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THE LUTHERAN RE-UNION.

DR. JACOBS' LEARNED ADDRESS.

Where Southern Lutherans Are, Their Growth and Influence—Other Addresses—Sumptions Dimple—Hickory a Pretty Town Nestled in Sight of Mountain Grandeur.

Hickory is a picturesque place and especially well suited for a Lutheran reunion. It is where Lutheranism is held ever dear to the hearts of many dwellers. It is beautifully situated and from the observatory on Lenoir College the scenery is grand indeed. The region around which you stand is of a level or slightly rolling character but as the range of vision is widened, beautiful mountains appear in their majestic forms. Farther in the hazy air the Blue Ridge stretches like tapestry on the ethereal wall beyond which Table Rock and Grand Father mountains rear their lofty towers in dim but imposing grandeur.

The trade center of Hickory is compact in an almost unbroken line of stores on one side of the street running parallel with the railroad, on the north side, terminating with a short cross street built on both sides, giving it the form of the letter "T" with a single line for the stem and a double line for the cross.

Lenoir College is a handsome three story brick building well constructed for its purposes, situated in a beautiful grove of oaks. It is co-educational and to the north of the main building is a dormitory for males suited for 35 students while to the west there is now in course of erection a handsome dormitory for females with 20 rooms intended for 40 girls. These buildings are of wood. They are inviting homes for the seekers of knowledge.

The reunion was well attended locally but there was disappointment in the attendance of the N. C. Synod wing of the church. There was misunderstanding or something by which the special rates for the round trip were a very small reduction and very many stayed at home.

The commodious chapel was filled to overflowing. A choir of local, well trained singers discoursed suitable music in harmony rarely excelled.

Rev. W. A. Deaton was master of ceremonies. Rev. M. G. G. Sherer made the opening prayer.

Rev. W. P. Cline in his speech of welcome retraced in historic sketch the dark days when division arose and the Lutheran church in North Carolina was divided into the Tennessee and N. C. Synods. These divisions

were at times antagonistic but are now growing into harmonious relations and this gave the speaker's welcoming words a double significance.

The great feature of the occasion was the address of the learned H. E. Jacobs, D. D., LL. D., professor of theology in the Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. His subject was "Problem of the Lutheran Church in the South."

He disavowed all purpose to formulate a system and dictate a plan of procedure for the great body called the United Synod of the South but entered into a narration showing a masterful familiarity with the history of Lutheranism in America. He seemed to carry one along with Lutherans as they emigrated from Europe and traced them about the singular course in the land with their influences and their steady growth, laying open to view the field before us with its advantages and disadvantages.

He took the high ground that the church of the Reformation was ever in view of Him without whose notice the sparrow does not fall and that by His guiding hand many of the problems that rise and seem to threaten the destruction of the church appear to solve themselves. It was not an accident that America was discovered and that the Lutherans entered the field.

He quoted an eminent divine of the Presbyterian church who thanked God that for the conserving of differences arising from progressive development He had sent into America the church of Martin Luther.

He held in his hand the Journal of Henry Muhlenberg and in his possession is that of Paul Henkel. He traced their field of operation in the Southern church, beginning in Maryland, through Virginia and the Piedmont section of North Carolina and South Carolina ending with Charleston. The fruits are 110,000 Lutherans in our Southland in which the growth has been such as to double the number in 30 years instead of the normal of doubling in 45 years.

He quoted from Rev. Paul Henkel who in the midst of his labors took a very gloomy view of his work, little conceiving of its magnitude and value.

The speaker took a birds-eye view and finds in Virginia, Shenandoah, Augusta and Wythe; in North Carolina, Rowan, Cabarrus and Catawba (in original size) and in South Carolina Newberry and Lexington counties and the city of Charleston the centers where Lutherans most abound and from which go out

the dispersions that form a field vastly large in its proportions to be reclaimed by those not blessed with wealth but having some peculiar advantages, not the least of which is unity of language.

He paid a glowing tribute to the work of southern born men, without whose labors, to all appearance, there would be little of the Lutheran church north. Such as Storke, Schmucker and Krauth.

He noted that from the south came the lead in restoring the early Lutheran usages, like that of the Common Service.

The address was well rounded and complete, characteristically strong and impressive and therefore must be heard or read to be appreciated.

At the business meeting a vote of thanks was extended and he was asked for the manuscript for publication. It will most probably appear in the church papers.

Rev. V. Y. Booser made an able address showing that our annual reunions are the supply of a felt want in the Christian heart and is profitable for mutual understandings and progress in unity and saw in them the consummation of hopes that grow brighter with the recurrences.

After the feasts on good music and learned addresses the vast audience repaired to the grove where systems of long tables laden with such things as that region produces which is notable for its abundance, variety and high degree of perfection stood invitingly. Justice was done to that dinner then but can't be done again.

After the dinner the college bell rang and the business meeting was held. Rev. W. A. Deaton was made chairman and Rev. W. P. Cline secretary.

After some discussion it was determined to hold a reunion next year, the place and time to be determined by the committee on program, Revs. V. Y. Booser, J. P. Miller and W. J. Boger.

The committee by which it is hoped to get excursion rates next year are Messrs. J. C. Lingle and Julius Darr and Revs. C. L. Miller and R. C. Holland D. D.

The convention adjourned and spent the remaining part of the day in social chat and affectionate reminiscences of the past and in partings with tender hopefulness of other meetings leading to the grand reunion of all the faithful of whatever name or origin.

"The bore always tries to leave a hole in the memory of his victim."

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