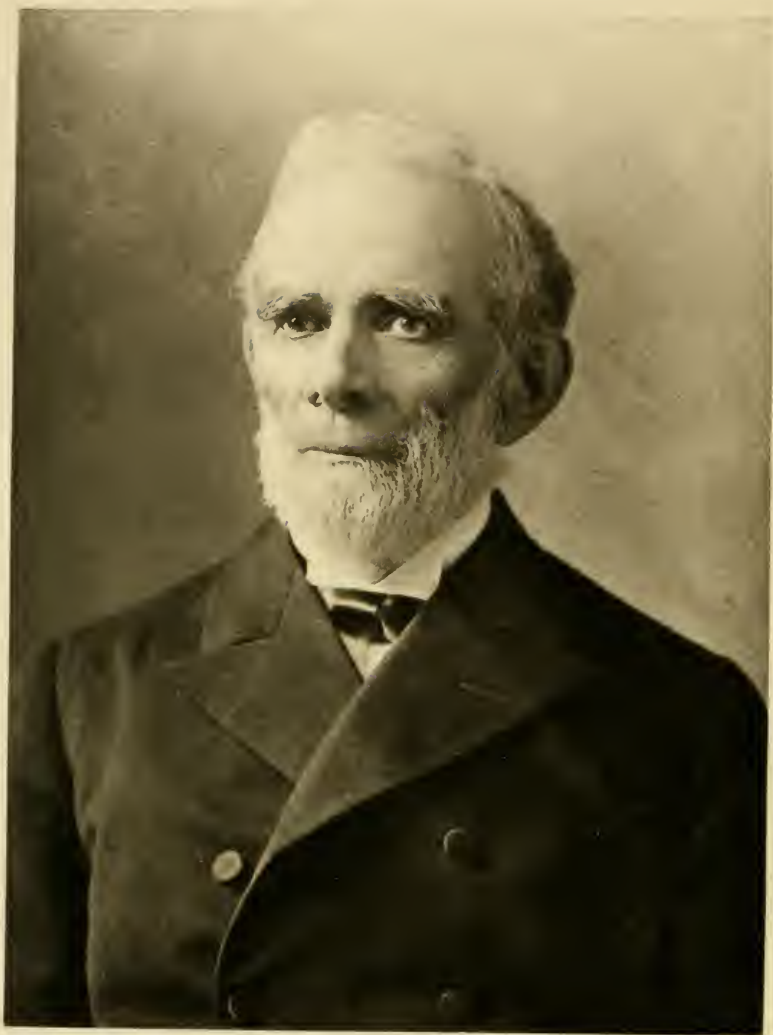


CELEBRATION
OF THE
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE APPOINTMENT OF
PROFESSOR WILLIAM HENRY GREEN⁴¹
AS AN INSTRUCTOR IN
✓ PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

MAY 5, 1896

WITH A PORTRAIT

NEW YORK
CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
1896



Yours very truly .

W. Henry Green

it. I can fancy him feeling as Dr. Holmes did over "The Last Leaf: "

"I know it is a sin,
For me to sit and grin
At him here."

As we read on in the grammar we can almost picture Aleph as an invalid, wrapped in fleecy robes against the wintry blast, or wheeled into the sunlight on some balmy Riviera coast.

But I can only suggest what you may pursue. One thing only let me say more. It has not been said to-day, but it is in every heart. We would all beg our beloved doctor to deal as gently with himself as he does with Aleph, remembering his own weakness, not of the spirit, but of the flesh. Let him not struggle too much with the radicals—but find some quiet spot where, to use the old phrase, he may "quiesce in Hholem," and gather new strength to win new victories for sound scholarship over pretentious pedantry, and sacred learning over irreverent vandalism. Meanwhile his revering pupils must try to follow in his footsteps. He has taught us to love the sacred things that he loved, and so to love better the God of all wisdom, love, and infinite grace.

THE HEAD OF THE FACULTY.

BY PROFESSOR WILLIAM M. PAXTON, D.D., LL.D.

MY subject is Dr. Green as the Chairman of the Faculty, or, in other words, as President of the Seminary.

Dr. Green is certainly an ideal Chairman of the Faculty, for the reason that no man, probably, ever had such an ideal faculty over which to preside. They are the pick of the whole Church, elect men, elected by the board, elected by the General Assembly.

It is also the relation of these professors to Dr. Green that is so ideal. With one exception they are his students. They are his workmanship. He has made them, made them over his own last, and his sign and superscription are on them. I am the

only exception, as I happened to be his fellow-student, he being a senior while I was a junior. As he had the reputation of being the most learned student in the Seminary, we were all taught to look up to him with the most profound veneration.

Thus much for what the magazines would call the lighter vein.

Now for a word—as our Methodist brethren sometimes say—of solemn, earnest testimony. Dr. Green's administration as President of this Seminary has been characterized by a success which has never been surpassed at any former period of our history. Under his guidance the Seminary has grown until its numbers have become almost burdensome. It has put on its beautiful garments, as any one can see who looks on Hodge Hall. It has grown in its curriculum until it is well-nigh perfect. And as the present company is always excepted, especially the speaker, it has grown in its Faculty by able and effective professors and teachers until the number has well-nigh doubled. This Faculty is perfectly united in thought, feeling, and affection. It would not be possible to find a group of scholarly men more perfectly harmonious upon all questions of religious faith and doctrine.

With all this, the Seminary has grown in the confidence of the Church and the approval of the public, for the reason that Princeton Seminary stands for something *positive* in religious belief and teaching, and the whole world sees this and approves.

The reason of all this success springs, in a great measure, from the strong personality and vigorous character of the man whom we this day delight to honor. The character of Dr. Green is made of blocks of solid granite. The storm of revision never shook it, and the mining and sapping of higher criticism never made him think for a moment that there was any danger that the ground upon which he stood would cave away under him.

Lord Bolingbroke, the leading English deist, said to a visitor: "I do not believe in a divine revelation, but those who do can best defend it on the principles of the doctrine of grace. Therefore I read John Calvin's 'Institutes,' because he stands upon the doctrine of grace. To say the truth," continues

Bolingbroke, "I have at times been almost persuaded to believe in a divine revelation on this view of things." Then turning to Dr. Church, a clergyman of the English Church, who had just said, "We don't think about such antiquated stuff. We teach the plain doctrines of virtue and morality, and have long laid aside these points about grace—turning to this clergyman, Bolingbroke continued: "There is one argument that has gone very far with me in behalf of the authenticity of the Bible, which is that any such thing as faith in the Bible now exists upon the earth, when its defence is committed to the care of such men as you, who pretend to believe it, and yet deny the only principles upon which it should be defended."

This is true to-day as it was then. There are ministers even in our own Church to-day who profess to believe the Bible, but who deny the principles of supernatural grace upon which it is best defended. But, thank God, there are men now who stand where John Calvin stood. It was his principles of supernatural grace that shook the doubts of Bolingbroke, and it is this Christian phalanx, at the head of which stands Dr. Green, that now shakes the doubts of speculative and revolutionary critics, and dissipates the fogs that have gathered over the fair face of Christianity. In this conflict Dr. Green has led the van. With an unfaltering courage he has always been ready to go forth in the name of God with his sling and stone to smite any Philistine who defies the armies of Israel.

It is for this reason that as the President of this Seminary we give him honor. He is so true himself that we believe it is the word of truth that he utters. He is so pure of heart that we feel sure, according to the promise, he sees God. He is so wise that, if it were not human to err, we might say he never makes a mistake. He is so just that his discipline is never doubted. And yet withal he is so kind, so considerate, so sympathetic, so generous, that we all—Faculty and students—this day do him honor, and give him, with the affection of our hearts, our loyal and loving obedience.