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THE PRESBYTERIAN QUARTERLY.

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I.

THE ADAMIC PRINCIPLE IN THEOLOGY.

THE origin of our race is Adamic; its probation and apostasy were Adamic; its guilt and depravity are Adamic; its redemption, as far as it is redeemed, is Adamic. This word *Adamic* is the italic word in our language, having more meaning and distinction than any other. Without it, human history would be an enigma, mental philosophy a puzzle, and theology but a vain logomachy. Anthropology and soteriology both turn upon it as a pivotal word.

What, then, is its import in theology—what underlying, informing, and shaping principle does it symbolize as it stands in the vocabulary of the science of religion?

To this question three typical answers have been proposed, giving three fundamental hypotheses as to the nature of the union between Adam and his posterity, and as to the nature of our participation in his guilt and depravity; and the constructive influence of these theories reaches into soteriology. One class of theologians translates the word *Adamic* by the word *parental*; another, by the word *realistic*; and the third, by the word *federal*.

I. According to parentalists, Adam sustained no other relation to his posterity than that of a father to his children; and this relation ruled the whole Edenic probation, and all the consequences of the fall, as they flowed down to the race. This is the key to all the arrangements and consequences of the covenant of works. As a race-father, Adam sinned; as children, all mankind heir his misery and the defects of his character. The Adamic principle, then, to them is precisely and definitely the law of genetic transmission.

the true people of God, and will tend to bring us all closer together in life and work as we are already in purpose and heart.

The Managing Editor of the QUARTERLY will have associated with him Drs. G. B. Strickler, of Virginia, R. C. Reed, of South Carolina, and F. R. Beattie, of Kentucky. These brethren will take larger part in shaping the periodical than the Associate Editors have done in the past, and will themselves contribute frequently to its pages.

In this renewed effort to make a periodical worthy of our beloved church, its publishers and editors earnestly ask the hearty co-operation and loyal support of the ministers and officers of the church, and of all others who have an interest in the permanence of its literature. They invite, as well, suggestions as to its various features, whether mechanical or literary, and will gladly do whatever they can to increase its value to all who read it. They will also welcome contributions from all who may desire to put their ideas in permanent literary form and to give others the benefit of their thoughts. They feel confident that the stimulus that will thus be given to our writers will be helpful both to themselves and to the church.

It is regretted that there has been unavoidable delay, largely incident to starting out upon a new enterprise, in the issuing of this first number under the new *regime*. The succeeding issues will appear at shorter intervals, however, and it is hoped that nothing will interfere with the subsequent prompt appearance of each number.

For the benefit of those subscribers or libraries accustomed or desiring to bind their volumes, there are appended to this number suitable title-pages and tables of contents for Volumes XIII., XIV., and XV.

THE NEW THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

THE Synod of Texas last fall framed a formal constitution for a theological seminary, and directed the Board of Trustees to which they entrusted the work of raising funds and making an organization to take steps to open the Seminary as soon as the sum of one hundred thousand dollars was raised for its maintenance. That end has lately been reached, and the seminary is announced to be opened for work in the coming autumn. Two professors, besides the president, have been elected, and announcement is made, according to the Synod's order, that first-year students only will be received. Rev. Robert A. Webb, D. D., of the Clarksville Divinity School, has been

elected to the Professorship of Theology, and Rev. R. E. Vinson, of Charleston, W. Va., to the Professorship of Biblical Languages. Dr. Webb declined the call, however, and will remain in his present most useful place. No other has yet been named for the place declined. Dr. Thornton R. Sampson will, it is understood, also be a professor.

The Synod of the Empire State of the West is to be congratulated upon reaching this point in its development. Everything indicates the rapid growth of the church in that quarter, no less than the growth of the material and educational interests of the section. One cannot ride over its broad prairies, and through its flourishing cities and towns, and fail to realize that the State is a mighty empire within itself, with resources proportioned to the great expanse of the territory and the richness of the soil. Attending a meeting of the Synod, one feels a breeziness and life and vim found nowhere else in our church. Everything is full of hope. And it is an energetic hope, too; not an idle, dreamy expectation of great things and great days to come. The ministers, elders and church are alive and awake, full of work, full of zeal, full of faith. However small may be the beginnings in any department of the church's life, they are ready to take hold of them and develop them. So is it with their scheme for theological education. They intend to make it the very best, in both strength and character. Witness the men whom they have called to the work.

In the development of this enterprise, while honor is due to a score of men for energy and self-denial, special praise must be given to the indefatigable and vigorous agent of the seminary, now its president, Rev. Thornton R. Sampson, D. D., and to the constant, persistent efforts of Rev. S. B. Campbell, D. D., who has allowed no difficulties to discourage him or obstacles to prevent his steady movement towards the great end for which he has striven for years past. The temporary work at Austin, some years ago, under the able direction of Drs. Dabney and Smoot, prepared the way for the present development, and by its rich fruitage, in the short period of its active existence, stimulated the Texans to special effort. The well-known loyalty of the people of that section to their own State and institutions insures the success of the new Austin school. The institution now formed is welcomed to the sisterhood of theological seminaries.