

The Princeton Centennial

(Rev. A. J. McGillivray, D.D.)

It was the good fortune of the writer to be present at the recent centennial celebration in connection with Princeton Theological Seminary, and it was moreover a somewhat unique distinction as an Alumnus of the oldest Presbyterian Theological College in America to carry the colors of Westminster Hall, the youngest college represented. To bear the greetings of the youngest to the oldest, of the so-called "Lone. Pacific Shore" to the Atlantic Seaboard—this was my pleasant mission.

The influence of Princeton in the life of the American nation during the last century it is difficult to overestimate. Beginning with one Professor and three students, which, as Dr. Patton remarked, was a ratio between teacher and pupils that would satisfy the most exacting demands of modern theories of pedagogy, she has since trained over six thousand men for the Gospel ministry. What these men have done in conserving the highest and best things in national life, statistics can never tabulate. And then we were told by Robert E. Speer, than whom Princeton has seldom if ever sent forth a greater,—that 421 men went from this college to the foreign field, many of them to shape the Foreign Mission Policy in different parts of the world and not a few to be honored with a Martyr's Crown. With profound feeling this prince among young men extolled the heroism of the martyrs beginning with Walter M. Lowrie who, sixty-five years ago, met death at the hands of pirates in the China Sea. The impression left upon those who heard Dr. Speer and others review the work of the century, was

that Princeton's part in it has been deep and abiding.

In the academic procession, with Kerr D. McMillan, a Canadian, as marshal, were the moderators of nearly all the great assemblies of the world, representatives of institutions of learning, great and small, men high in the life of the church and of the nation. Several unitarians were present to do honor to this citadel of orthodoxy. It was a very imposing and somewhat spectacular procession; and the writer had a pardonable pride in representing and answering enquiries regarding the "lusty baby" on the Pacific Slope.

The two outstanding features were the sermon by Dr. Patton—an hour and fifteen minutes in length—and the address by R. E. Speer; but the addresses throughout were of a high order and made the celebration one long to be remembered by all.

The graduates of the year received their diplomas signed by twelve regular professors and were addressed and re-addressed during the whole day.

As this may be read by theological students, I will pass along an excerpt from one address for what it is worth. Dr. Cecil, in speaking on "The Making of a Minister," said that the student is not like an empty barrel to be filled with so many facts and dates and then sent to a congregation. A train conductor on being questioned as to a number of students who were getting on the train at different stations said, "These are empties. They have been out preaching on Sunday and are going back to the seminary to be filled up again."