

# THE UNION SEMINARY REVIEW

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Vol. XXXII.

APRIL, 1921.

No. 3.

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MR. GEORGE W. WATTS

By REV. W. W. MOORE, D. D.,

*President of Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va.*

George Washington Watts was born at Cumberland, Maryland, August 18, 1851, and died at Durham, N. C., March 7, 1921. Born and reared in a Christian home and being of a thoughtful and earnest nature, he set before himself in his youth a high ideal of life and pursued it steadily. Notwithstanding the handicap of somewhat delicate health in his boyhood, he developed studious habits, attending the public schools of Baltimore from 1859 to 1868, and the University of Virginia from 1868 to 1871, and so trained the powers of a naturally quick and vigorous mind that by the time he entered business as a salesman for his father's firm he possessed the qualities which foretoken success—clear intelligence, sound judgment, systematic habits, steady industry and inflexible integrity,—so that when his first great business opportunity came to him at the age of twenty-seven he was ready for it. This was the purchase of an interest in the business of the now famous house of W. Duke Sons and Company. When he moved to Durham and entered upon his new duties it soon became evident that, like other able members of that firm, he was a creative force in the business world. Under their joint efforts the business grew with amazing rapidity, passing quickly from its original territory and establishing itself not only throughout America, but in every part of the civilized world.

With the increase of his means, Mr. Watts, like his associates in the firm, engaged in other large enterprises, including banks, railroads and manufacturing companies. Throughout his en-

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Published quarterly during the year by the professors and students of Union Theological Seminary in Virginia.

Change of address, discontinuance, or failure to receive the Review promptly and regularly should be reported to the Business Manager.

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TERMS:—One dollar and twenty-five cents a year in advance; single copy, thirty-five cents.

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## THE SPRUNT LECTURES BY PROFESSOR MACHEN.

The course of lectures given each year upon the James Sprunt foundation has become the red-letter event of our Seminary calendar. And rightly so. For look at this list of the eight distinguished men who have lectured — Rev. Dr. David James Burrell, Sir William M. Ramsay, Rev. Prof. James Stalker, Rev. Dr. A. F. Schauffler, Rev. Dr. Harris E. Kirk, Prof. C. Alphonso Smith, Rev. Dr. A. H. McKinney, and Rev. Dr. G. Campbell Morgan. This lectureship was founded some ten years ago by Mr. James Sprunt, of Wilmington, N. C., and has proved to be of untold good to the Seminary and the Church at large. It has brought to our campus some of the leading theological scholars of the world and has already produced eight valuable books.

The ninth Sprunt lecturer was the Rev. John Gresham Machen, professor of New Testament Interpretation in Prince-

ton Theological Seminary. We have a special interest and pride in this young scholar, for he is a son of our Southern Presbyterian Church, having been brought up in the Franklin Street Church, Baltimore, Md. He does not look to be forty, if that. I suppose he is the youngest of all the Sprunt lecturers. We rejoice in his youthful vigor, his wide range of knowledge, his thorough mastery of his subject, his keen intellect, his robust faith, his whole-hearted loyalty to the historic beliefs of our Church. We trust that his life may be spared for many years, that his growing power may be dedicated to the defence of the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

Professor Machen spoke in Watts Chapel, Jan. 10-20, 1921. There were eight lectures in all. In this brief notice no attempt to outline the lectures can be made. We await the appearance of the book, which, in our judgment, will take high rank among the works of those scholars who contend that Christianity is from God, not from men. Professor Machen chose as his subject "Paul and His Historical Relationships." He discussed the origin of Paul's religion and endeavored to show that it is supernatural. It may be said that none of his predecessors in the Sprunt lectureship chose a more timely subject. For the last ten or fifteen years the attacks against the supernatural origin of Christianity have raged around Paul and his religion. Only a few months ago the first volume of a long series appeared, written by men who are acclaimed as Christendom's finest scholars, whose purpose is to show that Christianity is not a Divine revelation once for all delivered to the saints, but is simply a combination of elements drawn from various sources—from Judaism, from Stoic ethics, from Platonic metaphysics, from Oriental mysticism, and from Roman administration. Professor Machen discussed, and, we believe, refuted the arguments advanced by these destructive critics. He proved himself a bold and skillful champion of the orthodox position. He has rendered a great service to the cause of truth, for which we are profoundly grateful.

On the Sunday night during his stay at the Seminary, Professor Machen preached a most tender and masterly sermon on The Pauline Gospel. His text was Rom. 1:16. That noble

discourse warmed our hearts and stimulated our thinking. During his stay he seemed to be perfectly at home always. He seemed to fall in love with us; we certainly fell in love with him. He mingled freely among the students and in our classrooms, attending lectures by the various professors. It was our pleasure to have him in our homes on the campus. We look back upon his visit with a sense of real delight and great blessing and profit. His coming has forged another link between those two historic schools of the prophets—Princeton and Union.

E. C. C.