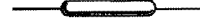


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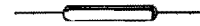
Southwestern at the Cross-Roads: Some of the Evidence Supporting the Petition of the Eleven Presbyterian Ministers of Memphis

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Some of the Evidence
Supporting the Petition of
the Eleven Presbyterian Ministers
of Memphis



by
W. S. LACY

FOREWORD

To the Presbyterians of the Controlling Synods:

The highest welfare of Southwestern in relation to our beloved Church and the best interests of the students from the Controlling Synods, demand that you be given the opportunity to know certain facts as to Dr. C. E. Diehl, President of Southwestern, and conditions for which he is responsible, that were brought to the attention of the Board February 3, 1931.

I further believe these facts will challenge the attention of all who are loyal to the Standards and Teachings of our beloved Church.

In brief herewith submitted, the facts are presented in as calm and conservative way as the truth and great interests involved will allow.

When you are fully informed and realize the seriousness of the situation in relation to the Synods, I will leave to your judgment the decision of the Board, to-wit: Dr. Diehl "completely vindicated of every charge."

Yours fraternally,

W. S. LACY.

THE Eleven Presbyterian Ministers of Memphis, who had waited years because members of the Board said—"We cannot change horses in the middle of the stream," presented a petition to the Board on February 3, 1931. Contrary to their earnestly expressed desire, they were denied a private hearing, which would have been in accordance with the by-laws of Southwestern. Instead, it was a public spectacle, the stage all set and newspaper reporters and others who are not members of our Church and, therefore, have no right to influence the counsels of our Church, were invited. "We have investigated the charges and are going to act," was the statement of Dr. Jas. I. Vance, even before any evidence was presented. The presiding officer of the Board said to Dr. Hill when he would ask Dr. Diehl questions about inspiration—"We laymen do not understand these fine distinctions." He called me down when I spoke about administration finances saying—"You are telling us things we already know."

After the petition was presented and the ministers had retired, one of these outsiders, of course not a Presbyterian, a certain Mr. Frank N. Fisher, is reported to have sarcastically denounced the ministers, some of whom had grown old and gray in the ministry and are highly honored in our Church, and called them "Birds" and made other disparaging statements about those who appeared before the Board.

MY RESIGNATION AND DR. DIEHL'S SUBSEQUENT STATEMENTS.

Last summer we rejoiced and were profoundly thankful that the long campaign had resulted in liquidating the indebtedness incurred in the completion of the buildings. Also my promise to continue with Southwestern until the campaign was over, had been fulfilled. The time had arrived when I could serve better on the outside. So, after seven years of service, I resigned as Executive Secretary, September 30, 1930. The reasons were stated in a letter to the President, which was also my final report to the Board. The contents of this paper state more fully some of the reasons for my resignation.

In other connections I had served for some time under two other presidents. One of these, Dr. W. W. Moore, unto

his dying day followed me with words and letters of cordial appreciation. A letter from the other President, Dr. E. R. Long, states that I had supported him "with unsurpassed loyalty." These things are written to add to the statement that there was never a personal breach between Dr. Diehl and myself. Today I have no "hostile feeling" toward him. It was with pain and sorrow of heart that the accumulating evidence proved conclusively that we were poles apart and stood for very different things, and all this I frankly told him by word-of-mouth when he wanted to know the "Big Reason" for my accepting other work and at a smaller salary. It is easily understood, for him to admit, as the truth demands, that my going was a matter of principle and not personalities, would not be to his advantage. On the other hand, it ill-becomes him to impugn my motives and make charges against me that cannot be maintained.

Dr. Diehl said in the public meeting of the Board, and published to the world, that it was his "firm belief" if he had offered me a professorship of Bible I would have been quiet. Dr. Diehl had no such application from me, either verbal or written. None of my closest friends, nor members of my family, nor anyone in the world has heard me express such a desire. It was not in my thoughts. There is not a scintilla of truth in his assertion, and he knew this when he made it.

Also, he said in his published address—"During the last two weeks of my connection" I seldom appeared at the office and was organizing the opposition. The truth is, I returned from the Synod of Mississippi September 20th, with a cold and three degrees of temperature, was ordered to bed by the college physician, and this was reported to Dr. Diehl. I got up and went to the office on the 24th, spent three days arranging records, etc., and left my office in the best shape possible. Then, I went to Dr. Diehl and asked him if there was anything else I could do and he could not think of anything. Also, in view of the fact that he had held me until July 12th, when my vacation was supposed to begin on July 1st, and I was back on the job August 1st, it did not seem improper to use a few days packing and arranging to move to Jackson.

As to his charge that I organized the opposition, although all eleven ministers were my friends and I was moving from the city, I saw only a few of them. I did not organize them. I did not draw up the petition and never saw a copy until after it was filed for the Board, and I asked no one to sign it. However, I know the serious charges are true, and in this paper I am offering evidence that will be absolutely conclusive to any open mind and will cause Presbyterians who have the courage of their convictions to determine to do their utmost to "Save Southwestern."

With unquestioned ability at "Making the worse appear the better reason," Dr. Diehl has given the widest publicity to statements about me that are calculated to do me much harm as a man and a minister. While self-defense would be sufficient, the real impelling motive is my desire that Southwestern be what its founders intended—a Real Presbyterian Institution.

In this paper there will be a very careful statement of facts that are established beyond peradventure.

THE FUNDAMENTAL REASON UNDERLYING ALL THE REASONS FOR DR. DIEHL'S UNACCEPTABILITY.

The chasm between Dr. Diehl's views and those of our Church became definitely apparent to me more than three years ago. He called me in his office and said—"You and Dr. Curry ought to know what I believe, and I will tell you what I told Dr. Curry." He said he did not believe in the first part of Genesis, nor did he believe that God told Joshua and the Israelites to destroy the Caananites, nor did he believe in the Imprecatory Psalms. These, and other things that he said about the Bible, caused me, without consulting anyone, to go directly to Dr. A. B. Curry, who was Vice-President, and tender him my resignation. Dr. Curry said—"Brother Lacy, the college is toppling. If you get out you will have to tell why and that will kill it. Wait until the campaign is over." I followed Dr. Curry's advice and continued until the campaign was over.

At this time Dr. Curry said to Dr. Diehl—"You are a modernist," and asked him how, according to his views, he could tell which parts of the Bible were true. He answered—"Sanctified common sense" will enable you to tell.

Dr. Curry, before the Pastor's Association, characterized Dr. Diehl's views as "**Most dangerous**" and said—"According to this view of Dr. Diehl there would be **as many Bibles as there are thinking minds.**"

Why argue with Dr. Diehl over this or that small segment of the Scripture when he says the inspiration is to be decided by "Sanctified common sense?" **This premise will put a big question mark after every book, chapter and verse of the Bible.** It is worse than the destructive higher critics, for these leave some parts of the Bible as authoritative and above reason. That "Sanctified common sense" is the guide, is **Rationalism** pure and simple. And no caviling, sophistry or eloquence can disprove it.

This Rationalism is both insidious and pernicious. If we give it any place, ultimately the resplendent banner of Presbyterianism will trail in the dust. For it will destroy that upon which our Church is built, namely, that the Bible is the sole and final authority.

That these are Dr. Diehl's real views are confirmed by the following facts which are also presented as most serious in themselves:

1st: I said to Dr. Diehl, that according to a church paper, there is not a young man in any of the colleges of New England, the region of the famous Hay-Stack prayer meetings, that is now preparing for Foreign Mission service. Dr. Diehl replied that neither is there anyone in Southwestern preparing for Foreign Mission service. And later said—"If a person is loving and kind he will be saved even if he has never heard of Christ." I was astounded and answered—"There is none other name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12. To this he replied—"Oh, that is repeating **old formulas.**" "Why then send Foreign Missionaries?" I asked, and he replied—"Many do not think it necessary." Which answer implies he may be among the many. Evangelism and Missions would be paralyzed. Rationalism is the only explanation of such views.

He now adds—"It is impossible for me to believe that the millions who never heard of Christ are lost." Then why should anyone be lost? For certainly it is no sin to hear of Christ. So by his Rationalism, he indicates Universalism.

2nd: He is consistent with the above in that he also denies Eternal Punishment. I have written proof that he made this denial in Mississippi. One of the first ladies of Clarksville, Tenn., stated—"Dr. Diehl said he would go crazy, if he believed there was a Hell." Rev. F. D. Daniel states that Dr. Diehl preached a sermon in which he both questioned and denied Eternal Punishment. I, W. S. Lacy, have heard him raise doubts as to Eternal Punishment, saying—"I wouldn't send anyone to Hell, and God is as good as I am."

Now he says he believes in "Future Retribution," but what does he mean?

If the impenitent are not eternally lost, why do we need a Savior? And if God is too good to punish the wicked how could it be explained that He permitted such agony and suffering unto death on the part of His well Beloved Son, when it was not necessary?

3rd. In the Minority Report on Divorce, which Dr. Diehl presented to the General Assembly of 1929, as appears in the Minutes, bottom of page 147, he denies the authority and teaching of the Bible on this grave subject. What he says contradicts and sets at naught the teachings of Christ and the apostle. The Assembly rejected the Minority Report and the whole General Assembly is opposed to such Rationalistic teaching.

4th: A letter from Rev. W. H. McAtee states that Dr. Diehl made the assertion to him that—"The Shorter Catechism was bunk." Many, as well as myself, have heard him condemn teaching it, saying it was bad psychology. When our mothers teach and explain it to their children, it is not a matter of psychology, but the spiritual and eternal welfare of the children that concerns them. Isn't it the strong Biblical teaching of the Shorter Catechism and not psychology, that troubles the Rationalists?

5th: When the Auburn Affirmation was drawn up **Dr. Diehl's Professor of Bible signed it.** The Auburn Affirmationists conceal their position in a great mass of fine, elegantly expressed statements, but the point of the whole is the assertion: "**We are opposed to any attempt to elevate these five doctrinal statements, or any of them, to the position of tests for ordination.**" These five doctrinal statements

are: (1) Inspiration of the Bible; (2) The Virgin Birth; (3) Vicarious Atonement; (4) Bodily Resurrection of Christ; (5) The Miracles or the mighty Works He wrought. We are commanded to commit the great doctrines of our religion "to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also." "Faithful" means full of faith, and how could one be full of faith, who denied these five great doctrines? Whatever the Auburn Affirmationists say, they clearly deny that these five doctrines, "or any of them," should be tests for ordination.

I challenge anyone to find a Minister of our Church who countenances or supports the Auburn Affirmation, that is sound on the Inspiration of the Scriptures.

Dr. Diehl also brought a man from New York, Rev. J. V. Moldenhawer, who is a member of the "Executive Committee of the Committee on Protestant Liberties," the purpose of which committee is to propagate the Auburn Affirmation, and bestowed the Doctor of Divinity degree upon him. One reason that Dr. Diehl asked that this man receive such an honor, was that he was a personal friend. "Birds of a feather will flock together."

6th: In an open meeting of the Board, February 3, Dr. Curry said that Dr. Diehl's views of inspiration are not the views of the Synods and are "Not my views." However, if he doesn't get any worse and doesn't try to teach his views to others, in view of the work that he has done, he thought he should be retained. The good Doctor ought to know that Dr. Diehl seeks Professors, as he expresses it—that have "Our view-point." Meaning that they will teach what Dr. Diehl believes, and frequently he has defended his Professor of senior Bible by saying—"He believes exactly what I believe."

Dr. Diehl's "view-point" is imparted to the students. For example, Mr. Wm. Orr reached the Seminary with Modernism. This same Wm. Orr, who has not finished his theological training, was given a large place in the setting of the stage on February 3, and his statement was incorporated into the Board action, in which he intimated that "malice" was probably the motive that prompted the eleven highly approved Presbyterian ministers of Memphis.

The motives of the two students who took the opposite view from Mr. William Orr, are impugned and they are described as have a "grudge" against Dr. Diehl.

Many of the candidates abandon preparation for the ministry at Southwestern. It appears they are influenced in this by prevailing conditions. I knew only a small part of the student-body, but can readily recall eight candidates for the ministry from Mississippi in recent years, who gave up the ministry. Most of these were considered very promising when they entered.

7th: The professor of senior Bible has made the reputation among students of stating "both sides." We fear he makes the Modernistic side entirely too attractive. These are undergraduates, most of whom never studied these subjects before. Why not speak as our Master did—"As one having authority" and not bury the truth in finely spun teaching as did the "Scribes and Modernists" of His time and so "make the commandment of God of none effect."

8th. The eleven Presbyterian Ministers and others who believe as they do, are described as "Obscurantists, Medievalists, etc." These epithets used by Rationalists are borrowed from the Unitarians.

The struggle in the Churches of America is essentially between Trinitarianism and Unitarianism. Modernism begins by discounting the trustworthiness of the Bible and then emphasizes Christ as a teacher and a "norm" instead of as "a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice and reconcile us to God" and so "pitches its tent" toward Unitarianism, which is unbelief.

9th: One of the oldest and wisest members of the Board proposed to have the Synods express their views of inspiration and have such views taught in Southwestern. Dr. Diehl said this was "The height of absurdity" and turned it down with finality. He referred to teaching Presbyterianism as "propaganda" and pointing to the seal of the college, in the open meeting of the Board, February 3, said—"Not only 'Truth' but the other two words, 'Loyalty and Service', would have to be taken out of the seal" if this were done. If he does not believe that the Southern Presbyterian Church holds and teaches "Truth, Loyalty, Service" as set forth in God's Word, he should resign.

We grant that in a Presbyterian College no effort should be made to proselyte, **but nothing contrary to, or subversive of the beliefs of the controlling Synods** should be taught.

10th: When questioned about the Vicarious Atonement Dr. Diehl said to the Presbyterian Ministers—"I hold no set theory of the Atonement." Some weeks later he shifted his position by making a different statement, as he has done in regard to certain Scriptures.

11th: Dr. Jas. I. Vance, the Distinguished Advocate of Dr. Diehl, begs the question when he says—"There is no by-law of the college requiring any standard of orthodoxy of the President." This is astounding. Is it possible that we have standards of orthodoxy for the elders and deacons and have not a standard for the president of a college who moulds the Presbyterian character of our sons and daughters in our schools? Every good reason demands that the President of such an institution should be sound in the faith.

Why should Dr. Diehl go before Nashville Presbytery and say he believes this or that doctrine when he indicates that "Sanctified common sense" or any other "sense" enables him to tell that some parts of the Bible are false and some parts true? If Rationalism is to determine Inspiration, the verities of our faith can never be maintained. The Virgin Birth; Bodily Resurrection; Miracles; as well as the Vicarious Atonement, would rest upon too precarious a support.

I would not be disturbed if a good Bible teacher of another evangelical denomination instructed and moulded my boy, but **never** shall anyone do this, with my consent, that says any sort of "sense" will enable him to tell that parts of the Bible are true and that parts are untrue.

The Distinguished Advocate said concerning Dr. Diehl—"Completely vindicated of every charge."

"Truth is fallen in the street." "Judgment is turned away backward and justice standeth afar off. Yea truth faileth."

What, Brethren of the Ministry, could be worse than this Rationalism in the moulding and determining executive of one of our colleges? It is "**Most dangerous.**" Surely, "**there would be as many Bibles as thinking minds.**" This

is the blighting Rationalism from Central Europe which has crept over land and sea and now endeavors to capture one of the strongholds of our "Beloved Church." Before God, we must root it up and throw it out. Your influence will be on the wrong side if you do not take a strong stand. "He that is not with me is against me." Let us do our duty whatever it costs.

Young men of the Ministry, "Mortuari te Salutamus" ("We who are about to die, salute you.") Your Godly parents were not deluded fools. The Radicals claim that the young men are demanding Radicalism. If true, it is an unquestioned indictment of their recent professors. Most of the young ministers are sound in the faith and to these we say, "Be Strong." "**Your ordination** vows are infinitely more important than positions, preferments and honorary degrees.

God still lives and His Word is true, and when the Modernist giants of Anak are all dead the army of the Lord Jesus Christ will be marching forward on the old lines.

SHALL SOUTHWESTERN BECOME AN INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION?

Is there any danger that the Synods will lose control of their school, and have their property looted, as happened to the Congregationalists? (See Ernest Gordon's "Leaven of the Sadducees"), or that which happened to the Methodists in the case of Vanderbilt University?

The following indicates that Dr. Diehl has the ideal of an independent institution even though there should remain nominal church control.

1st: He began to talk modification of the ownership and control in order to get large financial support, and had a long conference with the brilliant editor of the Commercial Appeal and imparted his ideas to him. A few days later, Mr. George Morris came out with a strong first-column editorial urging that Memphis, Shelby County, and State of Tennessee, each vote bonds for \$1,000,000 making a total of \$3,000,000 to Southwestern and have representation on the Board accordingly. When Dr. Diehl proposed this to his Executive Committee of Memphis men, Dr. Curry succeeded in stopping it. (See Minutes of Executive Committee.)

2nd: He emphasizes the idea that Southwestern must be more "liberal" in its teaching than the Church and decries all "propaganda" except his own.

3rd: For nearly four years, and not until I had sharply called attention to it, did he have one of our own ministers conduct the annual evangelistic service for Southwestern students. Church colleges have ministers of their own denomination conduct such services.

4th: When Dr. Diehl had the Board to drop Presbyterian out of the name of the college, there was much uneasiness in the synods lest the character of the institution be changed. Now it appears their fears were not groundless and that there was a deep laid scheme.

Recently Dr. J. P. Robertson was roundly scolded by a "brainy" business man of Memphis because he maintained that Southwestern is, or should be, a Presbyterian college. This man said the relation of Southwestern to the Church was only nominal and he proceeded to prove it, at least to his own satisfaction.

On March 2, a well informed Presbyterian lady of Memphis asked me, "Is Southwestern really a Presbyterian college?" This question is being asked by an increasing number of people far and wide.

5th: It is the uniform practice of Church schools to have members of their own church do practically all teaching and other work. For special reasons, it is sometimes wise and good to have a few of other denominations. Dr. Diehl seems to have as many as possible.

Nine of the twenty-two full professors are not members of our Church. Nine of the twelve "Officers of Administration" in full time service of the College, who are not members of the faculty, are not Presbyterians. (See Catalogue.) Some of these officers have more opportunity to influence students than certain of faculty. Not one of the office force who handles our money in Southwestern, is a Presbyterian.

	Southern Presbyterians	Others
Faculty	13	9
Others, "Officers of Administration" in full time service.....	3	9
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	16	18

In the **old days** at S.P.U., all the Professors, with one exception, were Presbyterians. Cannot Dr. Diehl find or trust more of our own? It would be difficult for a college that has fewer of its own members in its service to fulfill its mission to the church to which it belongs and if Modernistic teaching is added, it would be "flabbergasting" its church in respect to its most precious faith. The president of a southern theological seminary said, "To get money from an orthodox church and use it to teach Modernism, is embezzlement."

There is no necessity for so few Presbyterians in Southwestern. There are **independent institutions** in the South that have a larger proportion of Presbyterians in their service than has Southwestern.

This is indicated without any personal prejudice against any member of the faculty or officers who happen to be of other denominations. When I left Southwestern, so far as I knew, they were all my friends.

**CONSIDERING THE UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY,
HAS SOUTHWESTERN DEVELOPED AS IT
SHOULD HAVE DONE?**

For years before Dr. Diehl became President, the institution had a sufficient plant, no large debts, possessed enough endowment to be a **regular member of the Southern Association of Colleges**. It had done one of the greatest educational works in the Southland and its illustrious presidents and great professors had few equals and no superiors. Their names sound in our ears like a continuation of Roll Call of the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. Drs. J.-B. Shearer, Jno. N. Waddell, Chas. R. Hemphill, Joseph R. Wilson, W. A. Alexander, Jas. Adair Lyon, R. A. Webb, Thornton Whaling, G. F. Nicholasen, E. B. Massie, Robert Price, T. O. Deaderick, Geo. Summey, J. B. Wharry, A. B. Dinwiddie and others. These men were scholars and some of them distinguished authors, and every one of them true to all the standards of our Church.

In addition to assets at Clarksville of \$500,000—\$1,600,000 was secured by Dr. M. E. Melvin in new subscriptions. With the strong backing of a great city that needed a college and was very much interested, and the intimation of the General Education Board that if things were conducted properly they

would give \$500,000, it was indeed **the best opportunity in America.**

What has been realized? Better administration and science buildings, dormitories for only 70 students, slightly larger productive endowment; and its standing questioned by the Association of Colleges and for several years **Southwestern has been on probation.**

LAST CAMPAIGN \$700,000 SHORT OF GOAL—AND WHY?

The last campaign was launched for \$1,200,000 which was a reasonable goal for the Synods. With the best organization in America, it was to be concluded in a few months, but really continued for nearly three years, with results as follows:

Total amount subscribed in four Synods was about \$500,000. Of this, about \$250,000 was secured in Memphis and three churches of middle Tennessee. The campaigners know why we were \$700,000 short. One of the campaign leaders said, "If Southwestern had another president, or no president, we could get the \$1,200,000."

Did Dr. Diehl alone secure the large gifts?

Several ex-Moderators and others were in the field for large gifts and must have had great influence. Dr. Jno. M. Vander Meulen made a trip to Cattanooga to assist in enlisting Mr. Lupton; Mr. R. E. Craig, of his own accord, came to Memphis and announced his large gift. Ordinarily large benefactors deem it necessary to talk to the president of an institution before closing the matter. It seems a little far-fetched for Dr. Diehl to take all the credit.

As to the Emergency Campaign, more than enough was in new subscriptions from the Synods to pay the balance of the large debt. Never before in our Church was there so much at stake. So it is not a marvelous thing that the larger part of the amount was thus secured. Others worked out the plan for the presbyteries and many ministers made great personal efforts in field work, and without charge, to save their college to the Church.

\$195,000 THAT WAS COUNTED AS PART OF THE \$700,000 WAS NEVER RAISED, BUT WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE CAPITAL ASSETS TO PAY DEBTS.

Then \$195,000 was secured as follows:

Land was sold for \$50,000. Other land and all unpaid subscriptions hypothecated for \$75,000. Out of endowment, \$70,000 was taken and a certain promise to pay at death put in the endowment funds instead.

DR. DIEHL'S ADMINISTRATION WAS THE OCCASION OF THE FAILURE TO SECURE ANOTHER \$500,000.

Dr. Wallace Buttrick, Chairman of the General Education Board, and Secretary Dr. Thorkelson, were in Memphis, October 24, 1924, to make an investigation. When Dr. Buttrick discovered how nearly all of the endowment had been improperly used for current expenses, he said, "Did it ever occur to you that this was not moral?" They declined to give the proposed \$500,000. Dr. Diehl says it was because of the debt, but the records will show that the loan had not been consummated at that time. **It was the improper spending of endowment that lost the half-million dollars.** It should be borne in mind that when the General Education Board begins to help a college they will also make additional gifts every time later campaigns are made. Misuse of Endowment is wrong in principle and bad in practice.

Dr. George Summey has told what solemn promises he made to Mr. McComb that the \$100,000 he gave many years ago would remain intact through the ages; but this also was used with other Endowment for current expenses. Almost every time a gift is made to any Endowment, the giver is assured that principal will remain intact forever and only the income will be used to carry on the good work, and is it not a breach of a solemn trust to violate such a promise? Good bankers will tell you that they would probably be sent to the penitentiary for such a violation of a trust. Because they failed in an effort to stop this procedure at Southwestern, Dr. W. R. Dobyms, Dr. A. A. Little, and Judge S. F. Hobbs withdrew from the Board.

DR. DIEHL CANNOT ESCAPE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MISUSE OF ENDOWMENT

It will be said that the Board authorized this use of endowment. To which I will respectfully reply, (1) No Board takes this action unless the president is behind it; (2) These days, too often a president can enlist sufficient number to make it the action of the body, even though some stalwarts like Judge Hobbs, Dr. Little, Dr. Dobyns, and Dr. McIntosh will withdraw before they will be parties to it; (3) **The president must be held responsible** and his action condemned by right-thinking Presbyterians.

EXTRAVAGANT ADMINISTRATION.

1st: When Dr. Diehl became President, the capital assets were reported at \$500,000. From campaign conducted by Dr. Melvin and all other campaigns, gifts, contributions, and sale of land, about \$2,500,000 more have been paid into the treasury. The total present assets are \$2,012,250, of which \$70,000 is an obligation to pay at death.

Where is the \$1,000,000? It is gone. At the very least, \$300,000 of the \$1,000,000 should not have been spent, but should now be in permanent assets.

2nd: Again, a reasonably economical administrator would not have spent over a \$1,000,000 on the buildings and would have reserved more for endowment. There should have been at least \$200,000 more reserved for endowment and a really economical administrative officer would have reserved more.

There are fine and good colleges, with as many students as Southwestern, having full recognition of Southern Association, the entire plants of which cost about as much as one of Southwestern's buildings.

A man has no right to build a palatial home and then have no money to support his family. Dr. Buttrick inspected the building under construction and said, "I am going to advise Mr. Rockefeller to quit helping colleges. They are becoming too extravagant."

3rd: The cost of dormitories for 70 men and the dining hall was \$400,000. An experienced and successful architect and builder says he can erect an equally commodious, attractive and durable plant and completely and elegantly fur-

nish it for less than \$200,000. College executives know that this is true.

The other \$200,000 at compound interest for a hundred years would amount to over \$64,000,000. This would be "Building for the Ages."

4th: The small lodge for the keeper of the grounds and buildings cost \$17,000 not including the land. What will the President's home cost?

5th: The lawsuit was won, but only \$50,000 of the S. P. U. assets were brought to Memphis. Two lawyers, of whom Dr. Jas. I. Vance's son was one, charged \$30,000 for their services. Enormous fees for the amount saved!

6th: Dr. Diehl sold the land on which the rented dormitories were erected at a very handsome profit, and in turn leased the buildings for \$11,000 a year, for three years. Now the contract is signed for another three years. The rental for six years should pay for erection of such a temporary dormitory.

7th: E. F. Leathem & Co., charged \$531.50 for auditing for two years. They understand that a recommendation which was made, had something to do with their being discharged. For the past two years \$1,926.64 was charged for auditing by another firm. No wonder the auditors could afford to "acknowledge with gratification the privilege," and in an auditor's report praise the administration.

8th: Many, many more illustrations of extravagance could be listed, but why weary the reader? Out of their own mouths, from the recent bulletin they are spending at the rate of \$53,000 annually in excess of assured income. Probably it will not be long before the synods are again told, "Put up a large sum of money, or lose your college."

9th: Dr. Wm. Ray Dobyns, Judge S. F. Hobbs, and Dr. W. H. McIntosh resigned from the Board because of spending the Sacred Trust Funds at the rate of about \$35,000 a year.

Dr. A. A. Little resigned for same reason and extravagances.

The late D. K. Brown, one of the best and most truthful of men, resigned saying, "Dr. Diehl is a millionaire spender with a pauper's pocketbook."

The late L. C. Humes resigned as Treasurer saying, "I am tired of fussing with Dr. Diehl about money, and it does no good." I have a letter indicating this.

Messrs. S. M. Nickey and G. G. Tayloe endeavored to "strictly limit finances by the budget" and failing, left the Board.

Mr. A. K. Burrow, and a number of other good men, declined to serve on the Board.

Mr. W. E. Holt resigned for his health's sake, but he was greatly troubled about extravagances.

Other members of the Board have been similarly troubled, but did not resign.

Probably some who remained on the Board will say that the extravagances met their approval.

An analysis and summing up of above mentioned extravagances and results will indicate there should be additional endowment as follows:

S. P. U. Endowment, used for current expenses.....	\$ 250,000
Unnecessary cost of buildings was more than.....	200,000
Amount General Education Board declined to give because of use of Endowment and extravagance	500,000
Sundry economies would have easily added.....	100,000

TOTAL.....\$1,050,000

In addition to above, an acceptable president would have probably enabled campaigners to have secured several hundred thousands more from the synods in the last campaign.

The Church is already being called upon for the income on a million dollars for current expenses until the endowment is increased by that amount. Southwestern should have had this amount, so that the Church might give the million dollars to other causes which are in dire need.

The Distinguished Advocate of Dr. Diehl answers to the second petition of the Eleven Presbyterian Ministers, "Completely vindicated of every charge."

Any member of the Board who says he, or they, and not Dr. Diehl, is responsible for the financial record, should resign.

The Board admits Dr. Diehl's extravagancies by their own unusual restriction, but they now say he is—

"STRICTLY LIMITED IN FINANCES BY THE BUDGET"

Yes, but who submits the budget? The President; and infrequently is any item changed.

The Budget should be limited or reduced to the assured income. Last summer the Treasurer told the Bursar, the budget must be reduced and to go carefully over each item and cut down the estimates. The Bursar requested me to look over his list of reductions. I gave it only passing notice, for I knew that Dr. Diehl would put every item back to his own original figures. And this he did. When the Treasurer went on a trip to California, at a meeting of the Executive Committee with only a part of the Committee present, this same budget was adopted. "Strictly Limited" indeed!

During the last few months of my connection with the College, purchases were made of very expensive tableware, made to order for which there was no pressing need, automobile, etc., a total of several thousands of dollars for items not mentioned in Budget. Some of these purchases were made when ministers over the synods were urging their people, some of whom are very poor, to give in sacrificial devotion to God, to save their College to real Presbyterianism. Money was given, or offered as an honorarium, by Dr. Diehl when the Board had said to him it should not be done.

UNACCEPTABLE.

It is a generally known fact that after the first campaign was ended, Dr. Melvin went before the Board and told them that a change in the president was necessary, indicating that otherwise it would be impossible in later campaigns to get the support that the Synods could easily give. The campaigns of 1924-'30 proved that he was absolutely correct.

Dr. Wm. Crowe, who was one of the earliest and most earnest workers for the building of the New Southwestern, came from St. Louis at another time to urge that a change was necessary.

Those who visited the meetings of the Synods each year, and who talked with Alumni of the institution and others, know that the chief problems were in the effort to explain

or defend some act of Dr. Diehl and the general administration of the institution under his leadership. The result was a general apathy throughout the Synods, or a positive and outspoken criticism which made our campaigns long drawn out, terribly expensive, and in large part fruitless.

We faced the same conditions, and paid the same price, in the campaigns for students. In many, many cases we found patrons and ministers severely critical of Dr. Diehl and his policies.

These are facts which cannot be successfully disputed and of which ample proof might be offered if they were not too widely known.

A member of the Board on February 3, stated that the opposition dates back many years. Evidently this has grown and certainly there is great opposition in regard to things, Internal, External and Eternal. In our Church, and in many others, when a pastor, teacher, evangelist, president or secretary becomes **unacceptable** to a considerable minority, he usually has grace enough to seek other fields. For a number of years Dr. Diehl has been very unacceptable not to a minority only, but to a large proportion of the constituency which owns the College.

The third charge of the Ministers is "Unacceptability." There are Presbyteries that will vote "yes" almost solidly and not a corporal's guard to the contrary, and yet, the Distinguished Advocate **treats it lightly and says it is not true.**

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH THE BOARD?

1st: There are good and true men on the Board who do not understand the momentous issues involved.

2nd: Mayor Overton said, "We laymen do not understand these fine distinctions." The fine distinction referred to, is as essential to our Church **as a foundation is to a building.** Whatever destroys this foundation will destroy true Presbyterianism. Such times as these, we should have on the Board discerning men, like the Eleven Approved Ministers of Memphis, who do understand.

3rd: Dr. Diehl, by making suggestions to Synods, has had a large part in selecting his Board. Men who should

have had deciding voices, resigned because they would not approve.

4th: There are seventeen members of the Board and nine make a quorum. If there were a vacancy for a few months, it would be no handicap. If there be a vacancy from removal, death, or declining to serve, Dr. Diehl selects the type of man he wants and asks the Moderator to appoint him and insists that this is regular procedure. In this way, he has averaged one selection a year for several years. Why should this be allowed?

5th: Dr. Diehl adroitly leads the Board, as in the use of Endowment, and says it is the action of the Board. They are compelled to defend their action and him.

After being enlisted to use Endowment for current expenses, Dr. Vance said, "We gambled for the Lord and won." We are not sure that gambling is ever for the Lord and we are not of those who say, "Let us do evil that good may come, whose damnation is just."

6th: Dr. Diehl, after having enlisted good and true men on the Board, is able to turn them against men who are in accord with our Church and with the highest interest of the College at heart, and enlists their support in dismissing them, as in the case of D. W. Gordon, Bursar and an Elder of the Second Presbyterian Church, a true, efficient and trustworthy man.

Now Dr. Vance writes to Dr. E. D. McDougall and suggests that he send in his resignation. If he does not send it in, he will be ordered out—and why? **Because Dr. McDougall would not stultify his conscience and sign a paper unqualifiedly endorsing Dr. Diehl.**

7th: Some members of the Board say, "I am for peace." There can be no peace and there will be anything but peace until we have a president who is acceptable to the Synods in respect to beliefs and finances and attitudes.

True Presbyterians, we must "clean house," or Rationalism, from within our own lines will turn its guns on us and play havoc with our Church. Shall we pass our spiritual heritage to our children better than when it came to us, or shall we permit it to be marred and damaged,

while we are at ease in Zion? "Not for lands, nor for life, for wife, nor for children," should we "mix in our cup a single drop of the poison of treason."

Anyone familiar with the tragic history of Christian Education in America can see that our potent institution stands at the Cross-Roads; **in one direction** is the highway of Loyalty to the ideals and purposes of her great past; **the other**, the way of compromise with Modernism and Materialism, which leads inevitably to alienation from the control of the Church and the things for which it stands. If you are contented that Southwestern follow in the way Harvard, Yale and Vanderbilt and other institutions have gone; then leave it in the hands of Dr. Diehl and members of the Board in sympathy with him. If you wish it saved to the highest ideals of Christian Education in the Presbyterian Church, there must be a change of **leadership**. It will cost, but shall we not pay the full price? Amen.