

... THE ...
**UNION SEMINARY
 REVIEW**

A PRESBYTERIAN QUARTERLY

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EDITORIAL NOTES

INDEX TO VOLUME XXXV.

The index to Volume xxxv of THE REVIEW has been printed in a separate folder and inserted in this issue. Published in this loose form, it may be pasted in at the end of No. 4 of Volume xxxv or bound together with the four numbers forming Volume xxxv—October, 1923, and January, April and July, 1924.

REPRINT OF THE LATE DR. B. B. WARFIELD'S ARTICLE.

The article on "The Millennium and the Apocalypse," by the late Dr. Warfield, which appeared in the October number of THE REVIEW, has been published in pamphlet form by the

THE PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE SYNOD OF TEXAS.

BY REV. S. M. TENNEY, D. D.,
President, Texarkana, Tex.

The time will come when the History of American Presbyterianism must needs be written. The work which Dr. Tenney is now doing will then be invaluable. Every Synod, North and South, East and West, should have its own Historical Society and be working along the lines as outlined in the following article.—Editor.

The Presbyterian Historical Society of the Synod of Texas has been in existence and functioning for some years. Under its leadership the fifteenth anniversary of the Synod of Texas was celebrated, the two hundredth anniversary of the organization of the first Synod in the United States was celebrated, as have been several other such special anniversaries and occasions. It has made out a card catalog of all Presbyterian ministers serving in the Synod from 1838 to 1924. In many instances the records of church sessions are held by private individuals as private property. This society has annually for several years had it written into the Minutes of the Synod and into the minutes of several of the presbyteries that all records and minutes of sessions, presbyteries, synods, and the committees of any and all of these church courts are the property of the church and not of individuals, and that the ownership of such cannot be alienated. Many of the oldest and best churches have no records of their early history; they have been burned or lost in private homes. Two of the oldest presbyteries of this Synod have very partial records because of loss by fire or otherwise. The Historical Society has urged upon all church courts the importance of keeping church records in fire-proof vaults. The society has induced the Synod and each of its ten presbyteries—also a number of other synods—to make it a standing rule to file a copy of the printed minutes with the Presbyterian Historical Society of Philadelphia, the Presbyterian Historical Society of the Synod of Texas, the State Librarian, and the Stated Clerk of the Court. This is good in-

surance against loss. Through the society the Synod has urged all sessions and presbyteries to place all volumes of records not in actual use on deposit with the Historical Society of the Synod. All records of churches and presbyteries becoming defunct are required to be filed with the Historical Society. The society has collected all printed records of presbyteries and of Synod and keeps these with manuscript copies of such under fire protection. It has collected the memorials and life-sketches of many of those who have labored in the Synod and photographs of a large number of these. It has also collected sketches of many of those who have labored in the Synod and men and women, and pictures of meetings of presbyteries, presbyterials, synods and synodicals. It has collected pictures of many of the earlier and present church buildings and manses. It supplied Eastern Texas Presbytery with pictures of each of its church buildings and manses to be used in a film exhibit of the work of the Presbytery. It has attempted to tabulate the pamphlets and books published by all those who have labored in the ministry in the Synod and to collect all of these.

A step forward was made four years since, when the Synod authorized its committee to assess each presbytery for a reasonable amount to meet expenses incident to its labors. This assessment provides only sufficient funds for postage, expressage on minutes, and such other small office expenses. Prior to that time whatever was accomplished was at the personal expense of the Synod's officer. There has been an increasing appreciation of the service and a disposition to give it a better support as a regular part of Synod's budget.

Some four years ago, in seeking to trace the records of some of the earlier ministers who had labored in Texas, it was discovered that there was no one organization acting for our whole Church in collecting and seeking to preserve against loss the sources of its history. As a consequence the Historical Society of the Synod of Texas took upon itself this task.

The general divisions of our service are comprehended in the following:

I. *Official History.* Under this caption we collect (1)

minutes of congregations, sessions, presbyteries, synods, assemblies, presbyterial, synodicals, etc. We have complete files of all minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., from 1706 to 1924, of the Presbyterian Church, U. S., from 1861 to 1924, perfect files of the minutes of many of the synods, U. S. A. and U. S., broken files of others, the minutes of the Presbyteries of the Synod of Texas, U. S., and some minutes of other presbyteries, the minutes of all synodicals, some are perfect files, others not, minutes of many presbyterials, minutes of some of the older church parishes. (2) Reports of all church boards, executive committees, etc.; of these we have perfect file of all the reports of the general boards of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., and good but incomplete files of the executive committees of the Church, U. S. (3) Pastoral letters, etc., are collected as the deliverances of the church. (4) Digests are collected. We now have every edition of the Digest of the Church, U. S. A., except the last, and every edition of our own Digest.

II. *Formal History.* Under this caption we collect the histories of all churches, presbyteries, synods, denominational history, general Presbyterian History, history of movements, e. g., women's work, history of boards and committees, history of institutions, etc. We have the histories of a number of presbyteries, synods, many churches, of many colleges, etc.

III. *Current History.* Under this caption we collect the files of Presbyterian reviews, magazines, papers, etc. Of these we have a great many, and are receiving gratis, through the kindness of publishers almost if not every Presbyterian paper in the United States.

IV. *Vital or Inner History.* Here come all the orderly classifications of Presbyterian literature, Creed, Dogma, Exegesis, Apologetics, Biblical Theology, etc., missions, devotional literature, liturgics, hymnology, etc. All these reveal the inner life of the Church and are properly part and parcel of this history. Under this division we have collected copies of every hymn book the Church has approved, and much else.

(2) The genius of Presbyterianism comes to its maturest

and ripest fruitage in the individual character and its service. A single life often determines and shapes the whole course of the stream. Here is the place of Biography. We are collecting not only the biographies of all leading ministers—John Witherspoon, John Ewing, John Rodgers, Alexander McWhorter, Ashabel Green, Archibald Alexander, Samuel Miller, Charles Hodge, J. H. Thornwell, R. L. Dabney, B. M. Palmer, M. D. Hoge, W. S. White, J. B. Adger, J. N. Waddell, *et al*; Home Missionaries—David Brainerd, Marcus Whitman, Sheldon Jackson, E. O. Guerrant; Foreign Missionaries—Leighton Wilson, H. C. Dubose, *et al*; but also, biographies of great Presbyterian laymen—Walter Lowery, John Wannamaker and many others. Special effort is made to collect the biographies and writings of Presbyterians eminent in State affairs—Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, presidents, jurists, generals, etc. Of these we have quite a few.

V. *Popular History, or Historical Exhibit.* The collection of autographs, photographs of ministers, laymen, churches, ecclesiastical courts, and relics that have a special connection with the history of the Church, tokens, sacramental plates, etc.

It will be seen that attention is given everything that will aid in providing such sources, authentic sources, as give a proper perspective for the study and writing of the history of Presbyterianism. It should be added that our scope comprehends all branches of the Presbyterian Church in this country.

Through the kindness of Rev. C. E. Corwin and Mr. W. L. Brower, of New York, we have a very complete collection of the first hand sources of the Dutch Reformed Church History.

In a few days we will receive a splendid collection of German Reformed History sources. We have some bit of Christian Reformed Church History, and shortly this will be made very full and complete. Of Cumberland Presbyterian minutes, digests, histories, biographies, we have a very good number.

The purpose of our Historical Society is: (1) To provide a safe place for the deposit of the church records, books, papers, etc.; (2) to provide a central location where these records, books, etc., may be assembled for ready service; (3) to

encourage and provide for research work by our ministry in the South and Southwest; (4) to provide a bureau of information and service for the Church in all things pertaining to Presbyterianism.

In closing this very brief sketch, made at the request of the editor of *UNION SEMINARY REVIEW*, I wish to urge upon the student body of all our seminaries and the ministry at large a more careful record of the Church work, more vigilance in preserving from loss such records as the Church has, more interest in the observance of anniversaries of the local church, the Presbytery, the Synod, etc. Such observances will give our ministers a unique opportunity to present to the people that which they need and should have, and will do much to cultivate in them a spirit of greater loyalty. The indifference in matters of this kind in the South and Southwest is amazing. It is the neglect of a splendid opportunity. We have labored to get many churches to observe anniversaries by calling attention to them, and offering to assist them with information. Despite our efforts, one of the oldest of our churches passed by an anniversary, missing a magnificent opportunity to make its cause known throughout the city and to arouse interest and loyalty on the part of its membership. We have moved our quarters to Texarkana, the geographical center of the South and Southwest, and are comfortably housed in a good, modern, fire-proof building. We greatly appreciate this opportunity to make our cause known and solicit the hearty cooperation that we may be able worthily to represent and serve our great Church. We especially invite all ministers to send us their year books and printed histories.