

THE UNION SEMINARY REVIEW

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TRAINING CHRISTIAN WORKERS*

BY THE REV. HENRY WADE DUBOSE, D. D.

*Address Delivered Upon the Occasion of His Installation as
President of the General Assembly's Training School,
Richmond, Virginia.*

Carved on a granite pillar at the East gate of Harvard University are words that first appeared in a pamphlet published by the Puritan colonists in 1643, just twenty-three years after the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock. These words are as follows:

After God had carried us safe to New England
And we had builded our houses
Provided necessities for our livelihood
Reared convenient places for God's worship
And settled the civil government
One of the next things we longed for
And looked after was to advance learning
And perpetuate it to posterity
Dreading to leave an illiterate ministry
To the Churches when our present ministers
Shall lie in the Dust.

*This address was delivered in Schauffler Hall of Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, on Monday evening, November 6, 1944, the thirtieth anniversary of the official opening of the Training School at the Second Presbyterian Church of this city.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN REVIEWS

BY THE REV. T. H. SPENCE, JR., Ph. D., Th. D.,

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Any type of ecclesiastical endeavor which enlisted the interest and effort of John Holt Rice, Thomas Smyth, Robert J. Breckenridge, James H. Thornwell, Thomas E. Peck, Stuart Robinson, Benjamin M. Palmer, Jr., James Woodrow, John L. Girardeau, Robert L. Dabney, John B. Adger, Moses D. Hoge, Robert A. Webb and Walter W. Moore is worthy of attention on the part of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. All these were intimately associated with the publication of what may fittingly be described as Southern Presbyterian reviews.¹

The review has been defined as "a periodical containing critical essays upon matters of interest," and it is with this variety of the product of the religious press that the present treatise is concerned. In this connection, a brief factual survey of twelve such works will be undertaken in an effort to discover the purpose and distinguishing characteristics underlying each of these magazines and the manner in which the design of the editors was realized, together with some note of the personnel and general history of each review. Consideration will follow the chronological order of establishment.

¹A number of magazines which have carried articles of the review type, though primarily devoted to other forms of journalism, have not been included in this survey. The historic *Bibliotheca Sacra* (1844-date), while edited by Dr. L. S. Chafer, a minister of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S., is conducted under the auspices of the interdenominational Dallas Theological Seminary.

I. VIRGINIA RELIGIOUS MAGAZINE (1804-07)

The bimonthly *Virginia Religious Magazine* was published at Lexington under the patronage of the Synod of Virginia. The first issue bears the date of October, 1804,² and the final number was that of November-December, 1807 (Vols. I-III). George A. Baxter, Daniel Blain and Samuel Brown acted as editors, Samuel Houston being associated in this service during the first year. Projected to "disseminate religious information," the scope of the *Magazine* was wider than that of the traditional review, the contents embracing biographical sketches, expositions of scripture texts, religious intelligence, anecdotes, obituary notices, and poetry.

Before the end of the first year of publication, the Committee in charge complained to the Synod that "original matter has not been furnished in sufficient quantities to ensure success to the magazine, nor has there been sufficient zeal in obtaining subscriptions."³ There were "about 344" subscribers during 1806, and to the Synod of that year "it appeared that none of the members had been entirely inattentive to the order of Synod" relative to furnishing materials to, and obtaining subscriptions for, the *Magazine*.⁴ At its meeting in 1807, Synod resolved to continue publication during the next year, but the career of the periodical came to an abrupt end with the closing issue of 1807.

II. LITERARY AND EVANGELICAL MAGAZINE (1818-28)

John Holt Rice, the founder of Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, established the *Virginia Evangelical and Literary Magazine*, which made its first monthly appearance with the issue of

²Synod's special committee on the *Magazine* reported to that court, Oct. 12, 1805, that "the publication commenced with the first of January, 1805" (Mss. Minutes of the Synod of Virginia, Vol. II, p. 151), but a copy of the initial issue, dated as above indicated, is in possession of the Carnegie Library of Atlanta. Miss Carrie Williams, of that Library, and Dr. Henry Brimm, of Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, have supplied the information regarding the *Magazine* which is incorporated in this article.

³Mss. Minutes of the Synod of Virginia, Vol. II, p. 151.

⁴*Ibid.*, pp. 176-177.

January, 1818. He served as editor until early in the year 1827, when such supervision was transferred to Amasa Converse and Nathan Pollard. The former assumed sole control on July 1, 1828, and continued in editorial charge until publication was suspended with the December number of that year (Vols. I-XI).⁵ The name of the periodical appeared as the *Evangelical and Literary Magazine, and Missionary Chronicle* in January, 1821; the "and Missionary Chronicle" was dropped a year later; and the title at the head of this section adopted in 1824.

An eight-page inaugural, characterized by conviction yet liberality of spirit, set forth the aims of Dr. Rice as he presented his journal to the public, while a single page of the closing issue, written by another hand, explained its discontinuance. Between this salutatory and valedictory lie eleven volumes of theological discussions, religious intelligence, literary treatises and book reviews. In one instance more than two hundred pages, distributed over a number of successive issues, constituted an answer to Bishop Ravenscroft's *The Doctrines of the Church Vindicated from the Misrepresentations of Dr. John Rice*. Dr. Rice's rejoinder begins with the words, "This is probably the most polemic title page that has been printed for the last hundred years," and proceeds with the assertion that "the whole work is of a piece with the title."⁶

As might be anticipated, the contents were not confined to matters of controversy. Much attention was devoted to the subject with which the editor is frequently and affectionately associated, that of Missions. The delightful "An excursion into the Country" was printed in the opening volume, while a nineteen-page poem, "The Evening Walk," was presented during the same year. Education in Virginia was a recurring topic, and a considerable and not uninfluential interest was taken in the University of Virginia. A review of the *Memoirs of Dr. Joseph Priestly to the year 1795* was directed against the retention of Dr. Thomas Cooper as professor

⁵XI, *op.* 616. (This and subsequent references of similar form are to volume and page of the particular periodical under consideration.) *Visitor and Telegraph*, July 5, and Dec. 13, 1828. *Christian Observer*, Dec. 18, 1872, and Oct. 15, 1873.

⁶IX, 360.

for the University, then in process of organization.⁷ Dr. Rice and his associates were successful in their opposition, so that Dr. Cooper's proffered resignation was accepted by the board of visitors of the institution.

The reading public was not altogether of one mind, for in his preface to Vol. II, the editor confesses that "some have suggested that the Magazine is too much a literary publication, and others that it has too much of a religious character."⁸ Earlier in that year (1819), a "little fount of Hebrew and Greek type" and a printing press had been purchased,⁹ and by the autumn of the next year the *Magazine* was "flagging for want of support,"¹⁰ though there is no suggestion that this condition was the result of the acquisitions.

With the passage of time and the increase of obligations, Dr. Rice prepared material for publication with difficulty. In 1826, he wrote " . . . The writer's daily avocations are fully sufficient to occupy the time and attention of at least three men 'of his calibre.' He is therefore obliged to write in the *ends and corners of time*, by sentences and half sentences—otherwise he must neglect much more urgent duties."¹¹ Nevertheless, the extant files of the *Literary and Evangelical Magazine*, like the institution which he cherished and served with so much devotion and ability in its younger years, constitute a monument to the more abundant labors of that seer who, in 1830, held "that the Presbyterian Church in the United States is a missionary society; the object of which is to aid in the conversion of the world."

III. CALVINISTIC MAGAZINE (1827-31 and 1846-50)

The *Calvinistic Magazine* (1827-31, Vols. I-V) was published monthly at Rogersville, Tenn., with James Gallaher, David Nelson

⁷III, 63,-74.

⁸II, vii.

⁹Maxwell, William, *A Memoir of the Rev. John H. Rice, D. D.* Phila., 1835, p. 153.

¹⁰*Ibid.*, 187.

¹¹IX, 555.

and Frederick' A. Ross as editors. A sermon on the perseverance of the saints was an appropriate feature of the first number. This issue set forth the design of the periodical as "I. To illustrate and defend, the doctrines of the Bible, as they are understood and maintained by Presbyterian and other Calvinistic Churches. . . . II. To discuss the subject of *Church Government* . . . " and the publication of essays on Christian duty.¹²

Occasional news items, such as notes on the meetings of church courts and Bible societies, were inserted from time to time. "Dialogues on church government, between a citizen and a Methodist circuit-rider," began with the April, 1828, issue. Considerable space was given to controversy with the Methodists, wherein the Presbyterian case was invariably presented in pointed fashion. The removal of two of the editors to other parts of the country led to the suspension of the *Magazine*, which, at that time, was enjoying an "ample" subscription list.¹³ Discussion of the Presbyterian Old and New School controversy found a place in the closing numbers, and the final volume gave repeated evidence of sympathies with the latter group.

Judging that the time had come for another energetic polemic in behalf of Calvinism and Presbyterianism, Dr. Ross, along with Isaac Anderson, James King and James McChain, revived the *Calvinistic Magazine*, in January, 1846. The editors represented the New School wing of the then divided Church, and Abingdon, Va., was the place of publication. As an advocate of unity among Presbyterians, the periodical was devoted to the same mission as formerly, with the addition of the promotion of revivals of religion.¹⁴

Disparaging attention was given to the form of government of the Methodist Church. This is typified by the contention of Dr. Ross that "we have the right to expose Popery, and Prelacy, and Methodism, as dangerous to the civil and religious liberty of our country."¹⁵ An extended series of articles on the *Shorter Cate-*

¹²I, 30.

¹³V, 400.

¹⁴ns I, 1-3.

¹⁵ns I, 274.

chism was printed in 1850, and publication closed in December of that year (Vols. I-V), with many subscribers in arrears.¹⁶

IV. PRESBYTERIAN ADVOCATE (1830)

Throughout one year (1830, Vol. I) the *Presbyterian Advocate* was published monthly at Lexington, Ky., by Thomas T. Skillman, in behalf of "an association of ministers." Its mission was "to exhibit correct views of the doctrines and government of the Presbyterian church, to support their truth and scriptural authority, and defend them against objections and misrepresentations."¹⁷ As a consequence of such intentions, it was only natural that the *Advocate* should clash with the viewpoints of certain other communions which were active in the State of Kentucky at that time.

Thomas Cleland, O. S. Hinckley, J. D. Paxton and J. C. Young were the more frequent contributors to the journal. Representative articles included the "History, policy and general principles of the Presbyterian Church," and the materials published in seven installments in a section entitled "The Calvinist." By the end of its single year of existence the publisher had become convinced that the *Advocate* was interfering with the circulation of his religious newspaper, the *Western Luminary*, and promptly terminated its career.¹⁸

V. BALTIMORE LITERARY AND RELIGIOUS MAGAZINE and the SPIRIT OF THE XIX CENTURY (1835-43)

"I have written more than half the matter printed in the nine 8vo. vols. which constitute the two works," declared R. J. Breckenridge in the final issue of the latter,¹⁹ and this statement is indicative of the extent to which the *Baltimore Literary and Religious*

¹⁶ns V, 384.

¹⁷I, 1.

¹⁸I, 287.

¹⁹*Spirit of the XIX Century*, II, 662.

Magazine (1835-41, Vols. I-VII) and the *Spirit of the XIX Century* (1842-43, Vols. I-II) reflect the influence of their determined editor. The two titles actually represent one monthly publication, the change in name taking place upon the withdrawal of A. B. Cross from joint editorship with Dr. Breckenridge.²⁰

Anti-Romanism was the dominant and recurring note of the periodicals, and it was treated with the vigor and fearlessness which distinguished the varied activities of their editor. Universalism was also subjected to repeated attack. The Old and New School controversy received due attention, with Dr. Breckenridge adhering to the former party. Financial relations with individual readers were aired under the head of "Notices, receipts, accounts, etc.," wherein the editor's private opinions of delinquent subscribers were vividly publicized.

In the face of favorable prospects for continuance, the *Spirit of the XIX Century* closed somewhat prematurely, at the end of 1843, upon the studied deliberation of Dr. Breckenridge. He disclosed sagacious insight into contemporary opinion when he wrote that he would probably be considered insincere in asserting that he was "utterly averse to the painful and wasting excitement of controversy."²¹

VI. SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW (1847-85)

George Howe, the historian, James H. Thornwell, the theologian, and B. M. Palmer, Jr., the preacher, constituted the first editorial board of the *Southern Presbyterian Review*, while a number of its contributors were scarcely less distinguished. The first issue appeared in June, 1847, while the last was that of December, 1885 (Vols. I-XXXVI). An index was printed in connection with Vol. XXXV. The contemplated removal of Dr. Palmer from Columbia to New Orleans, coupled with the serious illness on the part of one, and additional literary activities assumed by the other, of the two remaining editors, resulted in the temporary suspension of

²⁰*Spirit of the XIX Century*, 1, 2.

²¹*Ibid.*, II, 663.

publication with the April issue of 1856. The next appearance of the *Review* was in April of the following year. By this time, John B. Adger had replaced Dr. Palmer on the staff, while Professors Howe and Thornwell were once more in position to devote the requisite attention to the journal.²² The association responsible for the *Review* was enlarged in the early 1860's, when James Woodrow came into control and served as editor and publisher until the periodical was discontinued. In 1875, R. L. Dabney, a member of the editorial board, attempted to negotiate the purchase of the quarterly from Dr. Woodrow but met with no success. Efforts to remove the place of publication from Columbia, S. C., to Richmond, Va., or Charleston, S. C., were likewise unavailing.²³

The general disorganizing effect of the War between the States, combined with the adept Dr. Woodrow's service to the Confederacy as chief of that government's chemical laboratory in Columbia, resulted in somewhat irregular publication during the period of conflict. Vol. XV was issued, 1862-63, and Vol. XVI, though begun in 1863, was not completed until 1866.

Dr. Thornwell was responsible for the most memorable of the offerings of the *Review*. More than a score of such articles included "The Princeton Review and Presbyterianism,"²⁴ "The State of the Country,"²⁵ "Address of the Presbyterian Church in the Confederate States of America,"²⁶ and "Dr. Thornwell on Ruling Elders."²⁷ Other influential studies embraced a series on the subject of Induction by Dr. Dabney,²⁸ several papers on Africa by J. L. Wilson,²⁹ an extended discussion on the Diaconate by J. L. Girardeau,³⁰ more than thirty varied contributions of Dr. Adger,

²²*Special Address to the Patrons of the Southern Presbyterian Review* (undated folder, apparently issued early in 1857). Adger, John B. *My Life and Times*. Richmond, Va. c. 1899, p. 229.

²³Johnson, T. C. *Life and Letters of Robert Lewis Dabney*, Richmond, Va. c. 1903, p. 404.

²⁴XIII, 757-810.

²⁵*Ibid.*, 860-89.

²⁶XIV, 531-50. This encyclical had been adopted by the first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the Confederate States of America.

²⁷XVIII, 30-46. A reprint from the *Spirit of the XIX Century*, II, 624-31.

²⁸XXXIV, 1-29, 484-520, 703-45.

²⁹I, no. 4, 79-97; II, 222-38; XV, 349-71; XXIX, 220-36.

³⁰XXX, 1-32; XXXI, 117-60; XXXII, 191-210, 628-64; XXXIII, 175-208.

and the address entitled "Evolution," delivered by Dr. Woodrow before the Alumni Association of the Seminary at Columbia.³¹ A number of these discussions appeared later in the published works of their authors. Able accounts of the meetings of various General Assemblies have also been preserved in the *Review*. At the close of its career the journal was weighty with material on the Woodrow controversy, the final volume including four articles, aggregating more than two hundred pages, on this case.

The *Southern Presbyterian Review* was not only a potent factor in the life and development of the Church in the South, but is of essential importance to an understanding of its history.

VII. TRUE BAPTIST (1853-54)

The aim of the *True Baptist* is disclosed by the title. It was "devoted to the discussion of the mode of baptism; the design of baptism; the subjects of "baptism," and "collateral and kindred topics,"³² from a Presbyterian point of view. Issued monthly at Jackson, Miss., it ran from January, 1853, through the following year (Vols. I-II). Rigidly adhering to its intended mission, this magazine gained the official commendation of the Old and New School synods of Mississippi and that of the Mississippi Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at their meetings in 1853.³³ The editor, Alexander Newton, was affiliated with the New School division of the Presbyterian Church.

VIII. PRESBYTERIAL CRITIC (1855-56)

"Truth, like a torch, the more it's shook it shines" constituted the arresting motto of the *Presbyterial Critic* (1855-56, Vols. I-II), "conducted for an association of gentlemen, by Stuart Robinson and Thos. E. Peck" at Baltimore Md.³⁴ The sponsors included J. H. Boccock, R. J. Breckenridge, R. L. Dabney, W. H.

³¹XXXV, 341-68.

³²I, title page.

³³II, *op.* 192.

³⁴I, title page.

Ruffner, B. M. Smith and C. R. Vaughan,³⁵ although the journal was underwritten by Dr. Robinson, who, according to Dr. Peck, bore the loss incidental to its publication.³⁶

Projected in an effort to supply the need for a magazine which would occupy a place between the quarterly review and the religious newspaper, it was primarily intended to afford a medium for the discussion of specific questions of church order and polity, with particular emphasis upon the principles of Presbyterianism.³⁷ Issued for the first year on a monthly basis, the *Critic* became bi-monthly in January, 1856, and was discontinued, November, 1856, soon after Dr. Robinson left Baltimore to assume a professorship in Danville Theological Seminary.³⁸

In view of the place of publication, it is not surprising that certain articles were concerned with Romanism. A limited number of historical and theological papers also appeared in the *Critic*, but the topic of church government made a larger claim upon the attention of the readers. It appears that the two editors wrote a substantial portion of the contents of the volumes. Probably the most interesting section of the work was that denominated "Editorial Exchange," in which comment was made upon recent books, articles and periodicals. These remarks were frequently of an informal nature, and, after the passing of more than four score years, retain a flavor and incisiveness which commend their contents to readers of this later day.

IX. DANVILLE QUARTERLY REVIEW (1861-64)

Those enterprises with which R. J. Breckenridge was associated were inclined to become wrapped in controversy, and in no case is this tendency more evident than in that of the *Danville Quarterly Review* (1861-64, Vols. I-IV). Initiated at Danville, Ky., it was intended to serve as the literary organ of the theological seminary by that name as well as to represent several

³⁵*Southern Presbyterian Review*, XXXIII, 244.

³⁶*Ibid.*

³⁷I, 1-6.

³⁸II, 320.

other institutions located in the same town.³⁹ The natural propensities of the senior editor, coupled with the events of the particular years of publication, resulted in a quarterly which was drenched in the atmosphere of civil and ecclesiastical conflict.

The internal affairs of the *Review* were far from harmonious. Before the first issue was printed, three members of the board of editors, including Stuart Robinson, had withdrawn because of differences with Dr. Breckenridge.⁴⁰ By March, 1862, several more of the group had, for various reasons, severed their connection with the periodical; and, according to Dr. Breckenridge, the publisher joined them, taking the mailing list with him.⁴¹ It is difficult to arrive at any specific idea of the circulation of the *Review*, since considerable internal evidence along this line is confined to comparative generalities.⁴² Yet at the close of its second year the editor wrote that actual receipts had been more than sufficient to cover the costs of publication.⁴³ With the resignation of two of the remaining members of the staff, at the close of 1864, it was deemed wise to discontinue publication.⁴⁴

The four volumes of the *Review* are characterized by a number of general articles of ability, and had its lot been cast in happier days, the publication might well have profitably affected the life of the Church. The imprint of the times, however, is written deep upon its pages, and much of the content reflects the history of a tempestuous and bitter era. Ten of the twenty-five titles in the final volume found their roots in the political situation of the day.

X. PRESBYTERIAN QUARTERLY (1887-1904)

Devoted "to the discussion, in somewhat more elaborate form than is practicable in the excellent weekly papers of the church, of the great problems of religious and theological life, and of the

³⁹II, 143; IV, 633.

⁴⁰II, 141.

⁴¹*Ibid.*

⁴²II, 143, 145-46.

⁴³II, *op.* 714.

⁴⁴IV, 632.

work of the church, and to the careful review of current and new literature,"⁴⁵ the *Presbyterian Quarterly* was published from July, 1887, through April, 1904, with no issue between October, 1901, and July, 1902 (Vols. I-XVII). Atlanta, Chester, S. C., Richmond, Columbia, Charlotte and Richmond, in the order named, are listed as places of publication, while New York was associated with Atlanta and, for a time, with Chester as a subordinate point of distribution.

The original staff consisted of G. B. Strickler and E. H. Barnett, editors, with George Summey as manager. Dr. Barnett died in the fall of 1898, and A. J. McKelway became editor in December of that year, while Drs. Strickler and Summey were joined by Francis Beattie and S. C. Byrd as associate editors. In regard to this arrangement, Dr. McKelway observed that "the four theological schools of the Church and four sections of the South are represented."⁴⁶ By January, 1901, the *Quarterly* described itself as a "theological, philosophical and literary review." It was conducted by a group of seventeen eminent ministers of the Church, under the superintendence of the editors mentioned above. In July of the following year Dr. Summey was listed as editor, with Professors Beattie and Strickler and R. C. Reed, associates.

The *Quarterly* was characterized by the manner in which it concentrated on articles of a critical nature, and frequently these discussions were of such substance as to constitute an actual contribution to theological thought and learning. That this periodical and the *Union Seminary Magazine* ran concurrently for some fifteen years is to be explained by the fact that the *Magazine*, during its earlier volumes was, in the words of its editor, "practical rather than scientific or theoretic in the character of our matter and its aim . . . not concerned so much with the defense and elucidation of the doctrines of our Church as with the application of those doctrines to everyday life."⁴⁷

Many capable pens engaged in support of the *Quarterly*. R. L.

⁴⁵XVI, no. 1, inside front cover.

⁴⁶XIII, 148.

⁴⁷*Union Seminary Magazine*, III, 54.

Dabney and B. B. Warfield were consistent contributors through a number of years. H. C. Alexander, J. L. Girardeau and W. W. Moore were frequently represented during the earlier volumes, while W. M. McPheeters, S. M. Smith and R. A. Webb were authors of numerous articles and book reviews. Among those responsible for occasional and discerning discussions of literature and literary figures should be mentioned W. S. Currell and C. Alphonso Smith. Altogether, the periodical represented the ablest scholarship of the Church of its day joined with the labors of a number of theologians from other branches of the Presbyterian family.⁴⁸

XI. UNION SEMINARY REVIEW (1889-date)

R. L. Dabney, with a poem entitled "Annihilation," W. W. Moore, T. E. Peck and A. T. Pierson were the leading contributors to the first issue of the *Union Seminary Magazine* (October-November, 1889).⁴⁹ The design of the editors was not to produce a review of the more erudite type but to "supply the demand for a Religious Family Magazine that will occupy a place midway between the philosophical quarterlies and our religious newspapers." It was further asserted that "while it will have a *strong homiletic cast*, it is pre-eminently *a religious magazine for the home and family*." The original department headings were: literary, editorial, missionary, local and alumni notes, criticisms and reviews.⁵⁰

The name was changed to the *Union Seminary Review* in 1913 (October-November issue), and the new title explained as an endeavor to avoid confusion with the usual type of college magazine and by a desire "to widen the scope of our publication somewhat,

⁴⁸In 1894 the complaint was made that too many of the contributors represented churches other than the Presbyterian, U. S. (*Vide* Johnson, T. C., *A History of the Southern Presbyterian Church*. New York, 1894, pp. 406-7, footnote.)

⁴⁹As early as 1874, an unsuccessful effort had been put forth by Drs. Dabney and Peck, R. P. Farris, Moses D. Hoge, B. M. Smith and others to establish a quarterly, or monthly review, with the professors of Union Seminary, assisted by the president of Hampden-Sydney College, in general charge of the critical and theological departments (*Christian Observer*, Sept. 30, 1874).

⁵⁰I, 35-36.

and make it more and more a review of our church's work and of living questions in the religious world."⁵¹ At the same time, a member of the faculty replaced a student as editor-in-chief. Since that date the following professors have served in this capacity: W. L. Lingle (1913-22), W. T. Thompson (1922-24), E. C. Caldwell (1924-31), W. T. Thompson (Acting, 1931-32) and J. Gray McAllister (1932 to the present). Exactly one year later, 1914, publication was placed upon a quarterly basis in lieu of the earlier arrangement of bimonthly issues during the eight months of the seminary year.

The *Review* has indicated a progressive tendency to widen its circle of literary supporters. The October, 1924, issue carried the notation, "Published quarterly . . . by the professors and students of Union Theological Seminary in Virginia in the interests of the whole Southern Presbyterian Church."⁵² Four years later this had become "Published by the faculty and students . . . assisted by professors in the Austin, Columbia and Louisville Theological Seminaries and in the General Assembly's Training School, and by many other ministers and educators of the Southern Presbyterian Church."⁵³ By April, 1933, the concluding phrase had been altered to read, "ministers and educators of our own and sister churches."⁵⁴ This inclusion of brethren from sister churches, however, was in the nature of the recognition of a reality rather than the promulgation of a new policy, for ministers other than those of the Presbyterian Church, U. S., were already enriching the *Review*. An examination of the authorship of the ninety-three articles published during the five years covered by Volumes L-LIV reveals that seventeen were written by members of the Seminary faculty, fifty-seven by other ministers and laymen of the Presbyterian Church in the United States and the remaining nineteen by scholars from other churches.

The *Union Seminary Review* has been from the beginning closely associated with that institution from which it derives its name. Such relationships on the part of earlier publications,

⁵¹XXV, 51-52.

⁵²XXXVI, 1.

⁵³XL, 127.

⁵⁴XLIV, 302.

with the partial exception of the *Danville Quarterly Review*, have been incidental rather than studied; but the primary objective listed in the opening number of the *Magazine* was "to secure for this institution a literary organ that will advance the interests of the Seminary in all its departments of work,"⁵⁵ and the sponsorship of that Seminary has been evident throughout the half century which has passed since that time. This connection has undoubtedly proven of substantial advantage in sustaining the *Review* over a period during which many similar publications have succumbed to the varied vicissitudes which are the peculiar afflictions of this type of ecclesiastical enterprise.

An ability has been repeatedly demonstrated to make such changes and adjustments as are suggested by new conditions and situations. The gradual assumption of the offices of a review upon the discontinuance of the *Presbyterian Quarterly*, the replacement of student oversight by a faculty editor, and the progressive enlargement of the supporting staff are at once matters of history and intimations of promise. It should be observed that complete transition from the purposes of the original *Magazine* to those of the review in the stricter sense has not been fully accomplished. This is evident from an examination of the present statement of aims: "Devoted to the explanation and defence of the teachings of the Bible as interpreted in the Westminster Standards; discussion of practical church problems; expository studies of great passages of Scripture; special articles on missionary topics; sermons by our leading preachers and reviews of the best theological and religious books."⁵⁶ It is the opinion of the writer that, leaving other essential phases of journalistic activity to the *Presbyterian Survey* and the religious newspapers, the indicated trend toward concentration on the more scholarly and critical type of article should be continued. The somewhat recent resurgence of the "Southern Presbyterian pen" might well be capitalized in this connection.

No effort will be made to list the contributors to the *Review*. It is sufficient to say that such a catalogue would largely duplicate

⁵⁵I, 35.

⁵⁶LIV, 352.

that of the leaders of the Church in the South since the beginning of the century and include a number who completed their work before that time. This fact serves as an objective commentary upon the value of the publication. One thing is presently desirable. The printing of a comprehensive author, title and subject index would both enhance the prestige and augment the usefulness of the *Review* by making the significant contents of the fifty-five published volumes readily accessible to interested students. We understand that arrangements for such an index are in the making.

CONCLUSION

Primarily dedicated to the critical discussion of religious topics, the reviews were printed in octavo size. The earlier publications appeared on a monthly basis, while those of a later date were generally issued quarterly. Five of the twelve which have been considered ran for a period of ten years or longer, and the two Baltimore magazines of R. J. Breckenridge completed nine consecutive volumes. In addition to the usual articles and book reviews, a few poems and regular accounts of the meetings of the General Assembly were found in the majority of these serials.

The support accorded that review now published in the Church is less, both actually and comparatively, than has been given similar periodicals at certain times in the past. The *Spirit of the XIX Century* closed one hundred years ago (1843) after having averaged, with the *Baltimore Literary and Religious Magazine*, a circulation of approximately eight hundred.⁵⁷ Fifty years ago (1893) the *Presbyterian Quarterly* distributed an average of 987 copies per issue.⁵⁸ The earliest available figures on the *Southern Presbyterian Review* are those for 1871, when the circulation was 1150.⁵⁹ This was at a time when the ministers of the Presbyterian Church, U. S., numbered 860. Today the *Union Seminary Review* has a circulation of 750,⁶⁰ while the number of

⁵⁷*Spirit of the XIX Century*, II, 663.

⁵⁸*American Newspaper Directory*. Geo. P. Rowell & Co., New York, 1894, p. 784.

⁵⁹*Ibid.*, 1872, p. 169.

⁶⁰*Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals*, N. W. Ayer & Son, Phila. 1943, p. 954.

ministers has risen to 2542. However, this compares favorably with the figures for kindred contemporary journals. In 1942, the *Anglican Theological Review* (Protestant Episcopal) distributed an average of 400 copies per issue;⁶¹ the *Harvard Theological Review*, 200 by paid subscription and 350 by gift;⁶² the *Journal of Religion* (University of Chicago Press), 700.⁶³ During 1941 (1942 figures are not available), the *Review and Expositor* (Southern Baptist) averaged 1000 copies,⁶⁴ while the *Union Review* (Union Theological Seminary in New York) had 360 subscribers and placed 600 gift copies per issue.⁶⁵

The review has been judged an essential instrument in the conduct of the affairs of the Church in the South, as is indicated by the fact that only eight of the last one hundred and twenty-five years have been permitted to pass without the appearance of an issue of some periodical of this type. The most competent leaders of that Church have extensively and effectively exercised their abilities in sustaining these ventures; and, as a consequence, much of the serious writing of the past century and a quarter has been presented to the public through the channel of the review.

⁶¹*Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals*, N. W. Ayer & Sons, Phila. 1943, p. 231.

⁶²*Ibid.*, p. 405.

⁶³*Ibid.*, p. 216.

⁶⁴*Ibid.*, 1942, p. 371.

⁶⁵*Ibid.*, p. 682.