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Robert E. Speer Missionary Statesman

*Secretary Presbyterian Board of
Foreign Missions Since 1891*

*Moderator Presbyterian
General Assembly 1927*

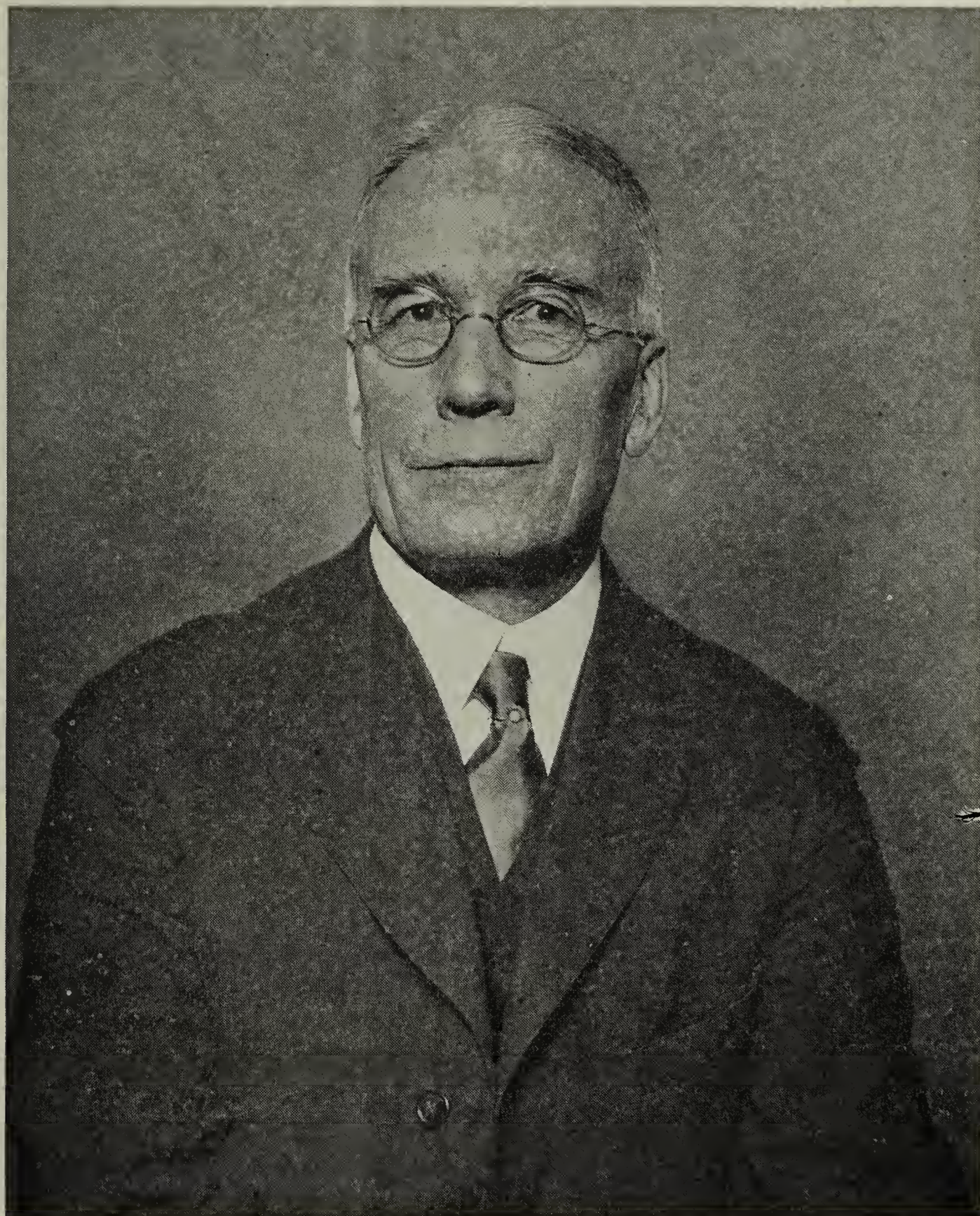
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Walter Irving Clarke, Manager

The material assembled in this booklet is designed to bring together into one convenient form information concerning Dr. Robert Elliott Speer, for many years secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, and Moderator of the 1927 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. at San Francisco.

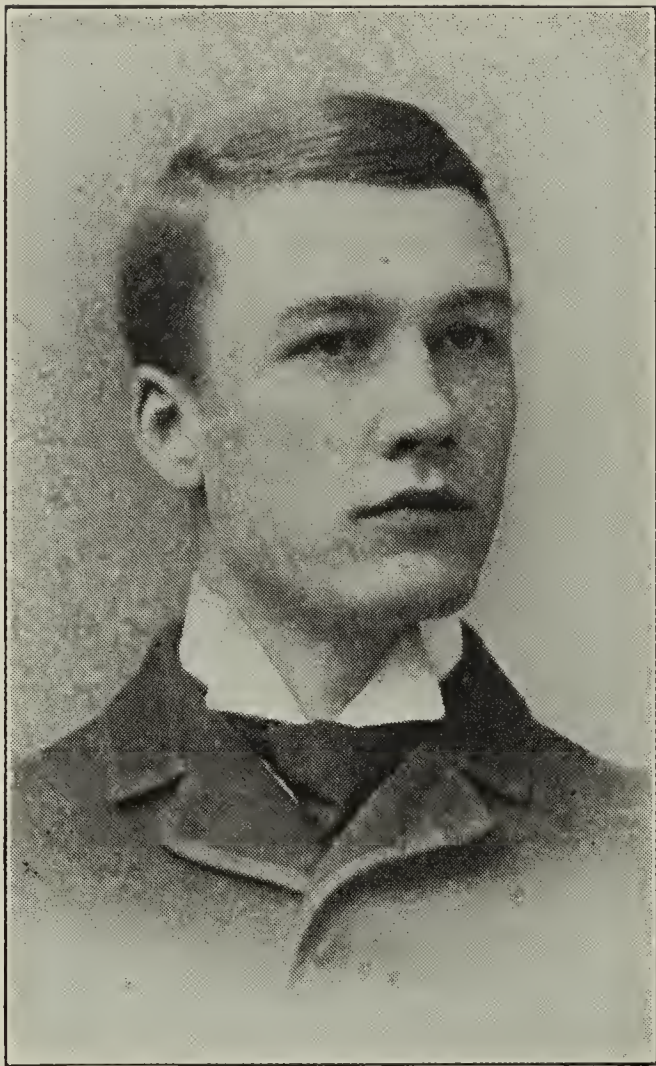
There is a large demand from all over the field for such a pamphlet as this in connection with the world-wide work of the church and various phases of its local programme.

Dr. Speer has always been consistently diffident concerning his own personality as related to the promotion of the church. He has steadfastly clung to a personal prejudice against modern publicity. During my term of office as national publicity director for the Presbyterian Church, now entering on the ninth year, I have respected Dr. Speer's personal feelings. But today he belongs to the church, and the church insists upon definite and detailed information concerning the first layman who was ever elected Moderator of the General Assembly unanimously, by acclamation, and without one opposing nominee.

WALTER IRVING CLARKE.



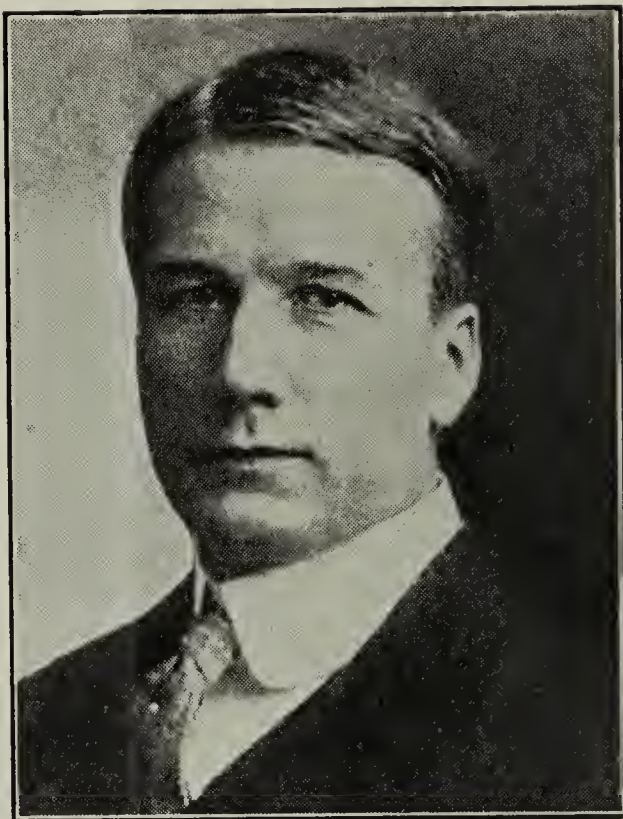
This likeness of Dr. Robert E. Speer was photographed immediately after his election as Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly in San Francisco, 1927. Thanks are due to The Presbyterian Magazine for the loan of this cut, which first appeared in the pages of that official medium of the Presbyterian Boards.



Dr. Speer as a Student

On page 6 of this booklet Dr. Hunter refers to the current issue of *The Intercollegian* as printing a youthful portrait of Dr. Speer in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Student Christian Movement. We asked the editor of *The Intercollegian* to lend us that cut. Because it was in much demand elsewhere, there was considerable difficulty in obtaining it; but, thanks to M. H. Blank of the Student Department of the National Council of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the U. S. A., New York City, we are privileged to use the cut in column 1 of this page. Inasmuch as the cut is the property of the Student Volunteer Movement, we are grateful also to that organization and to Jesse Wilson of its New York offices.

Robert Elliott Speer was born in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, September 10, 1867, the son of Hon. Robert Milton and Martha Ellen McMurtrie Speer. He married Miss Emma Doll Bailey of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, April 20, 1893. Their children are Elliott, Margaret, Eleanor (deceased),



Constance and William. Mr. Speer received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of Edinburgh in 1910 and the degree of LL.D. from Rutgers in 1920. He has been Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions since 1891. His home is in Englewood, New Jersey, and his headquarters are at the Presbyterian Building, 156 Fifth avenue, New York, N. Y.

The picture in column 2 of this page shows Dr. Speer as he appeared in his earlier days in the secretarial work of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. We are indebted for this cut to Miss Neva Palmeter, Office Secretary of the New York State Christian Endeavor Union at Buffalo. It is reprinted from *The Empire State Endeavorer* for May-June, 1927, in connection with the fact that Dr. Speer was one of the leading speakers at the State Christian Endeavor Convention.

(From *The Presbyterian Magazine*, July, 1927.)

Robert Elliott Speer, D.D., LL.D., the Moderator of General Assembly, cannot be introduced to the Presbyterian Church. He is built into the church as into many national and international Christian movements.

Minister Appraises Moderator

Dr. Stanley Armstrong Hunter of Berkeley, California, was chairman of the local publicity committee for the 1927 General Assembly at San Francisco. His advance publicity work was remarkably efficient and thorough. At the close of the Assembly he delivered a sermon in St. John's Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, which contains an excellent biographical review of Moderator Speer. It is reproduced herewith from the columns of The Daily Gazette of Berkeley as printed therein on Monday, June 6, 1927:

"Dr. Robert E. Speer and the Recent Presbyterian General Assembly," was the sermon subject of Dr. Stanley Armstrong Hunter, pastor of St. John's Presbyterian Church yesterday morning. Dr. Hunter spoke first of the adoption of the report of the special commission of 1925 which declared "never was there a clearer or more commanding call that the church advance in her organized corporate work at home and on foreign fields." He then showed that in Dr. Speer a leader for this advance has been found. His address follows:

The election of Dr. Robert E. Speer, senior secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, as Moderator on May 26, was the outstanding event of the 139th Presbyterian General Assembly in San Francisco. Dr. Speer was literally drafted for the service for he previously declined to allow his name to be presented for the honor. From all over the country there had come requests that he accept this office. When the Assembly met all those whose names had previously been suggested withdrew and Dr. Speer was nominated by a Philadelphia layman, Mr. J. Willison Smith, an elder in St. Paul Church, who spoke appreciatively of the influence which Dr. Speer had exerted upon him in his early manhood. The seconding speech was by Dr. Hugh K. Walker, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles, whose friends

also had been advocating his selection as Moderator.

Dr. Speer presided over the week's sessions with great tact and ability, and the addresses which he gave were marked by spiritual fervor and true eloquence. On several occasions he revealed great versatility. When the clerk of the Synod of Mexico spoke to the Assembly through an interpreter, Dr. Speer replied to him in Spanish. The next greeting was read by a missionary from Korea who represented the General Assembly of the church in that country. It was suggested that Dr. Speer reply in Korean to this. He mentioned the fact that he had been present at the last meeting of the General Assembly of the Korean Church in which the man who was appointed Moderator sought in every possible way to avoid the honor and was only prevailed upon to accept when his brethren claimed that his two years of prison experience had made the choice most fitting. Dr. Speer added that he had been in prison for "the faith."

When he was inducted into office he declared: "I have earnestly hoped and prayed that this might not be done, that you might have found some one else far more worthy and far more capable to serve the church. Of all the good friends whose names have been suggested there is not one who is not a dear personal friend, and each could serve the church better than I. More and more as the

years go by, one comes to see that the strength of every church lies in its pastors. No church can do too much to glorify and dignify the task of the pastor. I had hoped that you might have chosen a pastor, a leader of a definite flock. He ought to be an old pastor, if possible an old country pastor who had toiled in some quiet place. It would be a joy to lift such an one into this highest honor, an accomplishment of our belated obligations. Now at the 125th anniversary of our work of National Missions, it would have been fitting to have chosen for Moderator an old home missionary pastor as we meet here on the westernmost frontier of our land. I feel by your choice of me that this Assembly wants to bear a sure and clear testimony, to assert to the whole world in these days of unrest and upheaval and of questioning, in clear and unequivocal terms, the deathless tenacity by which we intend to hold to our missionary obligation and purpose. We want also to show the indissoluble unity of our fellowship. We are not divided. We mean to find the way through our difficulties in loyalty to our convictions and our Lord. I ask you to pray that the Holy Spirit may come upon us and guide us in this first hour until the last. Personally I feel the deepest unworthiness in standing here, but I accept this honor for the Presbytery of Jersey City which has never had a Moderator, and for the Presbytery of my boyhood."

Boyhood Influences

Hereupon Dr. Speer paid a beautiful tribute to the little Pennsylvania church in "Huntington among the Hills." The pastor of that church for the last twenty years, Rev. R. P. Daubenspeck, who was sitting as a commissioner, was one of the happiest men in the assembly. He told me later that although that church of 600 members was organized one hundred and thirty-eight years ago, just a year after the meeting of the first General Assembly, it had been served by only eight pastors. He spoke of the great honor in which Dr. Speer is held in that community, and referred to the godly influence of Judge R. M. Speer, a trustee of the church, who brought

up his children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. At the closing session of the Assembly as the Moderator pleaded for a renewed devotion to the family altar, he referred to the work of his father who had his children first of all learn the Infant Catechism, then the Shorter Catechism, and finally the Larger Catechism. As a lad of fifteen when he went off to school he knew a great many of the Psalms by heart, as well as the Genesis story of creation. He told also the influence of a Bible text that stood above the chancel of the old church of his boyhood, as he spoke of the need of greater reverence in our modern religious life. It was—"Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Another text similarly placed in the recess of the church of his boyhood was "Holiness becometh Thy house forever."

All over the Assembly among the five hundred ministerial and five hundred lay delegates there sat many men who could testify to the quickening influence which Dr. Speer's address had brought them in times past. On next September 10, 1927, he will be sixty years old. For the last forty years he has been constantly speaking to great multitudes of people. Before he was graduated from Princeton in 1889, in the same class with Lewis Seymour Mudge who stood beside him on the platform as Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, he was active in intercollegiate Christian work. In the current number of "The Intercollegian," which is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Student Christian movement, is a youthful portrait of him. Although time has left the marks of gray on his temples, he still speaks with youthful fervor and power. Dr. Speer stands well over six feet in height and has kept the athletic figure of his football days. In those foot hills of Pennsylvania one of his boyhood diversions was running through the forests and beating the deer out of their coverts into the runways where the hunters awaited them.

Missionary Journeyings

That rigorous training has stood him in good stead, for in his missionary journeys he has been called upon

to endure hardships. In 1896 he visited Persia, India, China, Korea, and Japan, and in 1899 went to South America. In 1915 he went to Siam as well as China and the Philippines, and in 1921 journeyed again through India and Persia. In 1926 he visited China and Japan. Practically all of the out of the way mission stations of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in sixteen countries have been studied at first hand. On these journeys he has amazed his missionary companions who are accustomed to the strange food and the inconvenience of travel by his adaptability to strange conditions. On many of these journeys he has walked long distances in preference to other means of transportation. There is in Berkeley today a retired missionary from Persia who is proud of the care which he was able to extend to Dr. Speer in 1896 in his own home when he nursed him through an attack of typhoid fever. The dedication of his book "Missions and Politics in Asia," in gratitude was "to the missionaries of Hamadan, Persia." His associates on these travels have often been surprised at the hard course of reading which he sets himself to accomplish. He keeps abreast of the best in modern literature, averaging two books a week. Through the careful husbanding of every moment of his time he has been able to write more than twenty volumes. It is characteristic of him that his first book written in 1896 is "The Man Christ Jesus." Some of his most popular volumes have been biographical sketches of missionaries. His book on Dr. Cochrane of Persia,—"A Memorial of a True Life"—was the first of this nature. In 1903 after the Boxer uprising he wrote the memorial of Horace Tracy Pitkin. In 1914 he published his book, "Studies in Missionary Leadership," included in which is a sketch of Walter Lowrie, his predecessor in the work of the secretaryship of the board, and five other missionary statesmen. In 1911 he wrote the study book, "The Light of the World," which reveals

a wide acquaintance and correspondence with the leaders of the Christian church in non-Christian lands.

Outstanding Missionary Statesman

Dr. Speer's writings have made him the outstanding missionary statesman in the world today. No man living has more friends, in India, China and Japan, and indeed in all parts of the world, than he. They are the kind of friends who pray for him daily.

Some occupy high administrative posts; many are humble and lowly people. In his book on "The Stuff of Manhood," the Merrick Lectures in Ohio State University for 1917, he declares:

"Every one ought to roughen life by friendships that will bring into it those influences which are not naturally in our daily associations and will carry us into contact with men and women who struggle harder than we do. A few such friendships will help to keep life from petrification and to make us aware that the world is under a cross, and that our hearts must be as open to all its needs as the heart of the Father of human life is open always."

At the recent Presbyterian General Assembly he seemed able to call by name nearly every commissioner who rose to speak. In missionary homes throughout the world his name is a household word. Thousands of people in the Orient think of America in the light of their knowledge of him. In the closing moments of the General Assembly he spoke of the influence of Henry Clay Trumbull upon his own life, and his book on "Friendship" he declared to be the best.

Mr. Speer, as he prefers to be known, is a layman. He was called in 1891 to the Board of Foreign Missions before graduation from Princeton Theological Seminary and has never been ordained. In 1910 at the time of the great world missionary conference in Edinburgh, the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him, but it was only after the repeated urging of his friends, like Dr. John R. Mott, that he could be prevailed upon to accept this honor. I saw there in Edinburgh in the sessions of that great mission-

ary conference how he was regarded by the authorities in other churches.

Mr. Speer was married on April 20, 1893, to Miss Emma Bailey of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, who was an under-graduate at Bryn Mawr College. For the last twenty-one years she has been a member of the National Board of the Young Woman's Christian Association, and has occupied the position of president of the board since 1915. Their eldest son Elliott is now head of the schools at Northfield, Mass., founded by Dwight L. Moody, where Dr. Speer has so often spoken at summer conferences. A daughter, Margaret, is a missionary in Yeng Ching University, Peking, China, and another son and daughter are studying in this country.

An Interdenominational Leader

Although a denominational secretary, Dr. Speer has been a great worker for inter-church causes. Six years ago he was elected president of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, and for four years afforded excellent leadership to this great organization giving himself tirelessly to the prosecution of its ends. During the war period he was a member of the Advisory Committee on Religious and Moral Activities of the army and navy, one of his responsibilities being the selection and preparation of literature which the Young Men's Christian Association distributed widely. Favorable mention is made of his services in the history of the Y. M. C. A. war work. Dr. Speer has been one of the leaders in the Student Christian Movement and has spoken at most of the Student Volunteer Conventions of recent years. His book, "Of One Blood," published in 1924 by the Missionary Education Movement and the Council of Women for Home Missions, was used in thousands of churches. The opening sentences of this book are typical of Mr. Speer's general view point:

"The deepest conviction back of this book is that the Son of God, Jesus Christ, is the one solution of the race problem as of every other moral and social problem. He came

to be the Saviour of the world and to establish on earth the Kingdom of God. Race wrong and injustice are sin, and Christ came to save man from sin, the sin of each man and the sin of the race. When all men, or enough men, love and obey Him, race misunderstanding and maladjustment will come to an end, and all peoples will walk and work together in peace and unity. These pages begin with this conviction and end with it."

Some of Dr. Speer's best known books are collected character sketches of modern Christians, "men who have been found faithful." In a book by this title he gives the life story of General Armstrong and Dr. H. C. Trumbull. Others described are John Lawrence Thurston, Henry Dickinson Smith, Samuel Mills, Neesima, James Chalmers, John Leete Rogers, Harold Arthur Watres, Wallace Somerville Faris, Peter Carter, Arthur Tappan Pierson, William Rogers Richards.

In this book he says: "These sketches of real men show that the same Power which worked upon life and character in the first Christian century is at work in the world today. The idea that Christ cannot do as much for us now as He used to do for men, and that He is not doing as much now as ever in the history of the world, is a mistaken idea." From these books it is easy to find who his heroes are—many a schoolboy has learned to love General Gordon because of him.

When I asked one of his colleagues who was in attendance at the Assembly what he thought was an outstanding characteristic of Dr. Speer, he referred me to the first chapter in his book, "The Stuff of Manhood." This first chapter is entitled, "Discipline and Austerity." This is a chapter with many quotable sentences, but we must content ourselves with this:

"All men and women who want to be masters of their lives and to have strength to lay beneath the work of the world must ask God that such discipline may be given to them. Not alone is this the only kind of train-

ing that can produce this kind of character, but unless a man learns control from without, he will never learn self-control. Unless he passes under the discipline of a wiser and stronger hand at the beginning, he will never come to the time of deliberate and moral self-discipline, which alone is character. For this only is character—the binding of life beneath the firm sovereignty of the principle that is the heart of God.”

His Deep Spirituality

The abiding impression which Dr. Speer leaves on all those with whom he comes in contact is not so much his great intellectuality, his moving eloquence, his administrative and executive ability, his genius for friendship, as it is his deep and abiding spirituality. His prayers reveal a soul sensitive to God’s presence and wide open to His influence. Journeying across San Francisco Bay with him on the ferry boat, I ventured to ask him his favorite hymns. I think that the five which he mentioned reveal a great deal of his own religious life. He spoke first of Oliver Wendell Holmes’:

“Lord of all being thronged afar,
Thy glory flames from sun and star;
Centre and soul of every sphere,
Yet to each loving heart how near!”

This is a hymn which inculcates reverence. Next he referred to John Ellerton’s hymn, “The day Thou gavest, Lord, is Ended.” This is a missionary hymn as these last three verses show:

“As o’er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
For dies the strain of praise away.

The sun, that bids us rest, is waking
Our brethren ’neath the western
sky,

And hour by hour fresh lips are making
ing

Thy wondrous doings heard on
high.

So be it, Lord; Thy throne shall
never,

Like earth’s proud empires, pass
away;

But stand, and rule, and grow for
ever,

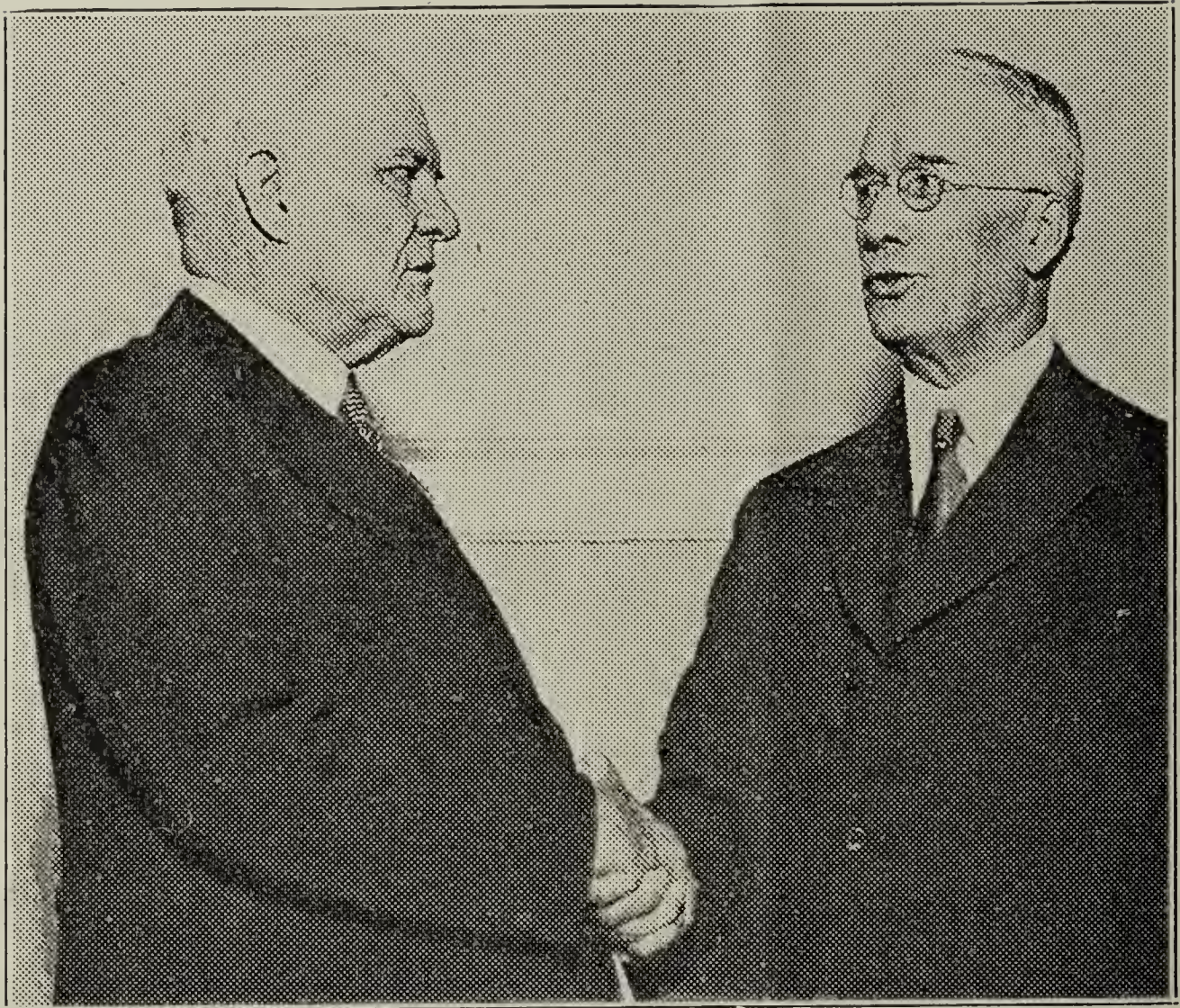
Till all Thy creatures own Thy
sway.”

He told me how five years ago on that arduous journey through Persia when his wagon was snow bound and he had to wait for over a day and a night in a miserable Persian khan, he pieced together this hymn line by line and rejoiced that he was able finally to have it complete. Another favorite hymn he said is “O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling” of Mary Ann Thomson. This is one of the best modern hymns of missions and stewardship with a ringing appeal to the church. Lastly he mentioned Faber’s “Faith of Our Fathers!”

His Closing Suggestions

Dr. Speer in bringing the 139th Presbyterian General Assembly to a close made five great suggestions to his fellow commissioners. “Our first great obligation,” said he, “this coming year is to be in our own lives loyal disciples of Jesus Christ. The next is the preservation of our great Presbyterian home inheritance in the midst of the challenging conditions of the modern world.”

He pleaded for grace at the family meal, the training of the children at the family altar, and the inculcating of higher ideals for home life. Third he pleaded for more reverence and beauty in religion. “Our fathers were reverent men,” said he, “they treated sacred things as sacred; they had a love of true beauty, which is the beauty of holiness. Do not let beauty and reverence get out of our homes and churches.” His fourth word was for better intellectual equipment with which to set forth the great convictions of Christian faith. “We have an intellectual battle on our hands in this modern world,” he declared. “We believe not in blindness, but reasonably; we must know our foundations.” Lastly he urged the setting of the ideal and the obligation of evangelism in its rightful place.



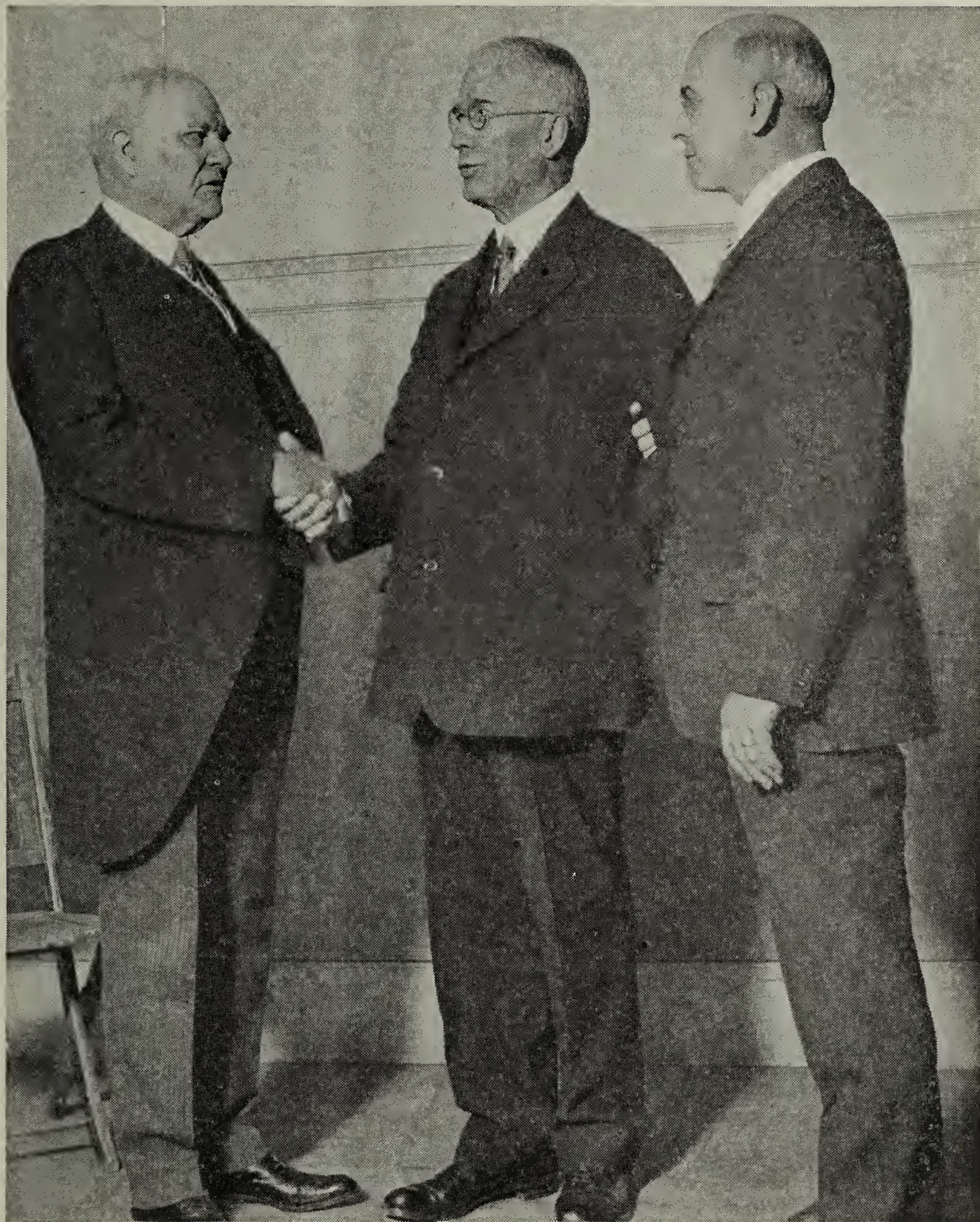
This photograph, showing the new Moderator, Dr. Speer, being received by the retiring Moderator, Dr. William O. Thompson, is a close-up of a portion of a group photograph reproduced on the opposite page. Thanks are due to The Daily Gazette of Berkeley, California, and to The Presbyterian Advance for the use of this cut, in whose columns it first appeared. Thanks are also due to Dr. Stanley Armstrong Hunter for facilitating the loan of the cut.

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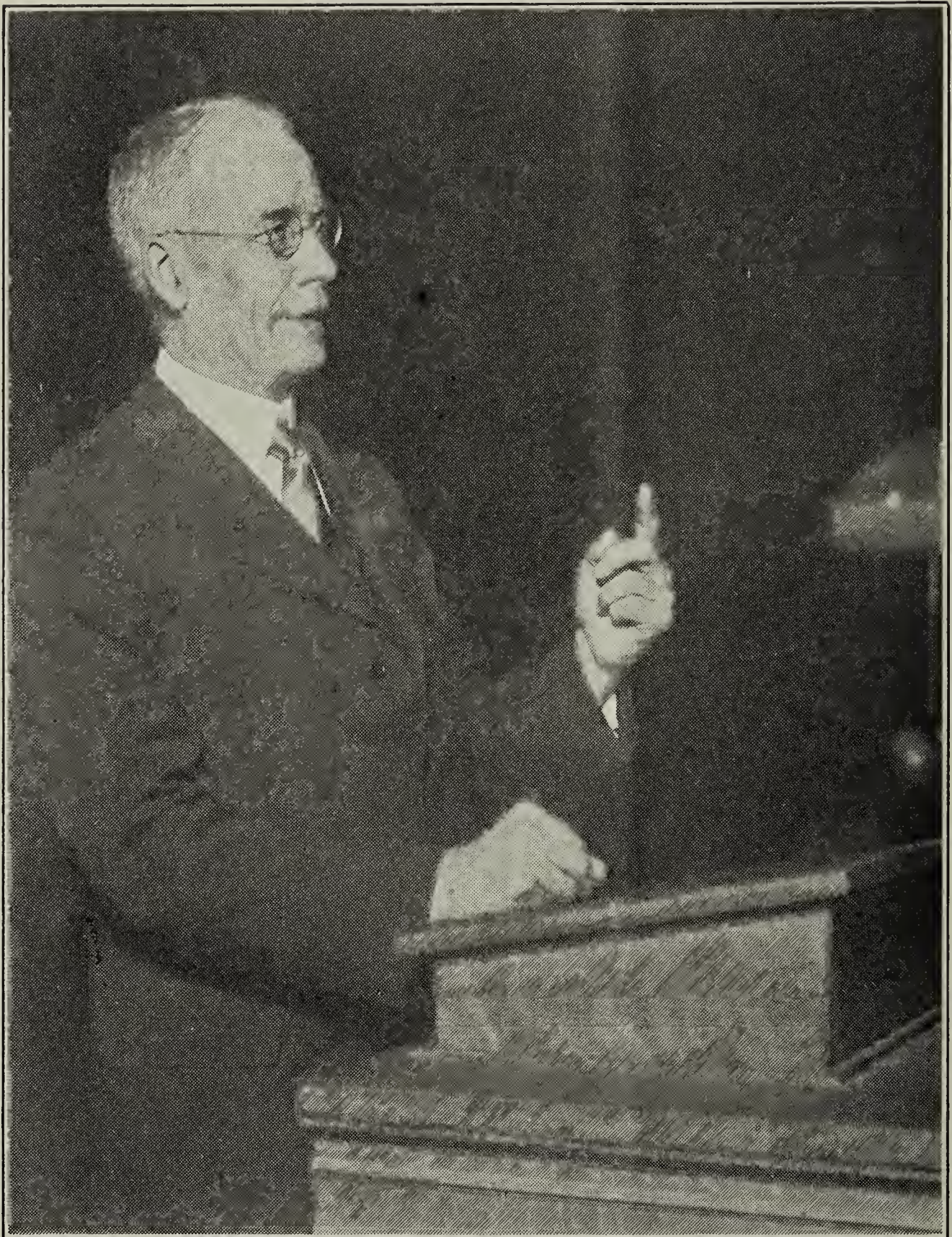
(From the Presbyterian Magazine, July, 1927.)

Moderator-elect Robert Elliott Speer, D.D., LL.D., is presented to retiring Moderator Rev. William Oxley Thompson, D.D., LL.D., by Elder J. Willison Smith of Philadelphia Presbytery. Numerous friends in the larg-

est of Synods, Pennsylvania, had advocated the nomination of Mr. Smith for Moderator. He declined to have his name presented and nominated Dr. Speer. This action, together with the seconding of the nomination by Rev. Hugh K. Walker, D.D., who was also mentioned for the office, was a big factor in making the election of Dr. Speer unanimous by acclamation. Mr. Smith is chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee of General Council and was chairman of Assembly's Standing Committee on Ministerial Relief and Sustentation. He had much to do with the inception and completion of the New Service Pension Plan. At home he is an elder and superintendent of Sunday-school in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, and President of the West End Trust Company. Like Elder Will H. Hays he has done much for the church they love and serve.



The new Moderator, Dr. Robert E. Speer, is here shown shaking hands with the retiring Moderator, Dr. William O. Thompson, after being conducted to the platform by Mr. J. Willison Smith, who nominated Dr. Speer for the office. In further explanation of this picture a short article is reprinted on page 10 from *The Presbyterian Magazine*, which loaned the use of this cut.



Dr. Robert E. Speer has always been camera-shy; but when he was elected Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, newspaper cameras bombarded him from every side and as many as 80 exposures by flashlight resulted. That Moderator Speer yielded gracefully and with patience to this ordeal is manifest by his expression in this picture, which was one of the many newspaper snapshots. We are indebted to The Presbyterian Advance for the loan of this cut.

Moderator Speer in Action at General Assembly

The following facts concerning Moderator Speer's work at the Presbyterian General Assembly in San Francisco are reprinted from various issues of Presbyterian General Assembly Daily News, which is issued by General's Assembly's Publicity Department under the editorship of Walter Irving Clarke:

The 139th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. held its first business session in the Civic Auditorium Thursday afternoon, May 26.

Robert Elliott Speer, D.D., LL.D., of Englewood, New Jersey, senior secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, was unanimously elected Moderator without opposition.

Mr. J. Willison Smith of Philadelphia, President of the West End Trust Company of that city, made the nominating speech. The seconding speech was made by Dr. Hugh K. Walker of Los Angeles.

Mr. Smith said that it was an unusual privilege for him to come from the City of Brotherly Love to nominate for Moderator one who was raised in the foothills of Pennsylvania and one who did not really need a nominating speech. The candidate he would name had served the church faithfully and well in the name of Christ, and had received the call for service in the path of duty before he had finished his studies for the ministry. He had recognized the call to paramount service for the Master and had not only enlisted many other men and women into the service of the Lord but himself had been listened to in countless addresses expressing his consecrated and earnest devotion to the Christian faith. Mr. Smith referred to his own personal experience of 25 years ago when this nominee

had touched his life and awakened it to a deeper interest in the cause of the great Board which he represented. The man whose name he wished to present was an executive and administrator, a world scholar, and an ambassador of Jesus Christ, known, esteemed and loved throughout the world, for his deep Christian character and for his fitness for any office within the authority of the General Assembly to bestow. He was therefore honored to present the name of him who had for many years been a secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, Dr. Robert E. Speer.

At the mention of Dr. Speer's name, the entire body of commissioners, numbering nearly 1000 men, rose to their feet and applauded continuously.

Dr. Walker stated that he was glad to follow Mr. Smith, who himself had served the church as few had served it in recent years. He said that Dr. Speer was one of the best known and best loved men as well as one of the most efficient and ablest laymen in the Protestant Church in America. He referred to the action of the University of Edinburgh in granting the degree of Doctor of Divinity to Robert E. Speer notwithstanding the fact that he was not a Reverend, the only case that he knew of in history of a layman being thus honored. He regarded Dr. Speer, and many regarded him, as the most outstanding Protestant on

the American continent. He was a missionary statesman whose name was a household word in mission stations around the world. One of Dr. Speer's daughters was still serving the Master in far-away war-riven China. The election of Dr. Speer as Moderator would honor in constructive fashion the overtures which had come up from the presbyteries for a crusade for evangelism. Under his leadership the church would be united as it had not been for years and would go forward to the greatest constructive year in its history.

Dr. Walter B. Greenway of Philadelphia moved that the nominations be closed and that the Stated Clerk be authorized to cast the ballot electing Dr. Speer by the unanimous vote of the Assembly.

Dr. Lewis S. Mudge, Stated Clerk, announced that the ballot was so cast.

The retiring Moderator, Dr. W. O. Thompson, appointed Mr. J. Willison Smith and Dr. Hugh K. Walker as a committee of two to escort Dr. Speer to the platform. Dr. Thompson welcomed Dr. Speer as his successor, as a friend and beloved brother and as a servant approved of God. Dr. Thompson spoke of Dr. Speer as one of the three or four if not the first Christian statesman in America today. He considered that the church had honored itself in calling Dr. Speer to this office. He handed the new Moderator the official copy of the rules, which he confessed that he himself had not read, and which he trusted Dr. Speer would have no occasion to read. He handed him the gavel, which he knew he would not abuse as a symbol of office and authority. He knew that Dr. Speer would peacefully wield the gavel successfully in the best interests of a united church.

Dr. Speer said that he was not insensible to the great honor accorded him, but that it had been his earnest hope and prayer that another candidate would be found for the Moderatorship. He had rather hoped that the Moderator would be found among the working pastors of the church, a leader of a definite flock. More and more as the years went by he had come to realize that the strength of the church lay in the pastors. The church could not do too much to rec-

ognize and to dignify and glorify the pastorate, which was the highest and best of all the services of the church throughout the world. He felt also that the Moderator ought to be an old pastor, and preferably an old country pastor, who had toiled through a generation or two of men and who would properly be honored in being lifted from a field of quietness to a place of highest honor. Preferably also he should be an old home missions pastor, particularly at this time of the 125th anniversary of the National Board, to bear clear and sure testimony, in unequivocal terms, assuring the whole world in these days of unrest and upheaval in foreign lands that the church was clinging with deathless tenacity to its world-wide enterprises in the cause of Christ, and that we intend to hold fast to our own missionary purposes and obligations. We must as a church enable the whole world to discern us as devoting ourselves afresh to our sacred duty of extending the Christian faith to all mankind. Dr. Speer urged the Assembly in its proceedings to bear witness to the indissoluble unity of our fellowship. We must be one body in a great forward movement in the name of the Master. He felt like referring personally and particularly to two presbyteries. He thanked the Assembly for his own Presbytery of Jersey City, from which no Moderator had ever before been chosen. And then there was the dear old presbytery in the hills of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, to which his heart went back over a memory of 50 years. He felt that among the faithful, devoted body of consecrated men and women who had gone up higher from that presbytery, there must today be rejoicing that their old presbytery had thus been signally honored. And then there was another hill to which one's thoughts turned on this Ascension Day, and in connection with that hill he referred to the Man of Galilee, and he urged that all reconsecrate themselves anew to bearing testimony to the lifting up of Jesus Christ among us so as to make him known throughout the world and to bring all men unto Him.

The Assembly extended a unanimous rising vote of thanks and of ap-

preciation to the fine spirit manifested by those who nominated Dr. Speer.

When the General Assembly at its final session Wednesday morning had listened to the reading of the minutes for Tuesday, some question arose as to the item covering the action concerning the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission in Case 1. Reference was made to parliamentary confusion which had attended consideration of this particular case.

Moderator Speer addressed to the Assembly a frank and fervent statement of his own state of mind concerning this matter. He said that he felt that mistakes had been made on all sides, freely admitted his own, and asked forgiveness. He considered that attempts to open up the matter anew might result in leading the Assembly into deeper water. He therefore earnestly suggested that it all be left to the Lord. Dr. Speer put the whole matter on a deep spiritual basis and made a most profound, in fact solemn, impression upon the Assembly.

The effect was the adoption of the minutes, including the item about Judicial Case 1, by an unanimous vote.

A resolution was suggested from the floor to the effect that this disposal of Case 1 should in no way be construed as calling into question the faith of the Assembly concerning the Virgin Birth.

Moderator Speer immediately responded by quoting the Apostles'

Creed. As he uttered the passage committing the speaker to faith in the Virgin Birth, all of the commissioners rose to their feet, and the mover of the resolution stated that he accepted that as the Assembly's unanimous vote for that portion of the Creed.

Many expressed the feeling that the Moderator's faith in God and in God's guidance, so deeply uttered, had carried the Assembly through what threatened to be a most trying ordeal.

On motion following a suggestion of the Moderator the Assembly committed to the General Council the task of studying carefully during the year the form of procedure in the consideration of judicial cases, to report what changes, if any, should be made, at the next General Assembly, since the parliamentary tangle of the day before had arisen largely because of the fact that this was the first time the new and difficult rules had been acted under. The new rules were designed originally to protect the rights of minorities and dissenting opinions.

The major part of the session was devoted to the Board of Foreign Missions. When that Board's period came, the entire Assembly rose to its feet as a token of appreciation and affection for Robert E. Speer as senior secretary of that Board.

Dr. Speer made a most eloquent address concerning the entire cause of foreign missions, and the Assembly voted that the Board be requested to publish it and send copies to all ministers and elders.

*Additional copies free on
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