



E D I T O R I A L

What an empty day December 25th must be to the unbeliever! Being pushed around in crowded department stores unable to find the gift he wants and to finally purchase an item his budget cannot afford, must indeed be a miserable experience.

We indulge in wishful thinking if we try to convince ourselves that Christmas shopping in crowded stores with a limited budget is fun. None of us delight in seeing the underprivileged child ask Santa Claus to fill his stockings when we know there are probably no extra stockings to hang up and if there were stockings there would be no fireplace on which to hang them. But the believer would find December 25th meaningful even without commercialism's bid to enrich Christmas by buying more. The believer knows that to John the Baptist's question, "Are you he who is to come or shall we look for another?" the answer is definitely, "Yes, he is the one for whom this world of moral conflict has waited for so long."

To believe in astrology, palmistry, numerology, and fortune telling is to believe in a cheap and superstitious magic. Over against these cheap forms of miraculous powers, we believe in the living God, who has never said his last word on any subject and what we term as unbelievable or impossible may happen. Throughout history God has been doing the incredible. Would it not have been incredible if someone had pointed to the Christ child and said, "There is a child whose power will be stronger and more enduring than Caesar's empire." It would have been an incredible suggestion, but it would have been true. The understanding of that statement is the great gift, given freely, to every believer. It has no tinsel, nor is it smartly wrapped, but it is the medium through which meaning is given to December 25th. At the same time, it is good to observe a "Merry Christmas." It is a good thing that men should agree to stop work and make merry together, it is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. But Christmas was meant to be kept and not just observed. We have come to see that eternal love is the strongest thing in the world. The blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of that eternal love. When the light from that love guides our lives, we will then be keeping Christmas.

December 25th, is the time when the believer is once again reminded that the Christ child's influence lives on, uplifting the standards of action and thought, imposing laws, enlisting the strong in service to the needy and the weak. No, we need not look for another -- the promised one has come!

THE EDITOR'S PEN GOES DRY

One year ago I penned my first editorial for the Seminarian. If memory doesn't fail me, I believe I entitled that first editorial "The Time For Change." The time for change has come again. Arguing the fellows into writing articles and trying to appease John Zinn when I handed him "late copy" has not been without its disadvantages. But as I reflect back over the past year I realize that editing the Seminarian has been an experience I would not have wanted to miss. There's just enough ink left in my pen to thank all of you who have co-operated with me in putting out your paper and to wish the capable new editor, Grant Harrison, as much satisfaction out of editing as I received.

HOW TO GET FAT AND STILL BE LIKED

Ken. McCrea

I want to say a few words about eating. Twenty years ago in a remote section of this country there lived an important man named William J. Bow. He was a fat and gluttonous man and to use the vernacular smelled. It seems he never could quite keep the gravy off his vest or the tax payer's money out of his pocket. Anyway, it seems that Bill was so far that everyone thought it was cleaning day because everything got pushed to the wall. Ever hear of Mr. Five - by - Five or Miss Huggon McChalkin? Well, Bill Bow could have been called Mr. Six - by - Twenty-four. It is hard to describe this man because his gluttonous habits made him obnoxious to be near. It seems that when he was eating, everyone else became to him as grass of the field. He did not mind who he hurt while he was eating. Know that missing finger of President Truman's? Well, This may be an exaggeration, but he did hurt others by what he ate. Would you like to know what key he used to open the door of a better way of living? He read Romans 14:13-23, and followed Paul's advice.

EDITOR'S NOTE As I proof read this article I was reminded once again of the man named Jesus who went about doing good and I began to wonder why I was so easily content to just go about.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

E. Spangler

In years past the ladies of the Guild at Salem Church in Reamstown, Pa., have exchanged names among themselves for Christmas gifts. This procedure has proven very satisfactory not only for them, but also for many other groups who have sought to emphasize the Christmas spirit.

However, this year a new idea was conceived. The ladies of the Guild drew names, as usual. But the names were not those of their own group. The names were picked from people they knew in the Lancaster County Home. The gifts were to be given not exchanged. Each lady personally helped someone to have a Merry Christmas. That "someone" might otherwise have been forgotten. It was a "Merry Christmas" that was real.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS (cont'd.)

You know, it's a pretty sure guess that the ladies of that Guild, this year, will themselves have the merriest Christmas ever.

So, with this in mind, the Seminarian would extend its Christmas greeting, this December, to every faculty member and student... a greeting rising in a hope that in the days of this pre-Christmas season, each one will notice such things as the red-cheeked Salvation Army worker who stands long hours in the cold street that others might have a Merry Christmas; the awed youngster who presses grimy fingers and a small nose against the toy store window; the newspaper item telling of a hungry Europe or an unwanted shipload of Jewish refugees; the unwisited sick neighbor; the young man who feels unwanted because he just "doesn't seem to fit".....and then, having noticed, try to give these people a Merry Christmas.

In that spirit, the Seminarian wishes you a Merry Christmas and God Bless You.

ATHLETIC NEWS

Grant Harrity

The opening of the new school year saw sports again taking a prominent part in the Seminary Intra-Curricular activities. During the months of September and October a Touch-football league was organized in which all interested Seminarrians took part. Three teams were formed and the competition throughout was keen. With each team fielding three members at a time the scoring was high and the games were hard-played. The highlight of the season came when a tie ensued for first place. In the final game, the team composed of Settlemyre, Goodling, Johnson, Harrity, and McCrea won the league championship with a decisive 21-0 victory over the other team contender composed of Abernathy, Cheek, Breininger and Whitby. The games were umpired by Prof. Englert.

Following the Thanksgiving Recess all attention was given to the formation of the Seminary Basketball team. For the information of new students, this team plays in the non-fraternity intermural league at the college, and last year the Seminary team walked away with the championship honors. In a bitterly contested intramural playoff, the Seminary lost to out to the fraternity champions, Phi Kappa Tau. The Seminary was awarded with a runner-up trophy which has been placed in the lounge. The individual team members received medals for their basketball record.

This year's basketball team promises to be even better. All of the key players are back again this year and these, together with several new comers give promise to another championship team. The Seminary has been victorious in its first three starts this fall and has met with practically no opposition. Seminary students on the team include Settlemyre, Abernathy, Cheek, Hawk, Taylor and Harrity. The starting team is usually composed of Inn at center, Settlemyre and Abernathy at forward, with Mort and Turner holding down the guard positions. Ken McCrea is the manager, and Dr. Englert is the faculty coach.

ATHLETIC NEWS (cont'd.)

The schedule of games is posted in the Dormitory on the bulletin board, and students are urged to attend when they can. All games are held in the F. & M. gymnasium.

With the coming of spring the Seminary will enter the intramural softball league at the college, to bring a close to the sports events of the year. However, the highlight of the spring will be the annual softball game between the Seniors and the Junior-Middlers at the Seminary picnic. This year, due to the numerical inequality of the classes, some change of teams will have to be made. If so, it will probably mean that the Juniors will have to play against a combination of Middlers and Seniors.

It is the hope of the Seminarian that eventually this school will become an integral part of the physical-educational program at the college. We are steadily coming closer to that goal through our participation in the available sports programs. Let's keep up the good work.

TO DR. HELLER: HAIL! THANKS! GOD BE WITH YOU!

Dr. David Dunn

The turn of the calendar year is bringing still another change in the official personnel of our school. Dr. Clarence Nevin Heller is expecting to knock out his pipe, put on his hat, close the door of his "den" and take his leave. This, of course, is speaking figuratively and officially. Literally and actually, he will, we surely hope, be back, time and again, to mingle the incense of his pipe with that of his successor and to commune with the books and the book-mongers that have been such a big part of his life for so long. For, if we know Dr. Stonestifer, and we are inclined to think we do--Elisha will welcome not only the mantle but also the visits and the counsel of Elijah.

After teaching at Franklin and Marshall for a number of years the languages that are very much alive in our so-called "modern tongues" of the west and after helping to carry on the Seminary's New Testament Department between the death of Dr. William C. Schaeffer and the coming of Dr. Frentz, Dr. Heller was appointed as our first full-time Librarian and began his work in 1923. Classical scholar and bibliophile, son of a distinguished personage family, teacher and friend of so many of the active ministers and laymen of the Church, he was regarded as what we would in these days call "a natural" for his new position. The years that have passed have accentuated and deepened this regard.

Through almost a quarter of a century he has been devotedly busy with the books that constitute such a vital part of the "where-with-all" of our institution, the implements of our trade, the instruments of our profession. In finding and binding them, in buying and supplying them, in arranging, evaluating and interpreting them, Dr. Heller has rendered a service to the Seminary Family through these years that it would be difficult to over-estimate.

TO DR. HELLER (cont'd.)

Ever courteous and painstaking in this service, he has preached and lived a high ethic in the use of library facilities, holding such a high standard in the handling and treatment of books before successive classes of theological students and Faculty members. Having so much at heart this deep respect for books as the "common carriers" of culture, he has striven to impart this respect to others and to achieve that use of them that would benefit the greatest number. We fear we have often disappointed him by not measuring up in our practice to these standards and by not responding, as we should have done, to his appeals for co-operation, in achieving the goals he has held before us. We, somehow, feel like asking him in the name of the Seminary's "Reading Public" to forgive us for our individual and collective delinquencies--and, somehow, we feel that he will, which should make us all the more determined "to bring forth fruits, meet for repentance."

Appreciation and gratitude, however, are first in our minds as we think back over the years of Dr. Heller's "diakonia". This ministry of his has been so varied, so detailed, so extensive, that no catalogue is possible. So well established became his authority in matters of grammar, punctuation, composition, etc., that, "We better ask Dr. Heller" long since became the frequent conclusion to an argument over some disputed point. Successive classes, entering upon their Seminary course, listened with real benefit to his explanation of library technique and to his suggestions as to the most efficient use of our own library. Seniors, with completed theses, turned to him to bind them for preservation on the gallery shelves. Professors and students brought him volumes whose physical condition, due to hard usage, called loudly for his binding art. Libraries of deceased or retired ministers came to his hand and he disposed of them with an eye, not single to the library exchequer but alert to the needs and wants of the students of the Seminary. Each one of us, as he thinks back along the months and years, will marshall his own list of favors and services which Dr. Heller has rendered and will join in this chorus of recognition and appreciation, with which we greet our revered and beloved Librarian as he lays down his official duties and responsibilities.

Our fervent hope is that such relief as this will bring him the recovery of health and strength to such an extent that he may be able to use the remaining years of a long and helpful life in leisure that he knows so well how to use. To him and to Mrs. Heller, as they continue to enrich the life of our Seminary family, we say "Good Bye" but we say it only in the original meaning of that phrase, i.e. GOD BE WITH YOU!

