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IN MEMORIAM

SINCE the July number of the BULLETIN was issued, there has passed away from us the one who for twenty-two years administered the affairs of Princeton Seminary, and whose pen, during those years, supplied much of the material for this Seminary publication. We regret to have to announce in this formal and official way the death of Dr. J. Ross Stevenson, President Emeritus of Princeton Theological Seminary. Most of our readers will already have heard from other sources of his lamented death; some in remote corners of the world will perchance learn it from these pages for the first time.

In the spring of the present year Dr. Stevenson was suddenly taken ill and underwent a serious operation. He did not recover strength as he should normally have done, and it became evident that still another operation was necessary. The patient was accordingly removed from the Princeton Hospital to the Harkness Pavilion of the Presbyterian Hospital, New York, where he was operated upon again. All appeared to be going well, when suddenly one Sabbath morning, August 13, and totally unexpected by the hospital staff, our former leader passed away. The funeral service was held in Miller Chapel the following Wednesday, in the presence of a large company of relatives and friends, after which the remains of Dr. Stevenson were laid to rest among Princeton's great in the local cemetery.

I first met Dr. Stevenson in 1914 when a student in my Senior year in the Seminary. That year he came to Princeton as our new President. He taught our class a course on missions, using as his text-book one of the volumes of the Report of the Edinburgh Missionary Conference of 1910. He had himself been a leading member of that famous gathering which inaugurated the modern ecumenical movement. We saw him, therefore, on the first hour he met us as a class in the framework of his two master passions—foreign missions and the unity of the Church of Christ. These were the two foci in which moved the life and thought of the new President of Princeton Seminary. Fourteen years passed ere I saw him again. The gracious hospitality with which I was received at Springdale by Dr. and Mrs. Stevenson when I gave the Students' Lectures on Missions made a lasting impression upon me. In the quality of that welcome I was being introduced to a vital part of the Princeton tradition.

Dr. Stevenson was a quiet, affectionate, peace-loving man, whose lot it was to spend a large part of his public life as President of Princeton Seminary in times of storm. To begin with, he had scarcely begun to take up the reins of office when he was drafted for an important position among the religious leaders that accompanied the American Army to France in 1917. When he was again settling down in the idyllic calm of Princeton, his mind full of plans to carry forward its great tradition into the new day, there broke over the campus a theological tempest. Before its force was spent the Seminary family had been rent. That controversy and the schism which followed it had unfortunate repercussions in the Presbyterian and other churches, not to speak of the nation at large. Looking at the matter in retrospect, one can say that in that conflict the Princeton tradition, the tradition that shall never die, was worthily incarnated in the person and attitude of President Stevenson.

During the interval between his return from the Great War and the beginning of the Princeton controversy, Dr. Stevenson erected a memorial on the Seminary campus in the form of Payne Hall. This noble building for furloughed missionaries, which Dr. Stevenson was able to erect with the cooperation of his life-long friends, Dr. and Mrs. Charles R. Erdman, is a testimonial to his zeal for foreign missions and to his care for the men and women who represent Christ abroad. After the theological storm had abated, he transformed and transported to a new site the old Miller Chapel. The colonial beauty of the new chapel is a perfect reflection of President Stevenson's spirit. In its chaste loveliness, he enshrined the dream that, in all matters pertaining to the Seminary, the glory of the latter house might be greater than the glory of the former house.

An historic event took place in Springdale when it was the Stevenson home. At a representative gathering of Churchmen held in the familiar living room of that old house, through which successive generations of Princeton Seminary Alumni have filed at Commencement time, the project of a World Council of Churches was launched by the Archbishop of York. Dr. Stevenson had dreamed of Christian unity and had worked for it. In the centre of his own home was born a project which his heart had pursued through all the years of his life. By this, perhaps, more than by any other circumstance will he be remembered by the generations to come. It was fitting that Dr. Stevenson should be the chief representative of American Christianity in the city of Utrecht where the Council became a reality in 1938.

On December 5 a Memorial Service was held in Miller Chapel. Besides the Trustees, and Faculty, and student body, the representatives of many organizations were present to do homage to the memory of the former President. It was appropriate that Dr. Robert E. Speer, one of his closest life-long friends, with whom for fifty years he had been associated in foreign missionary concerns, should make an address on that occasion on "Dr. Stevenson as a Presbyterian Churchman." It was equally fitting that the subject "Dr. Stevenson as an Ecu-



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menical Churchman" should be dealt with by Dr. Howard Chandler Robbins, a distinguished representative of the great Episcopal communion, with which Dr. Stevenson had long sought closer and more friendly relations. These two addresses, together with the special memorial minutes adopted by the Board of Trustees and the Faculty of the Seminary, are published in this issue of the BULLETIN.

The sympathy of our whole Seminary family—Trustees, Faculty, students, and Alumni—goes out to those whom Dr. Stevenson has left behind him, very especially to his beloved life partner, who has been a gracious "Mother in Israel" to many generations of Seminary students. And, while men come and go, may God make this place of memories and dreams like the Holy City itself, a "praise in the earth," a nursery of prophetic souls.

JOHN A. MACKAY