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I. Literary.

WILLIAM WALLACE SPENCE.

BY PROF. W. W. MOORE, D. D., LL. D.

NOTWITHSTANDING all that has been said about our age as an era of young men, it is undeniable that much of the world's best work is still done by men who are well advanced in years. The adage, "Old men for counsel, young men for war," while true in general, cannot be taken literally, as many of our most useful men of action are old men. Longfellow, in his *Morituri Salutamur*, recognized this fact in his catalogue of literary achievements by the elderly:

"Cato learned Greek at eighty; Sophocles
Wrote his grand *Œdipus*, and Simonides
Bore off the prize of verse from his compeers,
When each had numbered more than fourscore years,
And Theophrastus, at fourscore and ten,
Had but begun his *Characters of Men*;
Chaucer, at Woodstock with the nightingales,
At sixty wrote the *Canterbury Tales*;
Goethe at Weimar, toiling to the last,
Completed *Faust* when eighty years were past."

Von Moltke, Bismarck, Gladstone, Hannibal Hamlin, Justin Morrill, John Hall, Moses Hoge, William Henry Green, John I. Blair, of New Jersey, and Charles Reid, of Norfolk, are examples of immensely active old age from the recent past, while we still have with us such leaders in public life as Lord Salisbury, such preëminent soldiers as Lord Roberts, such teachers as Pro-

THE AUSTIN PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

BY PROFESSOR T. R. SAMPSON, D. D.

Does the Southern Presbyterian Church need another seminary now?

This is a question which nine-tenths of the members of the church, and four-fifths of the ministers, will possibly answer in the negative.

It cannot, indeed, be denied by any one that such necessity, if it exists at all, does not appear upon the surface, as viewed from the East. Not only so, but many feel that there are already too many seminaries, and that two or more of those now in operation, could be combined, with great economy of both men and money. Certainly this is a proposition which no one will deny, as viewed from the West.

Still, notwithstanding all this, the Synod of Texas has unanimously decided to establish another seminary, and no one who is at all familiar with the facts and conditions in this State can doubt that it is a necessary step, not only for further progress, but even "to hold its own."

What are the facts and conditions which have led to this unanimous conclusion here, so different from what is thought elsewhere?

It may be well to attempt to set forth briefly some of these. Many of them are certainly not generally known, and others, not a few of them, indeed, it may not be possible for those who have not lived under them, fully to appreciate.

I. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN TEXAS.

The ratio of increase of church-membership in the State of Texas, in the Southern Church alone, since 1870, has been over *nine hundred per cent.*, or *three* times as great as that in any other State. The increase in Florida has only been three hundred per cent., and in no other State has it been much more than half that in Florida.

In 1870 there were only 2,000 members in Texas. In 1900 there were over 18,000. At this rate, in another ten years the Synod of Texas will be the *second* in numbers in the General Assembly. It is now the *fifth*.

It has been absolutely impossible to keep up with this increase in the churches by supplying ministers from the Eastern States.

A pathetic letter recently received, one of a large class, from a loyal son of South Carolina, laboring in this state, contains this sentence:

"The whole Southwestern Church feels that this is the one great thing we now need, and by Southwestern I do not mean our little Presbytery down here, but our Synod. Our Presbytery feels that the one supreme matter now to be pressed, pressed, pressed is the Austin Theological Seminary."

There are to-day more than three hundred and seventy churches and less than one hundred and seventy ministers. Of these ministers more than twenty are on the invalid list or engaged in educational and editorial work. There are about one hundred and ten pastors. So that there remain only about forty ministers to supply the remaining *two hundred and sixty churches!* This mighty cry, "Come over and help us," has gone so far unheeded.

The fact that many of these are weak churches only accentuates the necessity, because it will never be possible to secure pastors, with wives from the Eastern States, who can live on the salaries or under the conditions which prevail in these churches now, although a few years' work, in some cases only a few months' work, will make many of them self-supporting and independent organizations.

Many of the most weighty considerations which make a seminary and a native ministry, trained on the ground, a necessity for Japan or South America, apply to this field.

II. THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY.

It is not in ratio of increase in the church-membership alone that this field is remarkable, but also in the proportion which its candidates for the ministry bear to those of the older States. The minutes of the Assembly show that there were thirty-four candidates in the Synod of Texas and thirty-six in the Synod of Vir-

ginia for 1900. That is, Texas had only two less than the Synod of Virginia, which has double its church-membership. Texas, with one-twelfth of the membership of the whole Assembly, had one-eighth of the candidates for the ministry. The year before the proportion was even still higher.

With the rapid increase in educational advantages through the church and public schools, which has recently set in, it is only reasonable to expect that there will be an increase even in this number.

III. THE COST OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

To send these young men to the seminaries in the old states costs a great deal in money.

It takes more than the Assembly's Committee of Education for the Ministry allows a young man, to carry him from Austin, Texas, to Richmond, Va., and back again. But the money is only a small part of what it costs.

The old states levy a "child-tax" upon Texas, keeping many of these candidates for all time.

They become weaned during their student life in various ways, from the state. Attracted by churches, young ladies, or social conditions, many of them never come back; or if they come back, do not remain, and, in not a few cases, they are among the most talented of the students.

Even when this is not the case, the weak churches of the state are deprived of such services as they could render and are rendering, while pursuing their studies, in the states contiguous to the seminaries. It is impossible to say how much has been accomplished in Virginia, South Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee by the labors of the students in the vacation.

Of four students who went to Union in 1899, not one was able to come back the next year to Texas, although they all desired to do so. The distance from Austin to the nearest seminary, east of the Mississippi, is twice as great as that from Richmond, Va., to New York, and the distance from Austin to Richmond is more than four times as great as that from Richmond to New York.

When there is added to all this what the professors can do during the same period of vacation, as well as during the session, it is possible to appreciate in some measure what this great and needy and promising field is losing by being so distant from the existing seminaries.

This seminary in Austin is the great hope, and it would seem the only hope, of Home Missions in this state.

IV. THE EXTENT OF FIELD TO BE REACHED.

But a seminary in Texas will not only meet the necessities of Texas. There are great fields north, south and west of it, in Indian Territory, Mexico and New Mexico, to say nothing of Arkansas, which must look to it for help.

The church at large is not alive to the great opportunities it is losing in these sections. The stream of immigration is pouring into them, almost doubling the population in ten years, and the soil, as productive as can be found within the borders of the United States, insures a prosperous people.

In the Indian Territory, especially, the sentiment of the people is now most favorable to Presbyterianism, because of the work done in the past by this church. Still there are many large towns in which there is no Presbyterian organization.

This stream of immigration must largely increase in the immediate future, for no state has received in the last year so much and such favorable notice from the press as Texas.

The discovery of the special adaptation of large sections of the state for rice culture; the opening of the great oil fields; the visits of influential committees of business men from New York, St. Louis and Kansas City, as well as the magnificent crops, and the consequent large accumulation of deposits in the banks, have all focussed the attention of the whole country and of Europe upon it to a degree that has no parallel in any other state.

V. WHAT IT MAY ACCOMPLISH.

The great value of having an institution on the ground, easily accessible, to increase the number of students, can easily be seen in the case of the University of Texas.

It was opened in 1883, and for several years had only a few hundred students. It has had over one thousand during the past session, and at present is making preparation to accommodate twelve or fifteen hundred next session.

The Austin School of Theology, during its brief existence of ten years, put more than forty men into the ministry, and over half of these are now among the most useful and influential men in the Synod of Texas. While several are dead, others are filling positions of honor in their native states.

Whatever may be thought of the expediency or wisdom of the consolidation of seminaries effected in Kentucky, it is confidently hoped and believed that there will never be any need for more than one in Texas to supply the necessities of this field.

The Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary will be glad to help equip all young men with proper qualifications who may present themselves, and to help preserve them from the attractions and temptations of Eastern institutions, churches and ladies.

Organic union is neither desired nor feared in Texas by the Southern Church, as the sentiment and tendency are almost solidly one way here. The opening of the seminary will only further that tendency.

These are some of the considerations which have moved the Synod of Texas, and they are deeply felt by the Presbyterians of the state generally. No better proof of this could possibly be given than is afforded by the way in which they are coming up to the support of the seminary.

The very encouraging statement can be made that, under the unfavorable conditions which have prevailed in a part of this territory from storm and flood, fifty thousand dollars have already been secured in the last eight months for the seminary, warranting the well-grounded hope that in 1902 it may begin its much-needed work.

There is no antagonism in this movement to the existing institutions in the Eastern States, of which the ministers here are nearly all alumni. On the contrary, any one of them, or any two of them combined, would be warmly welcomed to this free field.

Indeed, it is an open secret that one of the greatest difficulties with which the institutions of Texas have had to contend has been at this point. The ministers and elders have, out of a natural loyalty to the theological or academic institutions from which they had come, so often sent their own sons and encouraged their friends to send their sons east of the Mississippi to be educated.

There are now three institutions in Texas—Daniel Baker College, Austin College and the University of Texas—which are fully able to give the necessary academic training for the young men of the church, and a seminary in this field will be absolutely without competition, with a territory to draw from, and to supply, unequalled by any within the bounds of the General Assembly.