

## *Impressions By The Way*

( By Principal Smith of Westminster Hall, Vancouver, B. C.)

In response to a request for some impressions during my recent trip to the United States I may say that after such a trip one could easily fill a volume, but a few points of general interest must suffice.

### **MANY INSTITUTIONS VISITED.**

As my purpose in going was educational I sought to get in touch with representative institutions. I visited Princeton University and Seminary, Rutgers, Columbia, Union Theological Seminary, The City College of New York, The University of New York, Yale University and Divinity School, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago Theological Seminary, The University of Chicago, and Divinity School, Garrett Biblical Institute and North Western University. One was much impressed with the large number of students at the Universities, the magnificent provision made for educational purposes and the part these institutions are playing in the development of the country. It was frequently stated that the remedy for social disorder and tragedy was to be found in Christian character which demands an adequate system of education.

### **THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES AND STUDENTS.**

The number of students in the theological colleges was disappointingly small. This is in part due to the sacrifices of the war and the general disturbance of courses of study in the preparatory grades. Whilst no spectacular increase is expected there is confidence that within a few years conditions will greatly improve. In the meantime the colleges feel the necessity of recruiting and have entered upon an educational campaign in which the ministry has its proper appeal. The power of the individual in educational opportunities was everywhere evident. Most of the theological colleges are endowed and are self-supporting. In many, individual buildings, in others individual chairs are maintained. The value of such investment is beyond question. If men and women saw how fruitful in the production of the best in national life these educational facilities are we would not lack similar bequests.

### **UNIVERSITIES AND THEOLOGICAL COURSE—A SUGGESTION.**

On every hand I was impressed with the close connection between the universities and the theological colleges. Each regards the other as vital to its own interests and the general welfare. Every effort is being made to place the advantages of the one at the disposal of the other. President Butler declared that at Columbia the work is so arranged that the student can scarcely determine in which faculty he is working. Possibly there is some suggestion here for British Columbia. If in other great institutions it is admitted that the study of Hebrew or Greek or the English Bible has equal cultural value with Spanish or Italian or Latin there seems no good reason why a student in Arts could not take Biblical subject for his degree.

### **"MARK TWAIN'S" NAME HEADS LIST FOR "HALL OF FAME."**

An interesting feature of my visit to the University of New York was a journey through the Hall of Fame. This splendid architectural design is so arranged as to receive the names of all those elected to occupy a place within the goodly company of the great Americans. Each name occupies about ten feet of space and immediately over the name is a bust of the worthy. President Brown informed us that the election of the next worthies would take place by a board of all the universities the following day. It was something of a surprise to find that the man who headed the list of five was

Mark Twain. The others were J. B. Eads, engineer; Patrick Hamilton, patriot; W. T. G. Morton, physician; Roger Williams, preacher; Alice Freeman Palmer, teacher. Mark received seventy-two votes and it required fifty-one to elect. Among those voted down were Noah Webster, Thomas Paine, Walt Whitman, John Brown, Paul Jones, Samuel Adams, William Penn, James A. McNeill, and Joseph Jefferson. Evidently a humorist is so many sided that he has something common with all.

### **AFTER-THE-WAR READJUSTMENTS IN THE STATES.**

The outcome of war reaction was everywhere evident. The American people made a magnificent effort during the war and prepared to meet the after war conditions with great commercial enterprise. But the results were disappointing. The banks advanced large sums of money for manufacturing at speculative prices, the cost increased, Britain rallied with wonderful rapidity, the exchange threw the weight against the manufacturer and the mad race for wages and profits met in conflict and both lost their balance and the slump was inevitable. Prices were falling rapidly and a hard winter anticipated. It is confidently believed that within a few months the necessary readjustment shall have taken place and an era of prosperity dawn.

### **"DAMAGE THIS GENERATION CANNOT REPAIR."**

I was present during the presidential election. A good way to study psychology and detect the undercurrents is to travel, say nothing and keep awake. It was evident that those leaders who stood for the great things in the war were sadly disappointed at the failure of both parties to unite on some basis of world co-operation in reference to the Peace Covenant. Many believe that the United States will yet take her place in the League, but it was somewhat humiliating to feel that world responsibility and opportunity should be sacrificed to party ends. Even if only a bit of party politics, it has done a moral damage this generation cannot repair. The state of Europe today and for some time will bear the marks of the failure of the United States to ratify the Peace Treaty in some form.

### **PROHIBITION IN CHICAGO.**

Prohibition was a live issue in Chicago. The violators of the law could find no rest for their weary feet. The day I left Chicago the hotels suspected of selling alcoholic liquors in defiance of the law were notified that if convicted they would be closed under Federal law. There seemed to be no fooling on the part of the Federal Officers. The fooling was done by the police as many of them later discovered.

### **A "TIMELESS" PREACHER FOR THE TIMES.**

I was deeply interested in the work of the churches and delighted to see the place these held in the thought and life of the people associated with them. Fourth Presbyterian Church near Lincoln Park, with Dr. Timothy Stone as pastor, is an illustration of what plain Gospel preaching can do in the heart of a modern city. I was told that of the eight men who gathered the offerings six were millionaires. The church was crowded, the service impressive in its spiritual power and beauty and the sermon such as would delight the most orthodox in interpretation, the most modern in vision and the most practical in application. The preacher stood as an ambassador of the Master and declared the message without more regard to the types of hearers in social or commercial relations than if they were dead and yet with all the tenderness and strength due to the fact they were human and needed a Saviour. The same was true of Central Church worship.