

Published by The Society of Inquiry, Lancaster Theological Seminary

21 February, 1951

Lancaster, Pa.

F & M FOLDS 3rd ANNUAL INSTITUTE
OF RELIGION

It was true at one time that our Lancaster Seminary's Annual Convocation with its Swander and McCauley Lectures was about the only event in the program of our church-related schools to promote alumni education. However, for the past three years our brother institution across College Avenue has had its own program aimed at the men who were once the pre-theos who trod the campus.

The Third Annual Institute of Religion was held on Thursday, February 15, beginning at 9:00 A.M. The sessions were held in the Green Room, the little theatre on the ground floor of Keiper Liberal Arts Building.

The following subjects had been discussed at the first two Institutes: "Kierkegaard and His Influence on Contemporary Theology," "The Current Revival of Biblical Theology," "The Meeting of East and West," "Religious Sects in Lancaster County during the 18th Century," "The Date and Nature of the Last Supper," "Church Music, Especially Hymn Tunes," "The Ecumenical Movement," "The Little Flowers - A Devotional Classic," and "The Christian Idea of Civilization."

Papers read at the 1951 Institute were: "The Pennsylvania Dutch Spirituality," "The Homiletical Values of History," "The Principle of Protestantism," and "Faith and Culture".

The Institute of Religion has grown out of a desire on the part of Franklin and Marshall College, to give clergymen, as well as laymen, an opportunity to share the results of research and creative thinking of the members of the Faculty of the Arts whose academic interest is in the field of religion.

With the same objective in mind, the editorial staff of THE SEMINARIAN wants to pass on to its readers capsule summaries of these lectures in the same spirit in which our Swander and McCauley Lectures are preserved for the faculty and student body.

The first lecture to be summarized for publication by its own author is, "The Principle of Protestantism", by Dr. Luther J. Binkley, L.T.S. '47.

THE PRINCIPLE OF PROTESTANTISM

This essay consisted largely in an attempt to understand and develop the Principle of Protestantism, the inaugu-

ral address which Philip Schaff gave upon assuming his professorship in the Mercersburg Theological Seminary of the German Reformed Church in 1841. Schaff, the great church historian, had just arrived from Germany and felt it necessary to air his views before he started to teach in the new land.

Basically, the thesis which Schaff presented was fairly radical. He readily proposed a developmental or evolutionary theory of the Church. He stated that the reformers had not delivered the final pronouncements on faith and morals; there was still much to do in theology. On the other hand, he felt that the past should be studied and appropriated, rather than discarded without thorough study.

In the first part of his treatise Schaff sought to demonstrate the union of the Reformation with the previous history of the Church. Protestantism, he sought to prove, was the result of a long process of growth; it was the legitimate offspring of the ancient Catholic Church. Although Christian religion is never changed, mortals change in Schaff's understanding of this religion so that there is a steady advance through the years in the appropriation of the religion of Jesus by the Church.

Protestantism had to battle great diseases at the time of Schaff's writing, viz., rationalism and sectarianism. Both, he felt, were unchurchly, subjectivistic movements and hence could be overcome with a knowledge of history and the true church spirit. He was grateful for the process of historical criticism started by the rationalists, only he felt that they went too far as they tried to explain away Christ's existence completely. In America the disease of sectarianism was more to be feared than rationalism, for Americans were too practical-minded to study philosophy and theology. Each new self-imposed prophet was setting up an "only true church", and the number of sects was difficult to ascertain. Schaff believed that the sects called attention to aspects which the Church had neglected, yet after the needed corrections were made in the Church the sects could be reabsorbed by the Church.

The true nature of the Church, Schaff expressed, in his conception of Protestant Catholicism. Both Protestantism and Catholicism contained half-truths which were in need of development in a new synthesis. America

(con't. on page 2)

CAN YOU NAME THE THING??!! CAN YOU NAME THE THING??!! CAN YOU NAME THE THING?

THE PRINCIPLE OF PROTESTANTISM (con't. from page 1)

would be able to unite the German philosophical attitude with the English concern for action. Schaff felt that perhaps on American soil a new Church combining the best in Protestantism and Catholicism might arise. The spirit of law and respect for the institutions of the Church (Catholicism) might be combined with the subjective attitude of freedom (Protestantism) in a new Church of love (Protestant Catholicism).

Needless to say, Schaff's prophesy did not come to fulfillment in the nineteenth century, nor does it seem any nearer now. The significant thing about Schaff's inaugural consisted in his realization that Protestantism is only half the truth (perhaps we would do well to recover this attitude now); and that much truth and great religious spirit can be found in Rome (again a refreshing note from the nineteenth century to our own age). But most important of all for our day was Schaff's conception of historical development. Too often we fail to realize that the Church must grow in its theology, worship and constitution. We would do well to heed Schaff's advice on this subject and seek to develop our theology today in the light of the latest scientific findings and the best philosophical thought.

Luther J. Binkley

SEMINARY SPORTSCOPE

The Seminary teams have been active in intra-mural competition since the college has resumed classes. The Angels have set the winning pace on the basketball court with three wins. The first came at the expense of City #1 by the score of 45-31. A forfeit by the Independent Team gave another win to the boys from Richards Hall. The last victory was registered over the Z. B. T.'s by a margin of 45-33. Rader and Longenecker led the Angels in the scoring department.

The ping-pong team has launched its season with a rush by recording two consecutive wins to date. The netmen emerged victors from a hotly contested match with Phi Tau by a score of 3-2. Then the Kappa Sig aggregation bowed to the Angels 5-0. These two wins give the Preachers an impressive start in their eleven-game schedule.

The bowling crown will be decided this week as leaders on the 1st Floor are challenged by the 2nd Floor runners-up. At present, Schultz holds top place in quest for top individual honors.

The dart-baseball league has started the second half with Team #1 boasting a narrow margin of one game. The

games are scheduled throughout the month of March, and everything points to another torrid race during the second half.

Dick Masters

HUMOR ESQUIRE

Yesterday afternoon as I made my way over to the Ad Building, to see the custodian of the belfry, Lem Remlap. I noticed all of the students standing around discussing something. They were discussing the fact that the term ends Friday. Many were glad, many were indifferent, but Joe Gyorke was the most enthused. I could tell that he was rather glad the term was ending by the way he kept cutting out paper dolls and blabbering, "School will soon be over; school will soon..." I calmly stepped past him and ran twenty feet before I continued my smooth plow-walk. Over by the bulletin board were several professors talking to six of the more promising students. They were promising they would have their work in by Friday noon. As I started up the steps six at a time I saw President Meek, President Emeritus Richards, and President Incognito Korn walk in. As I watched them stroll into the president's office, I very profoundly remarked, "Hummm."

The first landing of the stair case gives an excellent view of the corridor so I stopped and admired the big tops. There were lines of hair, wavy hair, curly hair, and fine heads of skin. There were smooth faces, unshaven faces, and faces with hair growing in the middle of them. Just then I wondered why hair grows on the upper lip of the mail. "Mustache ask Lem about that." I peered over the rail and there was a most horrible face uplifted to mine. "What a stupid looking character that is. I wonder where they imported him from?" Then I realized that I was looking down on top of a bald head that was shining. "That's me!" Oh, well, first impression aren't always true. As I stood there consoling myself I overheard Dr. Englert telling Dr. Sayres about Dr. Frantz's home run in the dart-baseball game. "Dr. Frantz didn't even smile when he hit it," said Dr. Englert. Dr. Sayres told him, "Forget it, he's a fan of Joe Dimaggio."

I started to go on up to the bell tower but I knew it would be no use. By the dull thud of the bell I knew that Lem would be "out".

Mel Palmer

BOYERTOWN SPECIAL

Spiked with good cheer and some weather misgivings, 34 choir members, one girl, Director McConnell, and Dr. (con't. on page 3)

Frantz braved a swirling snowstorm Wed. afternoon, Feb. 7, to board the Boyertown "Special" for the trip to that town where the group was scheduled to give its program at 7:30 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Before the take-off, our own good "Shepherd" counted the sheep, without any attempt to the goats, and found one missing from the fold. But the lost was soon found, and spreading our wings we took off into the wild blue yonder. Hi de ho, Silver! And it was to the tune and words of "Goodnight, Irene, goodnight Irene, I'll see you in my dreams!" Though it was goodnight in words, the night had just begun and the crooners were to get in many more popular songs from the "Hit Parade", with a bit of their own original compositions thrown in for good measure.

It has been said of old that if you possess the faith even the size of a grain of mustard seed you can move mountains. If this be true, how much more should a group of this type be able to move a little old bus up and down icy roads. And so the motto being "The choir must go through!!" it was over hill and dale along the snowy trail that the limited "Special" passed stalled cars, trucks, bicycles, hitch-hikers, swollen rivers, and creeks and other like items. After passing through "Old Reading", the group finally reached its destination - BOYERTOWN - spelt with a capital B.

The welcome mat of the city had been put out to greet the happy little morons as they pulled into civilization. The words stood out in large neon lights! "WELCOME TO BOYERTOWN!!! PLEASE DROP DEAD!!! Signed: Digger O'Dell, the friendly undertaker." Nevertheless, the city was beautiful - a picturesque winterland. Everything was draped in white sheeting. And cold as a city morgue!

In addition to the scenic beauty, stomachs were growling for want of food, but this empty feeling was soon corrected. Tables groaning with food had been prepared in advance by the women of Good Shepherd. Tums for the tummy were in order for the last course! Right, Banks? Before leaving the table, "Happy Birthday" was sung for Jack.

Quite a few people turned out even though the weather was a little rough. And the concert was presented in the true colors of a great choir. The music was appreciated and enjoyed by all.

Arriving home safely, it was bedtime at 11:00 o'clock.

Lloyd Sechriest

THE SOWER AND THE SOILS

Dr. Purd E. Dietz, General Secretary of the Board of National Missions, spoke to the students and faculty dur-

ing the chapel period on Monday, February 19.

Dr. Dietz based his talk on the Parable of the Sower, found in the Gospel according to St. Luke. He compared the faith in this parable - faith in the sower, the seed, the soil, and the growing - to that faith which one must have in the home missions field.

He stated the urgent need of communities today for churches. There are large communities in the U. S. without any resemblance of a church in their midst. These communities are begging for churches, and the Home Missions Board must be careful as to just where a church or mission is to be established.

The talk given by Dr. Dietz struck one with the importance and necessity of having such an organization as the Board of National Missions.

CHARLATAN OR CHRIST?

Many of us who have sat under President Meck's tutelage will remember his emphasis at various points on how certain perversions of the ministry can make out of the Christ a charlatan and a fake. Some of us are disposed to take rather lightly such a thought. On the other hand, without running the risk of being self-righteous, if we do not detect this fault in ourselves, we might do well, nevertheless, to take account of it in other places when it works to the detriment of the entire body of the Church Universal.

Webster gives this definition of a charlatan: "A quack, a pretender to knowledge or ability." Now of all the things that Christ may be to men, he certainly is not that; yet, three days ago two fine examples of such charlatanism in the name of Christianity set me to wondering whether such forms of perversion have any legitimate claim to existence.

One of my cousins is a deaf mute. A few weeks ago a delegation from a loyal pentecostal group came to the house to tell the parents that they should bring the child to their meetings and have him cured. Some time ago the passing of an old man who had been one of my former neighbors occurred. In the course of his six months illness, many meetings of the members of his pentecostal fellowship were held at his bedside, at which times he was assailed with the imprecation, "If you don't repent, you won't be healed."

Such uses of the Gospel make a sham of the Word, and a charlatan of the Christ. Giving all the benefit of the utmost toleration, it is hard to conceive of such practices and boasts doing more good than harm to the body of Christ, and it seems that the recognized churches are justified in using every legitimate means in discouraging the subscription to such practices among the members of Christ's earthly body.

Nick Glatfelter

CAN YOU NAME THE THING ? ? ? ? ?