

THE UNION SEMINARY REVIEW

Vol. XL.

OCTOBER, 1928.

No. 1.

FORTY YEARS OF NEW TESTAMENT RESEARCH.

By REV. J. GRESHAM MACHEN, D. D.,
Princeton Theological Seminary.

The forty years that have elapsed since the founding of the UNION SEMINARY REVIEW have been a period of such activity in the field of New Testament research that even the barest cataloguing of what has been done would exceed the limits of the present article. The most that we can possibly attempt here is a brief characterization of certain tendencies that have been at work.

In the field of textual criticism, there has been tireless activity. The really decisive labors, it is true, were performed prior to 1888; for by the researches of Tischendorf, Tregelles and others the principal documentary materials of textual criticism were made available; and the epoch-making edition of Westcott and Hort, which appeared in 1881, established on a firm foundation the principles of the science and the methods of its application to the New Testament. Nevertheless, there has been work in plenty for more recent scholars to do. No new critical apparatus has, indeed, succeeded in taking the place of Tischendorf's monumental eighth edition: for von Soden's apparatus, despite its undoubted value, suffers from an unsatisfactory method of presentation and is generally felt not really to meet the need; while Casper René Gregory, who might well have accomplished what is required, met an untimely end in the Great War. But if a satisfactory critical apparatus is still lacking, the materials for its production are being collected with an ever-increasing fulness. Best known,

Secretaries stop feeding our young people at Blue Ridge with immanence crudities that are Biblically, philosophically and theologically untenable (if not positively silly).^{*} Not in the interest of orthodoxy—for he is not orthodox—but because of its historical breakdown under strain, because of its sheer fallaciousness Barth has relegated “the modern theology” to the limbo of the obsolete. Surely no American student can afford to accept this “modern” theology without a serious consideration of the criticism levelled upon it in its native habitat.

THE UNION SEMINARY REVIEW—ITS BEGINNING AND CONTINUANCE.

BY THE EDITOR.

It was expected that Rev. Frank T. McFaden, D. D., would write for our Fortieth Anniversary Number an account of how and why the REVIEW began. He was a student in the Seminary at the time and had much to do with starting the movement which resulted in the decision to publish a magazine. However, at the last moment pressure of work compelled him to ask to be excused. And thus the task has fallen to the Editor.

The UNION SEMINARY REVIEW, then named the Union Seminary Magazine, began about forty years ago in the “good old days” when there were “giants in the land” (Dabney, Peck, Latimer, Alexander, Moore, Smith and Johnson); when the Seminary was located at dear old Hampden-Sydney, a spot fragrant with precious memories especially on the part of our older readers and now more beautiful and attractive than ever—an ideal place for a Christian college.

^{*} Discussing Luke 2:52, Dr. Kesler told a group, “Jesus advanced, cut his way forward step by step until he attained unto divinity. We ought to do likewise!”

The need for a magazine seems to have been felt first by the students themselves; at least, they started the movement, and were heartily encouraged and supported in their effort by the Faculty, especially by Professor W. W. Moore.* An organization was effected, known as the "Magazine Association", of which every Seminary student, by virtue of his being a Seminary student, was regarded a member. This "Association" elected an editorial staff, who in turn were charged with the duty of publishing the magazine. That "Association" is still in existence today, with practically the same rules and organization as at the start, and has carried on for these forty years the publication of the Union Seminary Magazine, now known as the UNION SEMINARY REVIEW.

Frank T. McFaden had recently entered the Seminary from Hampden-Sydney College, "just across the way", where he had been editor of the Hampden-Sydney Magazine. He was appointed chairman of the student body to arrange for the publication of the Seminary Magazine and getting it started. Professor W. W. Moore was general chairman, to whom the students went for advice. The editorial staff for Volume I, 1889-1890, were: R. L. Telford, editor-in-chief; A. P. Sanders and A. J. McKelway, associate editors; E. L. Siler and H. T. Graham, missionary editors; D. M. Sweets and W. M. Eldridge, local and alumni editors; W. W. Moore and M. V. P. Yeaman, book review editors; and W. C. Buchanan, business manager.

The first number of the magazine appeared in October, 1889. It was a notable issue, one of the best of all the numbers. It contained three remarkable sermons by A. T. Pierson, W. W.

*Note.—Since writing this statement the Editor received the following information from Rev. R. L. Telford, D. D., first editor-in-chief of the Review: "Dr. Moore first suggested and helped to set on foot the movement for the publication of the 'Union Seminary Magazine', and during its first year's adventure he helped to direct its destinies and was our constant counsellor, so that this noble publication is really the child of his heart and brain."—Editor.

Moore and T. E. Peck; a long poem on "Annihilation" by R. L. Dabney; a series of able editorials; several articles on world-wide missions; extensive local and alumni notes; and many book reviews by the ablest men in our Church. It announced itself as "Devoted to Religious Thought, Sermonic Literature, Missionary Intelligence, Items of Local and Alumni Interest, and Criticisms and Reviews of Recent Publications". Its appearance was greeted by a chorus of approval and praise from the leaders and the rank and file of our whole Church. Thus the new publication was launched on its career with a splendid start. That first number set a noble standard, and has proved an inspiration to subsequent editors.

The second volume (1890-1891) maintained the high standard set by the first. It also was blessed with an able staff, as follows: D. M. Sweets, editor-in-chief; B. C. Patterson and S. M. Engle, associate editors; H. T. Graham and W. M. Junkin, missionary editors; Professors W. W. Moore and J. F. Latimer, book review editors; and J. M. Holladay, business manager. The second volume is marked by the beginning of a series of brilliant articles by Dr. Moore on Archaeology. These articles, written in their author's well-known vivid and beautiful style, ran through many issues and attracted wide attention to the magazine. Many books on Archaeology has been written, but none surpass these great articles by Dr. Moore.

Lack of space forbids even the mention of the names of all the men who through the years have labored sacrificially and lovingly to make the REVIEW what it has been and is. We shall give, however, the names of those who have served as editors-in-chief and as business managers.

	<i>Editor-in-Chief</i>	<i>Business Manager</i>
Vol. I.....	R. L. Telford.....	W. C. Buchanan
Vol. II.....	D. M. Sweets.....	J. M. Holladay
Vol. III.....	Theron H. Rice, Jr.....	J. M. Holladay
Vol. IV.....	Samuel P. Hawes.....	F. G. Hartman
Vol. V.....	A. A. McGeachy.....	C. L. Altfather
Vol. VI.....	E. R. Leyburn.....	W. L. Lingle
Vol. VII.....	W. L. Lingle.....	D. K. Walthall
Vol. VIII.....	C. E. Hodgkin.....	E. E. Gillespie
Vol. IX.....	R. L. Wharton.....	R. W. Jopling
Vol. X.....	E. E. Lane.....	R. E. Vinson

Vol. XI.....	J. E. Brown, Jr.....	J. C. Johnson
Vol. XII.....	J. G. McAllister.....	M. E. Hansel
Vol. XIII.....	J. A. McClure.....	Jno. A. Williams
Vol. XIV.....	Asa D. Watkins.....	J. L. Lineweaver
Vol. XV.....	Jno. I. Armstrong.....	H. H. Munroe
Vol. XVI.....	Leroy Gresham.....	H. McC. Moffett
Vol. XVII.....	Leroy Gresham.....	Robt. H. McCaslin
Vol. XVIII.....	David Hopkins Rolston.....	Hugh H. Hudson
Vol. XIX.....	R. A. Lapsley, Jr.....	J. H. Clarke
Vol. XX.....	W. T. Williams, Jr.....	J. F. Coleman
Vol. XXI.....	S. K. Phillips	} Co-Editors..... R. K. Timmons
Vol. XXII.....	J. H. Whitmore	
Vol. XXIII.....	J. K. Parker.....	J. T. Barr
Vol. XXIV.....	Willis Thompson.....	R. A. McLeod
Vol. XXV.....	W. W. Morton.....	J. W. Hassell
Vol. XXVI.....	W. L. Lingle.....	T. W. Simpson
Vol. XXVII.....	W. L. Lingle.....	C. B. Craig
Vol. XXVIII.....	W. L. Lingle.....	Eugene Alexander
Vol. XXIX.....	W. L. Lingle.....	N. N. Fleming, Jr.
Vol. XXX.....	W. L. Lingle.....	M. C. Bowling
Vol. XXXI.....	W. L. Lingle.....	Marion Boggs
Vol. XXXII.....	W. L. Lingle.....	D. C. Amick
Vol. XXXIII.....	W. L. Lingle.....	D. C. Amick
Vol. XXXIV.....	W. L. Lingle.....	H. V. Lofquist
Vol. XXXV.....	W. T. Thompson.....	F. E. Manning
Vol. XXXVI.....	W. T. Thompson.....	F. E. Manning
Vol. XXXVII.....	E. C. Caldwell.....	F. E. Manning
Vol. XXXVIII.....	E. C. Caldwell.....	Horace L. Vilee
Vol. XXXIX.....	E. C. Caldwell.....	Leslie H. Patterson
Vol. XL.....	E. C. Caldwell.....	Wm. H. McCorkle
		C. Frank Hoffman

Before the publication of the first number a prospectus was mailed out, giving in advance the proposed contents of the first issue and soliciting subscriptions from the Church at large. Diligent search and inquiry have failed to secure a copy of this prospectus. The Magazine Association desires a copy for filing among its permanent records. Dear reader, if you have a copy, please mail it to the Editor.

Notwithstanding the excellence of the Magazine and its splendid start, we are amazed to discover that by the time the third volume was reached (1891-1892) the editor-in-chief, Theron H. Rice, was compelled to state in a series of appealing editorials that unless more subscribers were secured and the present subscribers paid their back subscriptions promptly the Magazine must cease publication. In some way not recorded a sufficient amount of money was secured to keep the Magazine going. A similar dark hour has confronted the editors

from time to time. The REVIEW has almost died more than once because of lack of support on the part of our ministers and laymen. In spite of constant efforts to enlarge our subscription list and the sympathetic help of our Church papers (the *Christian Observer*, the *Presbyterian of the South* and the *Presbyterian Standard*) who have given us much free advertising, relatively few of our ministers and still fewer of our laymen take the REVIEW. The naked truth is that but for the money from the business firms who advertise with us the REVIEW could not continue. Our subscriptions do not begin to pay the cost of publication. And it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure advertisements. Even before the days of automobiles and movies and silk garments and the high cost of living the REVIEW had to struggle for its continuance. How can it survive these evil days when prices are sky-high and luxuries have become necessities?

Some years before his death Dr. Moore was praying and laboring to the end that some friend or friends of the Seminary might be led to contribute to a "printing fund" of \$30,000, the principle of which should be permanently invested and only the annual interest used to maintain and enlarge the REVIEW and to print the bulletins and other Seminary publications. Dr. B. R. Lacy, Jr., Dr. Moore's successor in the presidency, is laboring to the same worthy end. We trust these efforts will result in securing this greatly needed endowment.

With such a fund and with the cooperation of our ministers and laymen the REVIEW can be made a great theological quarterly worthy of its past and worthy of the Southern Presbyterian Church.

E. C. C.