agreed to meet in the morning instead of the afternoon of Monday. That will make it possible for members of the Board of Trustees and the President of the Seminary to attend club and class reunions, and so come into more intimate and leisurely contact with Alumni than has hitherto been possible.

Glorious weather conditions favored the Monday afternoon reception by President and Mrs. Mackay on the lawn at Springdale. The lateness of the Spring kept the dogwood in bloom to grace the occasion.

With the passing of the One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Annual Commencement there came to a close a very remarkable year in Seminary history. It was a year marked by unusual intellectual stimulation. To this the presence on the campus of Dr. Emil Brunner, as Guest Professor of Systematic Theology, undoubtedly contributed in no small measure. Healthy theological discussion, carried on in the finest Christian spirit, overflowed the bounds of the classrooms, invading the dormitories and clubs. It was not that we accepted all that Dr. Brunner said by any means. In several matters we differed from him, Faculty and students alike. But he stirred the campus in a creative way by his effort to refocus and restate the everlasting verities. Senior and Graduate Students who took farewell of their Alma Mater at this Commencement had been unusually challenged to new standards of achievement in thought and action.

JOHN A. MACKAY