

M. felt quite discouraged and disheartened as a result of the discussion that he heard at the meeting, and these feelings were increased when he read your letter. It made him feel as if he were not wanted in our movement.

I can readily understand how these experiences would produce such an effect, and yet I do not altogether think that M. has correctly understood your letter. You have not so much criticized him as criticized the presbytery for rushing the examination through in too much of a hurry. As you said in your letter, it was quite unfair to the candidate, (especially after he had made the long trip to B. for the licensure examination) to try "to determine these things during a half-hour recess for lunch, or during a spot check quiz on the floor of the presbytery when time becomes a premium." It is impossible to get a fair idea of a candidate under these circumstances. Anyone who has had as much experience as I have in connection with examination of candidates in three different Presbyterian denominations, over a long period of years, becomes quite aware of the fact that some of the very best men make a rather poor impression in a rapid examination. Surely a man should be called before the committee in ample time that there would be full opportunity to put him at his ease and to secure a fair impression of what he knows, or else an effort should be made to secure information on major items through correspondence with men who have known the candidate over a period years.

I feel especially sorry about this particular case, because M. is an outstanding man in many ways. His marks in Seminary show a high quality of work, considerably above the average of his class. He is a man of deep consecration, with great interest in reaching the lost for Christ. He is thoroughly devoted to all the major emphases of our ... movement, and is in many ways as fine a candidate as has ever come before any of our presbyteries.

The subject of your letter is of extremely great importance to the whole cause and it is for this reason that I feel disposed to write you. I agree thoroughly with all that you are trying to accomplish by it, and feel that it is important that we think along these lines. At the same time it impressed me that there were certain phrases in it which quite naturally upset Mr F., and which in themselves might have a harmful influence on the church as a whole. Therefore I hope you will pardon me for expressing my opinion about these matters at some length.