

### Mealtime at New York Hall

For most of the new students the first meal in New York Hall, the men's dormitory, would be the noon meal on the day new students matriculated in the fore noon. Miss Taylor, a niece of President Zachary Taylor, was the matron whose rooms were just over the dining room. The waiters in the dining room were negro men and I suppose the cooks were the same. We paid a fixed price for room and board, a total of \$11.00 or \$12.00 a month.

A large majority of the students were single men and it followed that the men who stayed in New York Hall made up the much larger portion of the whole student body. The faculty at the beginning of the school year appointed one student to be presiding officer in the dining room. But it was the custom to let each student select his place at a table at the beginning of the year and he usually occupied that seat for the whole year.

Well, in the class that entered the seminary in 1903 there was a Japanese student, Mr. T. Takahashi. He had been for some time a pastor of a Baptist Church in Japan that was founded by and was connected with the Northern Baptist Mission. He came, leaving a wife and three children in Japan and spent three years at the Seminary without going to see his family.

We were all in those days lacking in experience and no one seemed to feel any obligation toward a stranger in our midst and when the students came into the dining room and everyone was looking out for himself, Mr. Takahashi also came into the dining room and took a seat at a table. It didn't happen to be at the table that I took a seat at,

and I don't know why I noticed the situation, but I distinctly remember glancing about the big room and seeing a lone Japanese sitting at a table and there was one or more vacant seats on each side of him. I think it was that way only a short time, and Mr. Takahashi never made any complaint so far as I know. He stayed in the seminary three years, took his degree and was chosen as one of the speakers at commencement. His subject was "Paul as a preacher," and I well remember after fifty-five years have passed, that one of his points was "Paul was not a Sunday preacher." Dr. McGlothlin made mention of the fact that Mr. Takahashi had been in his Church History class for two years and had never been late or absent a single time.

Mr. Takahashi went back to Japan in 1906, the same year that Dozier, Rowe and I went to that land as missionaries. He taught in the seminary or was pastor of a Baptist Church the rest of his life. Now his body rests in Japan, as does that of J.H. Rowe and C.K. Dozier. So that 15 percent of our class went to Japan and three out of four of them gave all their graduate days to Japan.

"Then" we shall know as we are known, and good manners and thoughtfulness of others will be second nature to us.

Old people are not always better than young people, but they ought to be wiser and better educated than they once were.

#### A country boy in a big city

Louisville in 1903 was not big as it is in 1961, but it had more than 200,000 inhabitants and was a new experience to me.

New York Hall was a big five-story building, built with money raised in New York City by Dr. John A. Broadus, but though it was brick on the outside it was cheaply built on the inside and not furnished like most buildings today. Before a student could study at night at all he had to go down town and buy a student lamp that burned kerosene. I went down to Lewis's store on 4th Avenue and paid four dollars and some cents for a blanket which we are still using in 1961.

Between New York hall and Norton Hall was Levering Gymnasium, a gift of Mr. Joshua Levering, which was not only a place for exercise but had hot shower baths which added much to the simple lives we had to live.

We were soon right down at work. Classes began at noon on Monday and continued till noon on Saturday. Many students then as now preached at churches in every direction from Louisville on Sundays and they were allowed Saturday afternoons and Monday forenoons to go and come to and from the churches.

Not having studied Greek at all before going to the seminary, I had to join a class taught by a student to get a sufficient start in New Testament Greek and be able to take Junior and Senior Greek along with the students that had had some years of classic Greek in college. We had good teaching in this preparatory year and we as well as the teachers of Greek at the seminary were surprised at how well we got along with only this preparation for the study of the Greek New Testament.

And Hebrew! I had to have glasses made in order to see the little dots that serve as vowel points in Hebrew. But when I was through with the two-year course in Hebrew I laid the glasses aside for many years—I don't know how long. But Hebrew was a great experience, and I thought it helped me more than anything in getting acquainted with <sup>the</sup> Hebrew mind.

The old Testament in English, which went through the entire Old Testament in one year, was taught by Dr. John R. Sampey. The class met three times a week, ninety minutes at a time, and there were usually about 125 members of each class. It was a telescopic rather than a microscopic way, but it was a better course than seems possible to one who had not been in the class.

The New Testament in English was taught by Dr. A.T. Robertson and like the Old Testament it was held three periods a week ninety minutes long and covered the entire New Testament in one year.

Biblical Geography, Biblical Antiquities and The Text and canon made up another first year course that in our day was taught by Dr. Geo. B. Eager.