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THE REV. G. AIKEN TAYLOR, PH. D.
New Editor of The Journal

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layman for a ruling elder is a relatively recent innovation in our Book of Church Order. In the Reformation "the poorest washer woman" was as truly a priest at the Table of the Lord as was the presiding minister. Calvin and Knox brought the Table into the midst of the congregation and invited the people to come to the Table of the Lord that they might know they had in Christ a share in the Father's heart and in the bounty of His hand.

—W. C. R.

John Wesley On The Image Of God In Man

In an earlier editorial, we pointed out that John Calvin, like Luther, rejected the Thomist doctrine that by the fall man lost only the likeness not the image of God. He used an Augustinian statement that fallen man was wholly deprived of his supernatural talents, while the natural ones were corrupted. By means of this distinction Calvin as well as the Calvinistic Creeds, e.g. the Scots', the Gallic and the Westminster Confession, describes the defection of the first man as sufficient to obliterate the divine image and render man dead in trespasses and sin in reference to the things of God. But in references to the things of his fellow men, Calvin speaks of the divine image as not entirely annihilated, so that man still has excellent talents in matters of civil polity, domestic economy, and mechanical and liberal arts.

It is not so well known that John Wesley's greatest book was ON ORIGINAL SIN, a defense of the gravity of the fall and the needs of the renewing grace of God against John Taylor, an English professor of theology who moved from Presbyterianism to Unitarianism. In this work and in his sermon on THE HEAVENLY TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS, Wesley speaks of man as "totally corrupt". The original likeness to God has been destroyed. Man has lost both the knowledge and the love of God without which the image of God could not subsist. Every single individual has totally lost, not only the favour, but likewise the image of God.

ON THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN he denies that there are any innate ideas of God at all. Apart from early instruction, children have no knowledge of God. Natural religion abstracted from the traditional and from the influences of God's Spirit leaves us atheists, without God in the world. As Calvin went beyond Luther in finding a beginning of the restoration of God's image in regeneration, so Wesley exceeded Calvin in teaching the restoration of the image of God by sanctification.

Whatever our several positions on details of these matters are, it becomes us to be accurate with Christian history and to portray Calvin and Wesley as they actually wrote, not as one might have preferred that they write. And it is a matter of significance that those who have been men of distinction in the field of Christian theology, such as, Paul, Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Wesley, have taken sin and the fall seriously. He who knows himself a great sinner glories in the Greatness of his Saviour.

—W. C. R.

The Journey Heavenward Is All Uphill

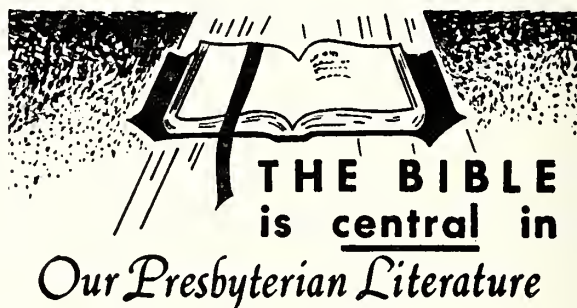
Uphill! Uphill! Always uphill. Are there no level places on this road where we can walk without effort and are there no downhill where we can coast a little and enjoy the attractions of the world as we pass them by? And the road always seems so rough, so rocky. Invariably it is unpaved and leads eternally upward, upward the hard way. And as we go toiling along we frequently come to beautiful side roads which seem to go around the hill rather than over it; they are generally smooth roads, too, and the traveling appears so much easier on them, but strange it is the sign "Heavenward" never points down them.

Our steps are so stumbling, so uncertain, so unsteady as we climb, that often it seems as though we take one step forward and slip back two or three. And sometimes we slip and fall down and at these times the thought comes, "I'm tired, I must rest", and we look and right there on the side of the road is a nice, cool, comfortable seat. But every climber knows that if he stops he gets cold and generally stagnates.

Take courage, Christian, this road is the road of Pilgrims' Progress. Keep your eyes fixed on the distant goal. On top of the hill the sun is shining and the mountain peak merges with the skies. Christ Himself climbed this hill and blazed the trail for us.

Yes, the journey heavenward is all uphill, but the downhill leads to Hell.

—R. LeC.



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