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The Twin Presbyterian Conventions---Laymen and Auxiliary, Atlanta, June 10-11

TWO great conventions were held last week in Atlanta, composed of representatives from every Synod in our Assembly. Earnest Christian men and women were there from Virginia and West Virginia, from Kentucky and Tennessee, from Missouri and Arkansas, from Oklahoma and Texas, from Louisiana and Florida, and from all the nearby States. There were nearly two thousand of them.

The two conventions were held in separate churches, located not far from each other. The men met in the Wesley Memorial Methodist church and the women in the Baptist Tabernacle. At night joint sessions were held in the tabernacle. Many of the speakers who addressed the men's convention also spoke to the women.

In calling the men's convention to order Mr. Charles A. Rowland, the chairman of the Laymen's Movement, said: "If I can read the signs of the times, this sixth biennial convention will be the most significant and far-reaching convention we have had."

Each session was presided over by a layman selected for that purpose. These presiding officers were: Dr. J. P. McCallie, of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Captain F. L. Slaymaker, of Athens, Ga.; Mr. John J. Eagan, of Atlanta, Ga.; Mr. A. D. Mason, of Memphis, Tenn.; Mr. V. O. Alexander, of Little Rock, Ark.; Mr. George W. Watts, of Durham, N. C.

No convention that the laymen have ever held covered as wide a scope of subjects treated as did this one. Many and excellent were the formal addresses, and unusual opportunities were given for the expressions of views and opinions on the part of many members of the convention. We can only give a few points from some of the more important addresses.

Rev. J. Layton Mauze, D. D.

The opening address was made by Dr. Mauze, of Huntington, W. Va. His subject was, "America's Opportunity, A Challenge." Among other things he said the great world war has brought the Church into unusual prominence and the Christian religion into great responsibility. All forward-looking men have their eyes turned to the Church and Christianity as the hope of the world. The world is looking to America and America is equal to meeting the call. To do this America must evangelize America. She must do this for her own sake, and she should evangelize the immigrants in order that they may be missionaries of the gospel when they return to their own lands. He made a ringing call for the evangelization of this country in order that it may be a lever to lift this wide, wide world to God.

Rev. T. H. Rice, D. D.

"Leadership of the Holy Spirit in the Work

of the Church" was the subject upon which Dr. Rice, of Union Theological Seminary, spoke. He said that the Holy Spirit leads the Church through the word of God. He called upon all to accept the infallibility of the Scriptures, which give the only rule of faith and practice and of guidance for the life of the individual Christian and for the work of the Church. He made an earnest plea for the Christian's absolute dependence upon the cross of Christ for salvation, and then for a holy and a separated life. The Christian and the Church must be separate from the world, and there will be this separation, if they follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. And if there is this separation in life and character the work of the Lord will be done.

Mr. Karl Lehmann.

Mr. Lehmann is Southern States Secretary of Christian Endeavor. He spoke of the value of the Christian Endeavor Society to the Church in training the young people in their Christian life and character, and in fitting them for work in the Church. He gave interesting accounts of the way the Endeavor movement is growing and is helping the young people and the Church. It has been the means of leading many young men and young women to enter actively into the mission work of the Church at home and abroad. The Christian Endeavor's plan in its work is to have a definite job for every one. It combats evil by giving the young people something better to do. This may be in athletics and socials to take the place of sinful amusements. But the object is especially to get them interested in Christian work. It is resulting in strengthening the local Church. It is helping to make America Christian, and to win the world for Christ. It is changing the attitude of the young people towards the Church, for it is making them feel that the Church does not frown upon social life and social pleasures. It is producing candidates for the ministry. It is making active workers for Christ. It is training young people for many forms of service for God.

Dr. Marion McH. Hull and Dr. J. P. McCallie.

These two Sunday school superintendents spoke on the subject, "A Sunday School Facing the Whole Task of the Church," giving personal experiences of successful superintendents. Dr. Hull is the superintendent of a very large school in Atlanta. He said that one of the most important things to make a school successful is to put a definite responsibility upon every one and to hold each one to a definite accountability for the task assigned. The pastor and superintendent ought to act together in harmony in the work of the Sunday school. An effective organization is necessary.

Proficiency in work is to be secured through instruction. One of the things that has been of inestimable value in his school has been the meeting of some of the men connected with it every Saturday afternoon. They meet to pray over the problems of the school.

Dr. McCallie is superintendent of a small Sunday school in Chattanooga, Tenn. He reports that it is customary to have more people in attendance upon the school than there are members on the roll. The plan adopted in his church is to have the preaching at 10 o'clock and to go right on from the preaching to the teaching service without any break. The result is that the parents bring their children to the preaching service and then stay to the Sunday school service. By instruction and the use of Duplex envelopes the whole work of the Church is kept before the school.

Rev. H. H. Sweets, D. D.

Dr. Sweets, the Secretary of Christian Education, spoke on "The Ministry and Christian Service and Their Appeal in This Hour." He said that one of the great problems before the Church is to secure a sufficient number of ministers. A large number of candidates, as well as eleven ministers and licentiates, gave their lives in defense of righteousness in the late war. For this cause we ought to pray as though everything depended upon God and work as though everything depended upon us. Personal work ought to be done by all Christians in order to lead young men into the ministry. The ministry needs to be supported. They need the prayers of God's people. Ministers also need to be paid. Some one said that he thought preachers worked for souls. The reply to the speaker given by a fellow church member was: "They cannot feed on souls, and, if they could, a hundred souls like yours would not furnish our pastor one square meal." Dr. Sweets said that one-seventh of all the candidates for the ministry are sons of preachers, although they form a very small proportion of the Church population. Ministers ought not to be expected to make all the sacrifice. The Church, if necessary, should make sacrifice to pay the minister a living salary. In the ministry the Church wants men who know the Bible to go out and teach its principles, so that the world may be saved. The Church has many men who are doing that, notwithstanding the sacrifice necessary to do it. Dr. Morrison, who gave his life in the work in Africa, said a short time before his death that he would not willingly have spent his life in any other way for all the world.

Mr. Robert C. McQuilkin.

Mr. McQuilkin is one of the editors of the Sunday School Times of Philadelphia. He

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