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I. LITERARY.

REACHING THE MASSES.

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There are some questions that once asked can never cease to be asked until they are answered. There are some demands that once made can never cease to be made until they are satisfied. The question why Presbyterianism has not reached the masses to the same degree as other modes of Christianity is one of these questions, and the demand that it shall do so is one of these demands. Though often suppressed, though often crowded out, the inquiry again and again presents itself with a persistency that refuses to be put aside, and an emphasis that refuses to be ignored.

When we consider the *start* that Presbyterianism had in this country—the advantages in the prestige of past achievement, and in the superior learning of its ministers and influence of its members, it is evident that *something* is wrong when we find that it only ranks third among the denominations of our country, and that the two which lead it were practically not in the race—one of them not even in existence—when it took the field.

The old theory with which we used to console ourselves, that it was our mission to be a regulative, conservative power among the denominations of the country, has been ruled out. Almost any programme of a Presbyterian convention contains something about "Presbyterianism and the Masses." We have recognized the demand that a church shall reach the masses to be a legitimate one. We have admitted that the reaching of the masses is the very purpose for which the church was instituted. We have granted that a church must vindicate its very

THE NINTH YEAR OF EVANGELISTIC WORK IN KENTUCKY.

COL. BENNETT H. YOUNG.

Some months since, in the UNION SEMINARY MAGAZINE, in an article entitled "Eight Years of Presbyterian Evangelistic Work in Kentucky," the history of such work in that state was told.

The results of the effort in this behalf in the Kentucky Synod were not only surprising but gratifying to those of "like faith" in the entire Southern General Assembly.

Popular interest in this now absorbing subject called for the publication of this article in tract form and many thousand copies have been distributed. Synod after synod has fallen into line in this great cause and from the Atlantic to the Rio Grande, from the Ohio river to the Gulf of Mexico, the impulse of a new and earnest work for Christ has permeated the whole church.

The Synod of Kentucky claims no pre-eminent merit for anything it has done in the evangelistic field. With it, self-preservation demanded a change in both method and spirit. It could do nothing else and exist and the only alternative was "do or die." The changes that have taken place in the state required a change of methods, and the voice of God was to go forward and possess the land. For ten years this work has been pushed and the report of operations for the ninth year may possess some features of interest to the church at large. More especially to those synods which have just entered upon evangelistic enterprise.

Synod met at Covington, Ky., and as Dr. E. W. Bedinger had been made chairman of the synodical committee and resigned his pastoral charge at Anchorage to give his whole time to this work, the annual report was awaited with much concern. The friends of the cause were anxious to know what effect his oversight would have and by experiment, settle how far it would justify the Synod to give entirely to this cause the talents and zeal of one of her ablest ministers.

The returns more than met every expectation. The receipts were very largely in excess of any previous year, and the enthusiasm and zeal of the membership denoted no abatement, but on the other hand much healthful development.

The churches gave.....	\$10,299.07
Individuals gave.....	8,300.27

Total.....	\$18,599.34
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Ninety-eight churches had paid their assessments in full and a few churches had paid \$1,544.47 in excess of the amount apportioned to them.

Considering the fact that the Synod of Kentucky is not a very large one, these gifts were extremely gratifying and showed how deep a hold upon the hearts of the Presbyterian people this cause had obtained.

The Synod felt that it was no longer traveling an uncertain path; that the way was clear and plain and God's blessing and presence were unmistakable, and that the answers to the prayers of this people were sure and fixed.

Forty men had given their time in whole or in part to this work. Many new churches had been built and there had been large ingathering of members.

In view of all these mercies there was nothing to do but still go forward. Christian men who could doubt or halt with this showing would be recreant to the higher interests of manhood apart from duty to God. Synod reappointed the former committee; most of them were veterans in this cause. They consist not only of ministers and elders but of laymen, and are as follows: Dr. E. W. Bedinger, Chairman; Dr. C. R. Hemphill, Dr. T. D. Witherspoon, Dr. J. G. Hunter, Dr. E. M. Green, Dr. L. H. Blanton, Dr. J. L. Caldwell, Dr. W. F. V. Batlett, Dr. G. H. Rout, Rev. W. E. Cave, A. J. Alexander, R. S. Veech, Bennett H. Young, and J. R. Barrett. To these fourteen gentlemen was committed not only this work but that of church erection.

More than half this committee have seen nine years of hard service, and in the arduous duties devolved upon them, no one has ever either claimed exemption or protested against the assignment of labor.

These facts may encourage others who undertake such work. There will in this cause be many disappointments and many failures, but those who are true in both working and praying cannot fail of the reward our Heavenly Father promises.

If all the Synods undertaking to prosecute evangelistic work have the returns they may properly expect, and which will surely come in answer to prayer, the next ten years of our church history will be replete with mercies and blessings and the closing of the nineteenth century will be bright and glorious in the spread of the doctrines of our beloved church, and with such a career, in the closing decade of the century, as to demonstrate forever, their complete adaptation for the evangelization of the world.