

Yesterday when we were making a tape about my experiences at seminary as a student Mr. Pakala inquired very specifically and directly about Dr. Machen's character. This stimulated me to think further about the subject.

In the first place I would say that Dr. Machen was a very sincere Christian. The atonement of Christ and what He ^{should} mean to each of us was very real in his life. ~~XX~~ He was an earnest, humble, devoted Christian. He ~~xxxxxx~~ loved to preach on the hymn, "There is a Green Hill Far Away."

As to his character, I would say that Dr. Machen was a very fine gentleman and a very upright ~~xxx~~ person. Those who hated the clear way in which he showed how modernism differs from real Christianity spread all sorts of false rumors about him. There was not a word of truth in any of them. Most of the things they said about him were very petty, such as accusing him of passing a woman he ~~knew~~ knew on the street without speaking to her--something that probably happens once in a while to almost every scholar who thinks deeply on the ~~xxx~~ subjects he is studying. I never heard any accusation of the least bit of dishonesty or of angry angrily striking out at anyone, or of anything like that. Of course ~~in~~ I must admit I did not know him as intimately with complete intimacy, although I had much contact with him. It was a comparatively small part of the total time of his activity. I never, however, heard him accused with justice of anything that I ~~would~~ would consider wrong.

When falsely accused Dr. Machen was not apt to strike back. He fought valiantly for the Gospel but I do not recall any instance of striking hard in order to defend his own integrity. Thus he was accused Thus the accusation was widely though quietly spread that his money had come from breweries and liquor interests. In fact, Dr. Stevenson told ~~me~~ me that he thought there ~~were~~ were many in the assembly who wanted simply to rule Dr. Machen out altogether on account of his money having come from such a source. I don't know whether Stevenson was speaking truly when he said this or not, but it illustrates the ~~f~~ sort of stories that were told. One time, when I was talking with Dr. Machen he referred to these stories and said, "I would hate to think that a cent of the money that I have had come from such a source."

I would say then that as to character Dr. Machen was a very real and devoted Christian and of most upright character.

There is certainly no doubt about Dr. Machen's ~~great~~ ^{great} abilities. After his death one of the accounts of him said that when he would deal with almost any subject it would turn out that he had investigated the matter so thoroughly that that and looked into just about everything ever written on the subject that it made his energy seem almost superhuman. He was a very careful scholar and one who covered a great deal of territory in his study and scholarship.