

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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safe from German Neology. But this I expected. I should like much to see him. And I like much his new plan of a Repertory. I think Addison has got into his right place, and I trust his work will be profitable. We shall do what we can to get subscribers. But a specimen number will help us on considerably in that business.

There is still a gradual growth of religion in this region; and a strong spirit of inquiry. What do you think of a Presbytery meeting to ordain a minister at Painesville in Amelia county? Thirty years ago, that place went by the name of *Chinquopin Church*; but it was changed by a formal resolution, in honour of Tom Paine, into Painesville! And now, one of our students is labouring successfully there to build up a Presbyterian Church! But we do now want at least twenty Missionaries in our bounds.

I saw a young man named * * , sent by the General Assembly's Board of Missions to North Carolina. He was commissioned for five months to labour in the bounds of Concord Presbytery. The young man said he would stay the five months, but not a day longer in that region! This policy is still pursued, and it injures the cause of the General Assembly's Missions. Brief Missionary tours will not succeed in building up churches in the South, and he who comes to perform labours of that sort among us now, must come prepared to "enlist for the war."

Give our love to Mrs. Alexander and the children, including Mary Rice.

I am most truly, &c.

JOHN H. RICE.

TO THE REV. SAMUEL L. GRAHAM.

Union Theological Seminary, Nov. 23d, 1828.

MY DEAR SIR,

I was sorry to part from you so unceremoniously at Mr. Sneed's. Indeed, I expected that you would overtake us, and that I should have the opportunity of riding with you.

for several miles, and chatting about many things of common interest. But I had a hard day's travel to accomplish, and knew that I had not a moment of time to lose. And I do not wonder that you were slow to leave so pleasant a place as Mr. Sneed's. I should like to go there again, and stay a good while.

We are in expectation of a new class in the Seminary, of from ten to fifteen. We cannot tell exactly how many. We have two from the North, and expect two or three others; as well as two or three from Ohio; and at least two new ones from North Carolina.

I find that the proposed course of study meets with very general approbation; and if we can carry our plans through, I have no doubt but that we shall see many coming South for a Theological education. And why should not the Board, in the boldness of faith, take a high ground, and enter into large plans of operation without delay? In this age, great enterprises which fill the mind, and excite a powerful interest, succeed; while little timid schemes fall through.

There are some excellent and able workmen in this region at this time, who would undertake to complete our plan of a Seminary building, and erect the necessary number of Professors' houses, on a credit of three years; and then wait as long as the Board would wish, on receiving interest for their money. If a contract, then, were made now, we might in twelve months have room for one hundred students, a Library, a Chapel, Lecture-rooms, and buildings for three Professors. Why should not this thing be undertaken? If the Board were not to meet at the time appointed, I would go to Carolina. But that is impossible. An agent in that region, of proper qualifications, could, I think, do much. Why should we not add a fourth Professorship; and let it be the Professorship of South Carolina and Georgia; and let that Synod appoint their man?

I wish very much to make our Seminary bear on the

religious interests of the Colleges to the South. It clearly will not do to send young men to this place with a superficial Grammar-school education. There is a mighty difference between your Chapel Hill boys, and those who come from Grammar-school. And I do hope you will require all your Carolina beneficiaries to go to the University of the State. We are glad to see Dr. Caldwell's students here. It is very earnestly my wish that our third Professor should be a man from Carolina. And I want him now to be designated; that he may prepare for his work. I have a very high opinion of * * *, and love him much. But I wish you and others to consider the following questions, before you fix on any particular person.

1. Is it not of the utmost importance that our Professors should have, in full measure, the spirit of action, which characterizes the age? and can we find an *old man*, who "*breathes and burns*" as the case demands?

2. Will not the third Professorship require a degree of research, long continued and laborious, through tomes of Greek and Hebrew, which we cannot expect from a man advanced in life?

3. Can you not then find among you a young man, just now approaching his full vigour, who has learning enough to read Ecclesiastical Greek and Latin, with tolerable facility; a spirit of action, which he can infuse into others; a sound, discriminating judgment, which will at once ensure the confidence of his brethren, and command the respect of the students; and who, finally, has had some experience in pastoral life, so as to know something of the practical application of principles of polity in the government and discipline of the Church? And if you have such a man, no matter what letter in the alphabet begins his name, would not he, on the whole, do best? I throw out these hints; and hope you will think of them.

In sincere friendship, I am, &c.

JOHN H. RICE.