

# THE Union Seminary Magazine.

---

Vol. XIII.

APRIL—MAY, 1902.

No. 4.

---

## I. Literary.

---

### SHOULD WE ASSERT IN OUR CREED THAT ALL INFANTS DYING IN INFANCY ARE ELECT?

BY PROF. THOMAS C. JOHNSON, D. D., LL. D.

First. The question is not whether the members and ordained rulers of our church *believe* that all infants dying in infancy are saved.

As a matter of fact, there is a general belief of this sort. Some of our people doubt it. Some of them do not believe that the infants of heathen and of ungodly parents are amongst the elect, and so amongst the saved. But that there is a general belief of this sort can hardly be doubted. If this belief, however, were universal, the bare existence of the belief could not give our church the warrant to put the belief into the creed. Something more than the universality of a belief is required to entitle that belief to expression in the church's creed. A few instances will show this. During the second and third centuries the doctrine of baptismal regeneration became an almost universal belief in the church. It crept into the creed. Who of you doubt that it was wrong to put it there? During these and the succeeding centuries the doctrines of the special priesthood and sacrifice, and the doctrine of transubstantiation, became almost universal beliefs and were made parts of the creed. Who here doubts that this was wrong? In 1861 the belief that all Presbyterians, North, South, East and West, ought to support the national government at Washington, became the belief of the majority of old school Presbyterians, and accordingly the General Assembly sitting in Philadelphia in May of that year, passed the

### III. Editorial.

---

#### EDITORIAL STAFF.

**Editor-in-Chief.**

**J. A. McCLURE,**

**Business Manager.**

**J. A. WILLIAMS.**

**Associate Editors.**

**J. R. ROSEBRO,**

**A. D. WATKINS,**

**Missionary Editors.**

**J. L. STUART,**

**L. I. MOFFETT.**

**Review Editors.**

**PROF. T. C. JOHNSON, D. D., LL. D.**

**PROF. W. W. MOORE, D. D., LL. D.**

---

#### TORONTO.

It would be a spiritual uplift to visit Toronto under any circumstances. With its wholesome piety and multiplied religious activities, it is perhaps the most truly Christian city on the continent. But "Toronto" will hereafter be with many hundreds a descriptive term for one of the most transforming experiences of their lives. It will suggest to them the greatest student gathering the world has yet mustered together. It will call up a vision of a vast music hall, crowded even into its high-piled galleries with young men and women from some five hundred different institutions of higher learning, assembled thus out of an impassioned enthusiasm for the foreign mission of the Christian Church. The Student Volunteer Convention was a pictured prophecy of stirring advances in the world's evangelization. The gray-haired workers on the platform from the front or from some pastorate or mission office, the recruits and their associates packing the audience-room, the motto flung high overhead, with the Stars and Stripes and Union Jack entwined in the background—it was a spectacle of glowing encouragement and tremendous significance. It was a really great event. There were several characteristics of the convention which impressed those in attendance.

(1) The mechanical details were carried through superbly. The three thousand delegates were welcomed, entertained, seated,

and sent away thrilled and thoughtful; the busy, varied sessions of several hours each began and ended on time, with every speaker in his appointed limits, with every feature of the programme properly advertised and arranged for; the huge concourse was controlled into unemotional earnestness and prayerful application at the chairman's will—all this without a hitch or jar. A vast machine was in silent, strenuous operation. The preparation must have been immense.

(2) The programme was practical without being sordid nor excessively business-like, spiritual without sentimentalism, stimulating, suggestive and eminently sane. Familiar topics were treated with a delightful freshness and fervency. A healthy optimism was coupled with an unflinching regard for grave problems and staggering obstacles.

With Mr. Speer's courteous permission, we are publishing his wonderfully impressive address, because in its subject-matter, spirit and point of view it reflects very vividly the convention's whole programme. Dr. Egbert Watson Smith's fine speech is also reproduced, partly, we confess, because we are proud of our own *alumnus*, partly also because of its practical worth to so many of our readers.

(3) The influence this convention may have upon the student life of North America, and through it upon the one billion heathen still reproaching our Christianity, is a field for exhilarating speculation. Things at least as undreamed of may soon occur as this very convention would have been in the little Bible class that determined, just sixteen years ago, to begin a "Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions."

(4) But that which has, perhaps, lingered most in the thoughts of all those present, that which is most significant of the attitude of our educated Christian youth of to-day, that which gives such mighty promise to this movement and such startling power to its endeavors, is the genuine spirituality which stamped the entire convention. It was a splendid triumph for evangelical Christianity. New Testament methods and motives controlled it. Prayer and reverent waiting upon God transfigured every session. It was a great prayer-meeting, in the spirit and with the purpose of the one held once in an upper room in Jerusalem. It thrilled one to see and hear and feel on every side the burning love and loyalty to Jesus Christ that almost glorified the very atmos-

phere. In fine, Mr. Mott's parting benediction admirably summarized and closed the whole convention, "Therefore be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

J. L. S.

---

#### IN CONCLUSION.

IN the first issue of the present volume we pledged ourselves to maintain the high standard of literary excellence to which the MAGAZINE had attained. By the untiring efforts of the associate editors, and the generous support of our many friends, this pledge, we believe, has been redeemed.

We close the volume by expressing to the many contributors, who have rendered a service to our church by their timely and thoughtful articles and reviews, our hearty appreciation of their kindness

J. A. McC.

---

#### STAFF 1902-1903.

*Editor-in-Chief.*—A. D. Watkins.

*Associate Editors.*—W. A. Ross, J. Dunlinson.

*Missionary Editors.*—A. M. Earle, W. F. Galbraith.

*Business Manager.*—J. L. Lineweaver.