

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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TO THE REV. ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER, D. D.

*Richmond, July 21st, 1820.*

MY DEAR SIR,

It has pleased the Lord to remove the good Dr. Hoge from among us. You know full as well as I do, the great loss which we in particular, and the church at large has sustained by this dispensation. But it becomes us to submit to infinite wisdom, and acknowledge God's right to do what he will with his own.

One of the greatest evils that I at present apprehend from the removal of Dr. Hoge, is the difference of opinion which it will produce in our Synod. Some will urge with great earnestness the giving up of our piddling school here, and joining with Princeton. Others will oppose this plan with equal vehemence. They think that the Synod is now so pledged and committed on this subject, that they cannot go back. The most of the money that has been given, has been given expressly on condition that there should be a Theological Seminary at Hampden Sydney.

I need not tell you that I am friendly to Princeton. I hope that my influence will be felt in her behalf this summer, and that from our congregations generally in this state, there will go to the treasurer our full proportion. I expect that our little church in Richmond will give fifty dollars a year for five years. Petersburg, Fredericksburg, &c. will do their part also. But while it is my wish that the whole church should give Princeton full support, I do think that a good seminary under orthodox men, I mean true General Assembly Presbyterians, established to the South would have a happy effect. My wish has long been to keep up a sort of nucleus here, around which a great Seminary might be gathered; and, in the meantime, let there be a general exertion of the churches, until the Princeton Seminary should be put beyond the reach of want or difficulty. But I am ready to do to the utmost of my abilities, what shall be thought

best by a majority of the brethren. I acknowledge, very readily, that there are wiser heads than mine; but none have warmer hearts for the prosperity of good old Presbyterianism.

I have just now received a letter from Mr. Morgan, by which I learn that there has been a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Hampden Sydney College, and that you were unanimously chosen to succeed Dr. Hoge. I know no particulars; but just state the fact as it is stated to me. O! if you would——, but I check myself. May the Lord dispose of you for his glory; and the best interests of the church!"

TO WILLIAM MAXWELL, ESQ.

*Richmond, Sept. 2d, 1820.*

DEAR SIR,

This will be handed to you by Mr. B\*\*, of our church. A man of extreme modesty, but sterling worth. I commend him to you.

Let no worldly consideration prevent your going to Synod. The tug of war will be there. We shall have \*\*\* and \*\*\*, and \*\*\* and \*\*\*, all decided for breaking up our seminary, and going over to Princeton. How \*\*\* will proceed, I know not. But I fear him. In fact, I depend on nobody but \*\*\* to stand by the Hanover men; and I am not sure that they will all be firm. We must go charged with our heaviest metal; and every congregation that can send an elder, must send one without fail.

I am satisfied that if we do not raise our own preachers, we shall go without them. Besides, our genius and habits suit the Southern country best. We ought to educate ministers for the Carolinas and Georgia. As for the Western country, they are so heterogeneous I know not who will suit them. I received a letter from the South, the other day, saying, that if we would stir ourselves and do something, they had rather send their young men to us.

The people of Prince Edward are high in hopes that they