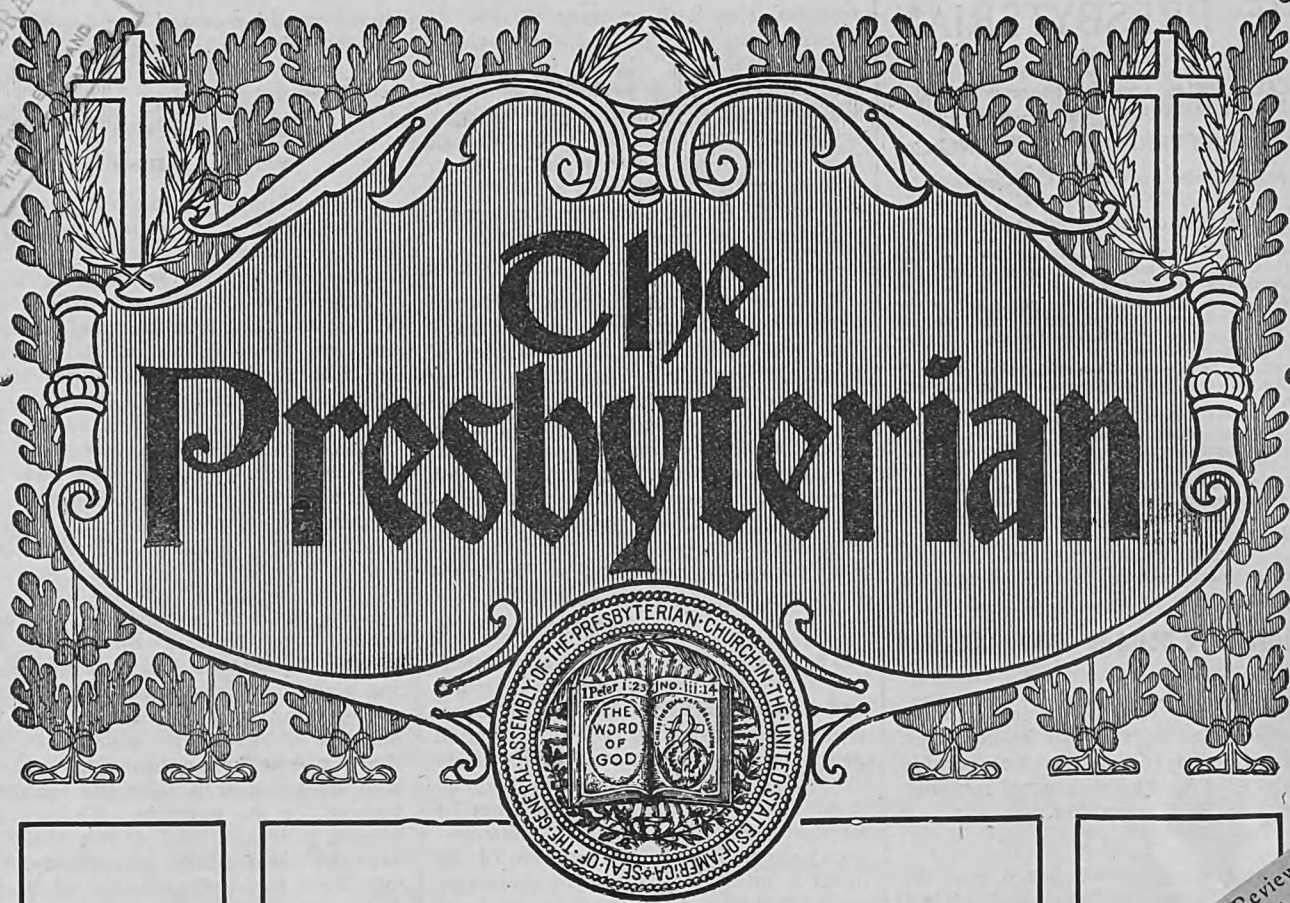




Homiletic Review
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What is Taught in Our Seminaries?

We call the attention of our readers to a passage in this week's letter from our correspondent in the Peninsular State, the Rev. William Bryant, in which he gives an account of the examination by one of the Michigan presbyteries of a number of candidates for the ministry who desired to be licensed. According to the report of our correspondent these men expressed views on the subject of inspiration which were destructive of all confidence in the Bible as the authoritative Word of God. A very painful feature of the story is to the effect that the young men declared that the radical and destructive views which they had embraced were learned from one or more of the professors in an approved theological seminary of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Bryant intimates that the young men were astray on other important doctrines as well as the doctrine of inspiration. We are not surprised: for, when the authority of the Bible is called in question, and only the same kind of belief is given to its teachings as may be reasonably given to the writings of Phillips Brooks, Tennyson, or the editor of a newspaper, the door is wide open for the rejection of any doctrine of the Christian religion.

We lay great stress upon the importance of the saying *audi alteram partem*. We want to know what the teachers in the approved seminary have to say for themselves. It is possible that the professor was telling the students what certain errorists were teaching, and that they imagined him to be in sympathy with the errorists. The matter appears to us to be a thing of the gravest character; and that from several points of view. Twelve seminaries desire to have, and do have, the endorsement of the General Assembly. They are all approved. It is understood that the professors at their inauguration, and at successive intervals, declare their loyalty to the standards of the Presbyterian Church, the first and fundamental of all being the inspired Word of God, and faithfully promise that they will not inculcate, teach, or insinuate anything that shall appear to them to contradict or contravene, directly or indirectly, anything taught in the Confession of Faith or Catechisms of the Church.

Presbyteries, on the strength of the Church's endorsement, venture to send their candidates to these approved institutions, and they have a right to feel indignant if their young men come before them for examination with such tales on their lips as to the character of instruction they have received, as these young men of whom Mr. Bryant speaks, brought to the presbytery to whom they applied for licensure. The presbytery who licensed these men must know which of our seminaries gave them their instruction. It seems to us that strict investigation of the accuracy of the

charge of the teaching of doctrines of a dangerous and destructive character in that seminary ought to be made. An opportunity ought to be given for a clear denial of the charge.

This matter is exceedingly grave from another point of view. Many thousands of dollars are contributed every year for the assistance of candidates at these approved institutions. The money is of a very sacred character. It is doubtful whether a dollar of it would have been given for the aiding of young men in an institution which was even suspected of inculcating such views as these young men say they were taught. Those who administer these sacred funds have a right to an assurance that they are not misappropriating them by aiding in the indoctrination of candidates for the ministry in views inconsistent with the recognition of the authority of the Bible, and other fundamental doctrines of the Church.

The gravity of the situation appears still further in this fact that a majority of the presbytery who examined these young men have voted to certify to the individual congregations of the whole Church, and to the several presbyteries of the Church, that they have found them to have the educational qualifications required by our Book, and that they are sound in doctrine, and therefore to be trusted as qualified and safe teachers of the Word of God. The probationers, armed with this guaranty, will be given free access to any congregation in need of their services, and they will be given the opportunity to say in many a pulpit, if they are so disposed, the things which they said before the presbytery, to the awakening of doubt and distrust, and possibly utter unbelief, as to the authenticity and authority of the Word of God in the hearts of the young and the old who unsuspectingly have come together to hear their message.

We are the more particular to call attention to this matter because it is not the first instance of the kind that has come to our notice of late, and we think it high time to utter a loud note of warning. We here repeat the quotation we made last April from the "Lutheran World": "It is enough to make one sick at heart when young men of such views are being inducted into the ministry. The preaching of such in Germany in the eighteenth century emptied the churches. Why should it not?"

The Cumberland Pastoral

The "Cumberland Presbyterian," in its issue of June 4, prints the Pastoral Letter addressed to Cumberland Presbyterians by the seventy-sixth General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church as appointed to be read in the churches. The letter is an affectionate and earnest appeal to all concerned to acquiesce in

The International Arbitration Conference at Lake Mohonk

By Ethelbert D. Warfield, LL.D.

The twentieth annual conference for International Arbitration was held at Lake Mohonk from May 30 to June 2. These conferences have come to be matters of very wide-spread interest and the influence which they have exerted can scarcely be appreciated by those who have not interested themselves in the recent rapid progress of the cause of international arbitration. Mr. Albert K. Smiley is one of those men who have a genius for giving a practical turn to an ideal. For nineteen years he was with his brother Alfred at the head of a school in Providence, R. I. His attention was directed to the possibilities of Lake Mohonk and its twin sister, Lake Minnewaska, in the beautiful hill country bordering the Hudson.

Out of the mind that conceived this ideal summer resort, or perhaps it were better to say, out of the heart, came the idea of an autumn conference in the interest of the Indians and, after it had proved its success, that of a spring conference in the interest of international arbitration. The generosity of Mr. Smiley, who entertains as his guests the three or four hundred members of the conference, is only a part of a very broad scheme of practical philanthropy.

The conference this year was organized by the election of Hon. John W. Foster, LL.D., Secretary of State during President Harrison's administration, as chairman. Mr. Foster made a very interesting inaugural address, dwelling upon the progress of international arbitration in recent years. As has been the custom for a number of years, Mr. Benjamin F. Trueblood, of Boston, followed with a careful summary of the last year's activities in this field. A very impressive address of unusual felicity was also made at the first meeting by Dr. Lyman Abbott.

It appeared from the opening addresses that, while very little had been done during the last year, this was not due to any lack of fidelity to the cause, but rather to the fact that the more important questions at issue among the nations had been settled by the arbitrations which had been so numerous in recent years. In lieu of any important triumphs for the past year, interest centered upon the two matters of first-class importance which lie in the immediate future, the Pan-American Conference which is to take place at Rio Janeiro at mid-summer, and the second Hague Conference which is to immediately follow it.

Among the conspicuous figures at the conference was Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore, who made a very striking address on the morning of the second day, the burden of which was that Christianity having greatly advanced the cause of peace by the profound change which it has effected in social and national morals, it is now to be expected that the settling of international difficulties by the Christian standard would rapidly take the place of savage recourse to war.

A scarcely less important personage was Bishop McVickar, of Rhode Island, who, in a voice of remarkable sympathetic qualities, made an appeal for the application of Christian ideals in international affairs, which produced a pro-

found expression upon all who heard him.

The contrast between Dr. McVickar's portly presence and that of the diminutive Prof. Hondo, of Japan, was not carried into their intellectual and emotional natures. Introducing his remarks by saying that he had especially devoted his life in Japan to the assistance of lepers and dumb animals, and had never believed his diminutive personality could have any weight in matters of peace and war—he proceeded to make a very tender appeal for the bringing to Japan and China in the prosecution of our relations in commerce and politics, the principles that hitherto had characterized Christian missions only.

Special sessions were given up to which special interests, the notable one of dealt with the work in the field of education. Dr. Gilman, whose name must always be associated with Johns-Hopkins University, and who is now at the head of the Carnegie Institute, acted as chairman of the session in this interest. It elicited probably the most eloquent remarks of the conference from President Faunce, of Brown University, and also evidences of the very wide-spread movement among the schools and colleges of the country for the dissemination of the principals of international arbitration. Another of these special sessions was that of representatives of business organizations, boards of trade, chambers of commerce, etc. Fifty representatives, from a very much larger number of commercial bodies, were present and filled an evening with four minute addresses indicating the interest and participation of their bodies in the work of the practical advancement of arbitration methods.

From year to year it is necessary, and sometimes difficult, to impress upon the conference that it is a conference for international arbitration and not a meeting of a peace society. Mr. Smiley with his genial manner has over and over to assert his wish that the conference shall stick to its thesis and that both sides shall be heard upon any question that provokes a difference of opinion. A resolution at the opening session proposing to send a petition to the Senate urging it to vote against the building of the great battleship now under construction, immediately elicited a decided difference of opinion. The fact that the limitation of armaments is one of the practical questions involved in the Hague Conference, naturally brought this matter to the front. A decided majority was in favor of the action, but under the wise counsel of the experienced leaders the resolution was referred to the business committee, and acting upon the principle that no resolution shall go forth that does not meet with substantial unanimity, it was buried in the committee. The matter, however, became one of the salient features of the meeting, eliciting from time to time strong utterances on one side or the other. Justice Brewer of the Supreme Court, being particularly noticeable in opposition to the policy of building such a vessel, and former Minister to Russia, Clifton R. Breckenridge, equally notable as opposing the policy of taking any action upon a question not immediately connected with the question of arbitration. Some hard things were said of the army and navy, which were nobly answered by Admiral Bartlett of

THE QUESTION OF THE HOUR

What Summer Food Supplies the Greatest Nutriment with the Least Tax Upon the Stomach and Bowels?

The coming of the sultry days of summer, when greater care must be exercised in the choice of clean, wholesome, nutritious, foods, naturally revives the old and much discussed question: "Can we get along with less meat?"

You certainly can. Beef is classed as one of the "nitrogenous foods." But the whole wheat grain is also rich in nitrogen. The nitrates and phosphates are mostly in the outer coats of the wheat kernel. These are largely discarded in the making of white flour.

In the making of the shredded whole wheat products, the nitrates as well as the phosphates of the whole wheat grain are preserved in their most digestible form. Shredded Wheat is a better "nitrogenous food" than beef. It is more nourishing and wholesome than beef and not so hard on the kidneys and liver.

Shredded Wheat is the purest, cleanest food made on this continent, is more easily digested than meat and hence is an ideal summer food. No "secret process". Our plant is open to the world; over 100,000 visitors last year.

In white flour you get the starch in the wheat and little else. You can't make muscle or brain out of starch. In Shredded Whole Wheat you get all the rich, flesh-forming, muscle-making elements stored in the outer coats of the whole wheat berry made digestible by the shredding process. Your grocer sells it. Our new illustrated cook book is sent free. The Natural Food Company, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

the Navy. General James Grant Wilson, of New York, and Rev. Phillip Moxon, of Springfield, Mass., who spoke with pride of the three years which he had served in the army during the Civil War.

The meeting culminated in the adoption of a very temperate and yet very earnest platform. One which indicates the practical and conservative character of the conference on the one hand and the ideal and progressive aspirations of it on the other. Perhaps its most important feature was an appeal to the Government of the United States to insist upon the inclusion of the question of the limitation of armaments in the programme of the coming Hague Conference. It advanced its ideal in the expression of the hope "that the conference will remember that it is consecrated to the great work of ending and well as softening war, and of subjecting the relations of nations to the domain of will rather than force."

From the Peninsular State

By Rev. William Bryant

We are all agreed that heresy trials are to be avoided as far as possible. No matter how kindly they may be conducted or how inevitable was the issue raised, so much bitterness is caused by a heresy trial, and so many are the interpretations of motive and the misunderstandings as to the purpose that even the bravest and most loyal are tempted to declare that they will never again assume such a responsibility as to be the means of driving a brother minister out