

BUNYAN'S LIFE REVIEWED

Prof. Ritchie Brings Short Sketch of Author's Life

Last Wednesday morning Prof Ritchie presented a very interesting short review of the life of John Bunyan, the author of the famous "Pilgrim's Progress."

The service was opened in the usual manner with the singing of Holy Holy Holy followed by the invocation by President Smith after which the inspiring hymn of praise "Come Thou Almighty King" was sung, led by Prof. Kerr.

John Bunyan was born into a poor family, although there were traces of royalty in his ancestry, especially with reference to William, commonly known as the "Conqueror". He had a very slight scholastic education but he was a man of strong feelings, and when the opportunity came he enlisted with Cromwell's army at the age of seventeen. His physique was good, and morally he was a very high type of man.

He was married when he was twenty years old to a young lady who had no property. It is said that they had not even any knives or dishes with which to start house-keeping. However he made a living working for his father. Not long after this he was converted and felt the call to preach. He and his wife made their home in Bedford, between Cambridge and Oxford, and while there his wife taught him to read and write. This is a rather singular fact in the life of a man who came to be such a widely known writer.

The King James version of The Bible had great influence on his writings, and it is said that it is from his study of it that he attained such excellence in his writings. Bunyan must have been a man of deep and profound thought, else he could not have written his master-

piece, "Pilgrim's Progress", especially with so little training as he had in the field of his profession as a writer.

The above mentioned production of Bunyan's has been translated into 97 different languages, and has had 105 different editions. Prof. Ritchie made the remark that "there is something more than human in his works".

With the restoration of Charles II, Bunyan was put into prison and remained there for 12 years.

Students in the course "17th Century Literature" were very fortunate if they attended chapel Wednesday morning in that the instructor of that course prepared for them the work of pauses per equ quoniam nosse for this morning. Much gratitude is extended to Prof. Ritchie for his solicitude in the behalf of his wayward students.