

# THE PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED REVIEW

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## I.

### ALBRECHT RITSCHL.\*

ON almost any morning just before the nine o'clock hour for university lectures in the University of Göttingen, about the year 1880, there might have been seen making his way along the wall, from the Albani Gate to the Auditorium, a striking personality. Rather short and stout, he moved with a brisk, active step, alert to every impression from without. His face revealed a character in which strength predominated. Good-natured and frank in expression, bluff and hearty in address, he was imperious in his manner, and his full lips and mobile mouth suggested the capacity of sudden anger and blunt utterance, of which further acquaintance would have undoubtedly soon afforded illustrations. If the observer had followed him to the lecture-room, he would have found him earnest, rapid in his delivery, polemic in his tone, now illuminating the theme with a touch of humor, often expressing scorn of something low or contemptible, not always immediately intelligible, but upon the whole possessing an eminent power of instructive discourse, and animated by the highest intellectual and ethical ideals. In his study at home, whither an inquiring student might follow him, the reception would depend something upon the humor of the moment, but more upon the idea of the purpose of the visitor which would formulate itself, generally with too much rapidity, in his mind. If he thought him candid, docile and accessible to the new ideas which the teacher had to give, he would be suggestive, kind and helpful; but one must be

\**Albrecht Ritschls Leben*. Dargestellt von Otto Ritschl. Two volumes, Freiburg, 1892 and 1896.

## VIII.

### EDITORIAL NOTE.

#### THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF PROF. S. M. WOODBRIDGE'S PROFESSORSHIP.

THE Rev. Samuel Merrill Woodbridge, D.D., LL.D., has long been connected in editorial relations with this REVIEW, and it gladly extends its congratulations to him on his recent completion of forty years of successful service in the chair of Historical Theology in the New Brunswick Theological Seminary. This event was fittingly celebrated by the Alumni Association of that institution, May 20, 1897. The Rev. J. McClellan Holmes, D.D., of the State Street Presbyterian Church of Albany, N. Y., presided with happy grace. Prayer was offered by the Rev. Prof. D. D. Demarest, D.D., LL.D., for thirty-two years a colleague with Dr. Woodbridge in the seminary Faculty. The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America conveyed its congratulations through the venerable Rev. C. Van Santvoord, D.D., who was President of the Synod at the time of Dr. Woodbridge's election as professor. President Austin Scott, LL.D., of Rutgers College, in a few well-chosen words, presented the greetings of this allied institution, and, as President for the current year of the Board of Superintendents of the seminary, voiced the felicitations of that body. Dr. Woodbridge himself then made an address which was the feature of the whole occasion. With all his old-time eloquence and with a vigor which most young men might envy, he spoke of *A Living Conservatism*. It is impossible to condense this forceful and timely address or even to recount with justice the multiplied points made in reference to the vital relation of conservative influences to the theological and ethical movements of the day.

Following this came the greetings on behalf of Dr. Woodbridge's pupils. The Committee had arranged a classification here. First, the large number of pupils who have themselves become professors of theology, including four Presidents of seminaries, were represented by President C. D. Hartranft, D.D., of Hartford, who spoke upon Dr. Woodbridge as the great preacher, and by the Rev. Prof. J. G. Lansing, D.D., of New Brunswick, who spoke of him as a teacher and colleague. Then the undergraduates were heard through Raymond A. Lansing of the Senior class in a model three-minute speech. The succeeding addresses were by representatives of pupils in the pastorate. Rev. W. H. S. Dema-

rest, of Catskill, N. Y., recounted some of the work done by Dr. Woodbridge outside of his own classroom, and notably as *ad interim* professor of Systematic Theology during two vacancies in that department. The Rev. Dennis Wortman, D.D., of Saugerties, N. Y., of the first class to complete its entire course under Dr. Woodbridge, spoke with much genial humor of the large result of the educating influence exercised on the young professor by that class, and of the 15,000 years of preaching by his pupils which the doctor had helped to shape in these forty years of teaching.

Whatever the special line of congratulation followed by all these pupil-speakers, there was one note which sounded constantly in every utterance and met with as constant an echo from the large audience of alumni who listened, the note of profound personal affection for the beautiful personal character which God has made a well-spring of blessing to every one who has sat beneath Dr. Woodbridge's instructions.

Letters of greeting from sister seminaries and from Prof. J. W. Beardslee, D.D., of the Western Seminary of the Reformed Church, and President Raymond of Union College, who were prevented by illness from filling their places on the list of speakers, were followed by two charming fraternal addresses, the first by Rev. Prof. John DeWitt, D.D., LL.D., who, with Rev. Prof. Geerhardus Vos, D.D., represented Princeton Theological Seminary, and by Rev. Prof. James I. Good, D.D., of the Theological department of Ursinus College.

In almost a single sentence preceding the benediction, the venerable professor, who was the subject of all these congratulations, acknowledged them, and with hands laid reverently upon the Bible before him and with a force making lasting impress upon all who heard, declared that all uttered that day of truth was due under God to the Book, and the Book alone.