

**PRAYER, AND ITS RELATION TO MODERN
THOUGHT AND CRITICISM: A COURSE
OF LECTURES
DELIVERED BEFORE THE THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY AND RUTGERS COLLEGE,
NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649383436

Prayer, and its relation to modern thought and criticism: a course of lectures delivered before the Theological Seminary and Rutgers College, New Brunswick, New Jersey by Isaac S. Hartley

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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ISAAC S. HARTLEY

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THE VEDDER LECTURES—1874.

P R A Y E R :

AND ITS RELATION TO

MODERN THOUGHT AND CRITICISM.

A COURSE OF LECTURES

DELIVERED BEFORE

The Theological Seminary and Rutgers College,

(NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY),

By ISAAC S. HARTLEY, D. D.,

Pastor of the Reformed Church, Ulster, N. Y.

NEW YORK :

BOARD OF PUBLICATION OF THE R. C. A.

1875.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THE following is a copy of the instrument of gift, executed by Mr. Nicholas F. Vedder, and recorded by order of General Synod :

“ For divers good considerations moving me thereto, and especially that I may in some degree aid in upholding the great and cardinal truths of the Christian Religion in opposition to the popular infidelity of the times, and of ‘ science falsely so called, ’ I, NICHOLAS F. VEDDER, of Utica, in the State of New York, do give, transfer, and set over, to the *General Synod of the Reformed Church in America*, ten bonds of the denomination of \$1,000 each, known as Equipment Bonds of the Toledo and Wabash Railway Company, bearing seven per cent. interest, semi-annually, with coupons attached, and being of the value of Ten Thousand dollars, at par.

“ This gift is for the purpose of founding and sustain-

ing an annual course of Lectures to be delivered before the students of the Theological Seminary of New Brunswick, and also to the students of Rutgers College, New Brunswick, on 'The present aspects of Modern Infidelity, including its cause and cure.'

"And this gift is made to the said General Synod upon the following express trusts, and subject in all respects to the conditions following, that is to say :

"I. That the General Synod shall annually, and every year after this gift takes effect, elect by ballot, at their regular annual session, a Lecturer for the year ensuing said annual session. The Lecturer shall always, at the time of his annual election, be a member of the Reformed Church in America.

"II. That the said Lecturer shall be required to deliver at least five lectures on the general theme or subject hereinbefore prescribed, to the students of the two Seminaries or institutions hereinbefore mentioned, one month or more, as may be found most practicable and expedient, before the graduation of the Senior class in each of said institutions.

"III. That after having completed the delivery of the said Lectures, and within the period of three months thereafter, said Lecturer shall deliver a corrected copy of his Lectures, prepared for the press, to the Presi-

dent of the General Synod for the time being, who shall give a receipt therefor, upon the presentation of which to the custodian of the fund hereby created, the person receiving the same shall be entitled to receive and shall be paid the income of the said fund for the then current year, but in no case shall he be entitled to, or receive more than the annual sum which shall be realized and actually obtained from said fund.

“IV. That the General Synod, after the manuscript of the Lectures is so delivered as aforesaid, shall offer the same to the Board of Publication of the Reformed Church, for the purpose of publication by said Board, and if the Board accept the same, such Lectures shall from time to time be published by said Board, and, if the profits arising therefrom shall be sufficient, copies thereof shall be presented to each student in both institutions who was present at the delivery thereof, and copies shall likewise be placed in the libraries of the Seminary, and of the College, and any surplus of profits shall be paid into the treasury of the Board of Publication. If the Board shall decline the offer to publish the said Lectures, then the President of the General Synod shall offer the same to any publisher who will undertake to publish the same, and furnish the copies hereinbefore provided for.

“The above are fundamental conditions imposed by me and to be strictly fulfilled when the trust hereby created shall take effect. During my life, I desire no publicity to be given to this endowment, but after my death, it is my request that the same be known and designated as the ‘Vedder Lecture on Modern Infidelity.’

“The securities I have above named, I have placed in the hands of Rev. Isaac S. Hartley, of Utica, to be by him retained until the General Synod have by a resolution to be passed and entered on their minutes, accepted the trust hereby created, and agreed to its conditions, and then to be delivered to the said General Synod, or their Treasurer. And I enjoin upon the Synod to hold these bonds until the same shall arrive at maturity, and on their payment, whenever that shall take place, to re-invest the capital in permanent securities to be approved by the Treasurer of the General Synod, and held as a perpetual fund to secure the objects herein provided for.

“In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 13th day of January, 1873.

“N. F. VEDDER.

“In presence of Wm. J. Bacon.”

THE following extract from the Minutes of the General Synod, June, 1873, contains its action in reference to the gift of the late Mr. Nicholas F. Vedder :

1. *Resolved*, That the gift of \$10,000, by Nicholas F. Vedder, of Utica, to found a Lectureship, be accepted by this Synod, according to the terms thereof, and the same entered upon the Minutes; and that, in memorial of his admirable gift, said Lectureship shall be known as the *Vedder Lecture on Modern Infidelity*.

2. *Resolved*, That in the publication of the Lectures, the President of General Synod shall not be allowed to involve the Synod in any pecuniary responsibility.

3. *Resolved*, That after offering them to such leading and responsible publishers as may be within his reach, if they decline, he shall deposit the Lectures in the library of the Seminary; but in either case, General Synod shall have the copy-right, and the sole right, subject to the conditions prescribed in the gift.

4. *Resolved*, That in the election of a Lecturer, the mode observed shall be that prescribed in the Constitution for the election of a Professor.

5. *Resolved*, That if, after the Synod has fulfilled its own duty in electing a Lecturer, death or any other contingency should cause the course for that year to fail, the income of the Lectureship shall be invested and held subject to the trust, to be used in case of failure of income in any year.