

A

MEMOIR

OF THE

REV. JOHN H. RICE, D.D.

First Professor of Christian Theology in Union Theological Seminary, Virginia.

BY WILLIAM MAXWELL.



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Middle states, will make one vigorous effort to save me from death. I have no expectation that I can go through the excessive labours that I now have to perform, and not utterly break down my shattered constitution.

I thank you heartily for your sermon. In my next I will tell you freely what I think of it.

I rejoice greatly to hear of the success of my beloved brother Cornelius, as agent for the Education Society.

If Mrs. Woods knew exactly Mrs. Rice's situation, she would love her for not writing. She and Harriet (now with us) join with me in most fervent love to yourself, Mrs. W., and all the children, and the brethren and friends in Andover.

I am truly yours, as ever,

JOHN H. RICE.

TO THE REV. SAMUEL L. GRAHAM.

*Theological Seminary, August 29th, 1826.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I received your note, and am sorry to learn that the brethren of whom you speak, have had their minds warped in the way you mention. Every thing seems to be making against the real prosperity of the Presbyterian Church in the South. But we must not be discouraged. If the Lord will but build the house, none can hinder; and if not, let it not be built, say I. I think that the plan proposed on our part, ought by all means to be laid before the Synod of North Carolina. If the majority of the Committee, in conformity to their own private views and plans—plans which have not in any way received the sanction of the Synod,—refuse to execute the trust committed to them, it is not proper, in my judgment, to stop a work which met the approbation of Synod, and which they ought to be presumed still to approve. It is then my earnest request that you will come over to Charlotte at the time appointed, (7th of September,) and meet our Committee. Let us give as much

form and authority to the project as we can, and report it both to the Presbytery and the Synod. It is my purpose to lay the paper with a full statement of all the facts that may transpire before the Presbytery, and get the Presbytery to include it in their report to the Synod of Virginia. I am inclined to think that our Synod will readily agree to take the place of the Presbytery of Hanover. I have mentioned the project to several members of the Presbytery, and all are willing to give up our part to Synod; and I have been seeking information from other Presbyteries, so that I have good hope that one part of my plan will succeed. And if the brethren of North Carolina will but drop local feelings, and come into the plan, we may have a Seminary that will do honour to the Southern churches, and exert a mighty influence in building up the kingdom of the Redeemer.

TO THE REV. ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER, D. D.

*Theological Seminary, Nov. 14th, 1826.*

MY DEAR SIR,

On Saturday evening I arrived at home from a tour in North Carolina, as far as Fayetteville. Your letter of the 31st October had come to hand some days before my arrival.

I am more encouraged about our Seminary than I ever have been. We are now prepared to fix the style of it, and the next General Assembly will be requested so to modify the terms proposed to the Presbytery of Hanover, as to denominate the Institution, the *Union Seminary of the General Assembly, under the care of the Synods of Virginia and North Carolina*. This is the plan which I had proposed; and I was resolved to make a fair experiment to secure its adoption. Should it fail, I was determined to resign my place. Success, I thought, would repay every effort. The proposition made to the Synod of Virginia was unanimously adopted; as I hear, with great good feeling. That to North Carolina had several difficulties to encounter.