

THE LIFE

Bea B. Warfield

Sept 1899.

OF

from Judge Samuel Miller Breckinridge

SAMUEL MILLER, D.D., LL.D.,

SECOND PROFESSOR

IN THE

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

AT PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY.

BY

SAMUEL MILLER.

PHILADELPHIA :

CLAXTON, REMSEN AND HAFELFINGER,

Nos. 819 and 821 Market Street.

1869.

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guard he had adopted against the rigors of an eastern climate. He told me it had been very severe upon him; but that the best defence was going very warm-clad. This was his great prophylactic, and he had found the effect admirable. Clothe yourself warm, then; do not breathe the cold air, after speaking, more than you can help; and do not allow yourself to be prevailed on to preach when you are sick. The Lord be with you and bless you! Make my respectful and affectionate salutations to Mrs. Wisner, and also to Mrs. Huntington. I rejoice that you are to be some time under her roof.

‘Believe me to be yours unfeignedly,
 ‘Rev. Mr. Wisner. Sam’l Miller.’

In the General Assembly of 1821, the subject of Freemasonry, upon a reference from the Synod of Pittsburgh, was discussed at considerable length. It seems to have been the desire of some, that the Assembly should declare Masonry incompatible with Christianity, and connexion with a Masonic lodge a sufficient ground for exclusion from the church. Dr. Miller took the floor in earnest opposition to this suggestion. He claimed, as himself a Mason, but a Mason who had not entered a lodge for several years, and did not expect to enter one ever again, to have some knowledge of the subject, and yet to be a measurably impartial witness.

‘I will not, indeed, Sir,’ he said, ‘insult your understanding so far as to contend, as some have done, that Masonry is the same thing with Christianity—that to be a good Mason is the same thing with being a good Christian. But, if I comprehend the subject, Masonry is an institution, which embraces individuals of all ranks, of all countries, of all religions,—the Jew, the Mohammedan, the Christian,—and binds them to acts of mutual benevolence, by an initiation into certain mysterious rites, and by the communication of certain signs and words, which enable members of the institution to recognize each other. * * It may be perverted; it may be abused; but, considering its original nature and design, I think we ought to be very far from pronouncing it that odious and abominable thing which many are fond of representing it.’

The Seminary was now upon the whole prospering: its pupils, during the Summer session of 1821, reached the number of seventy-six.

Of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions Dr. Miller was made a corporate member as early