

Union Theological Seminary in Virginia

Centennial Celebration

OCTOBER THIRTEENTH AND SIXTEENTH,
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TWELVE.



RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
1912.

GREETINGS FROM COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

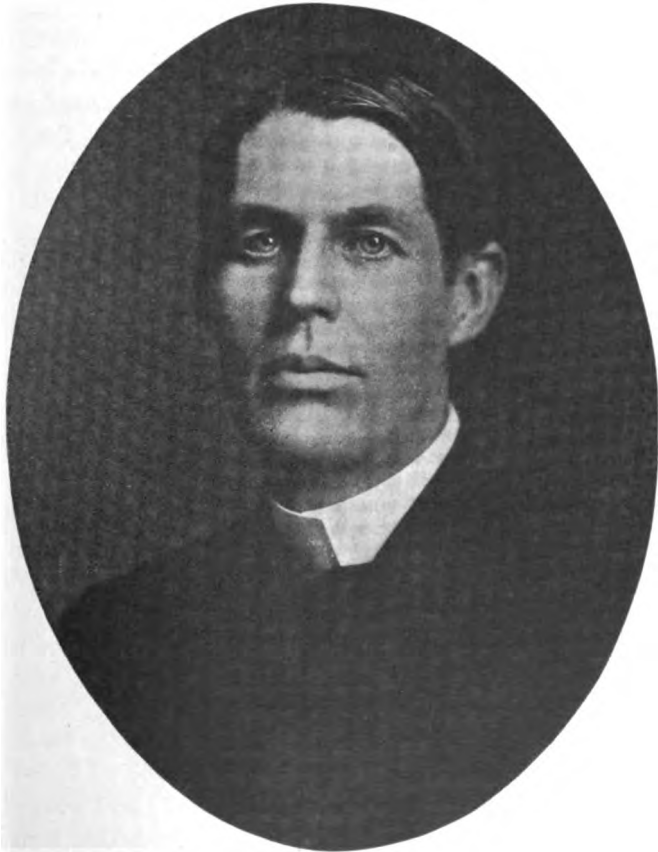
BY THE REV. PROFESSOR WILLIAM MARCELLUS M'PHEETERS,
D. D., LL. D.

MR. PRESIDENT:

My colleagues of the faculty of Columbia Theological Seminary have been good enough to appoint me their representative to convey to you and to those whom you represent their cordial congratulations in connection with the happy event that you are this day celebrating.

I assure you that I esteem it no small honor to be privileged upon an occasion like this to bring to the board, the faculty, and the alumni of this noble institution the fel citations and best wishes of its oldest sister among our theological schools. Being myself an alumnus of Union Seminary I can, I think, enter fully into the feelings of devout gratitude with which you must contemplate the great goodness with which God has been pleased to crown its century of effective service to Himself and to His Church.

I congratulate you upon the truly inspiring record which, under God, Union Seminary has made for itself during its past. Whether one turns to the roster of its faculty or of its alumni he cannot fail to be struck with the number of names he encounters of those whom the Church has delighted to honor. The foreign and the home field, the city, the village, and the country pulpit and pastorate, the editor's and the professor's chair, the administrative and other agencies of our Church, all alike bear witness both to the extent and to the value of the service rendered to our beloved Church by Union Seminary. Happy the institution that has behind it such a record. Happy the institution that has behind it a century of such memories, tradi-



THERON H. RICE.

tions and achievements—memories, traditions and achievements that are at once a challenge and an inspiration.

But I congratulate you and those whom you represent not only upon the past of your Seminary—nay, permit me to say our Seminary, my Alma Mater—but also upon its present: upon its commodious and beautiful site, its admirable plant, its increased endowments, its harmonious and devoted constituency, its generous benefactors, its loyal alumni, its large and growing student body, its faculty of learned and godly men, known and beloved throughout the entire Church. When we compare its present enlargement along so many lines with its small beginnings and its prolonged periods of straitness and struggle, it is meet that we should pause and say thoughtfully and seriously, Lo! what hath God wrought.

And now I shall venture to go even one step farther and congratulate you and those whom you represent upon the splendid possibilities that God has set before your beloved school for the future. I need not state in this presence that when all is said it is not increase in mere material equipment, nor in learned professors, nor in gifted and eager students that will suffice to place or to keep the future of this institution upon a level with the record of its past. Hence if I venture to congratulate you upon the future that is before it, I do so in the hope and belief that its increased equipment and growing student body will enable it to send forth a larger number of better trained witnesses for God's precious truth. I need scarcely say that such witnesses were never more needed than they are to-day. May it be the glory of my Alma Mater in the future, as it has been in the past, that those who pass through her halls shall be found to be men who know the truth, who love the truth, and who witness for the truth faithfully, fearlessly, tenderly; whether men hear, or whether they forbear.

On behalf of my colleagues one and all, Mr. President, once more I congratulate you and wish you Godspeed.