

While Machen had sympathy with many of the ideas that Van Til and others were pressing, he considered them as definitely secondary to the great issues of the Gospel, and when he got into them, that is to say, in his relations outside at all, it was in order to defend members of his faculty, for he was very loyal to all of those associated with him. If he had

or thirty years a great many of the most influential churches in the denomination would have had Westminster graduates as pastors, and the influence on the denomination would have been very, very great. Then, after this number of years, if a break had been made, and those who stood for the Gospel had stepped out, leaving the organization in ~~the hands~~ the hands of the unbelievers, the number who would have stepped out with them would have been very large. I do not know whether they ever could have gotten control of the whole denomination but certainly they could have, after twenty or thirty years, taken out enough to start a very large new separate denomination. As it was, as Dr. Allis said, any split over the Independent Board issue will be only a splinter. ~~And~~ And so it proved to be. Most of the graduates of previous years who were in the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. stayed there, and some of them ~~did~~ did very fine work, reaching great numbers of people for the Lord, and making a real stand against modernism. Modernism and unbelief in their presbyteries. But extremely few of those who graduated during the previous ~~seven~~^{six} years entered the new church, and from then on the new church was doomed to be a very small organization with comparatively little influence, with its members fighting over secondary issues and developing a small group of devoted people, but having no great influence in the country..

The break was forced by Dr. Machen's insistence on starting a new foreign mission board and thus raising a banner which did not attract many, but which ~~aroused~~ aroused tremendous opposition from most of the ~~the~~ entrenched leaders of the church. A more patient man, satisfied to build a seminary that would keep growing and sending out students (?) graduates (?) into the church ~~into~~ which at that time they had easy access, could have in the end influenced a hundred times ~~as~~ ~~many~~ as many people. Was this due to Dr. Machen's impatience -- to throw down the gauntlet and force a ~~break~~ break?

Ed Rian, who was Dr. Machen's closest confidante and coworker in the ecclesiastical sphere during the latter of those years, said, when the break came, that it was necessary to make a break ^{when} we have a great leader like Dr. Machen." I do not personally see how the event justified Rian's feeling. Rian himself eventually left the movement and went back to the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.