

The telegraph brings us the announcement that the trustees of Vassar College have filled the vacancy created in that institution by the recent death of President Raymond, by making choice of the Rev. Samuel L. Caldwell, D. D., formerly pastor of the First Baptist Church in this city, and now Professor in the Newton Theological Seminary. We further learn that in taking this important step, the trustees have acted with great unanimity, and in accordance with a sentiment which has found powerful expression among the leading friends of the institution. The responsibility with which they were charged as the guardians of what is perhaps the most important interest of its kind in the country, was very peculiar, and the duty of exercising a wise discrimination in the selection of a new President was rendered all the more pressing by the profound regret caused by the loss of the eminent educator whose untiring devotion had done so much to give Vassar College its national reputation. This fact renders the choice a peculiar compliment to the esteemed scholar and divine upon whom their choice has fallen. The announcement of this result will awaken a lively interest, not only among the friends of the institution with which he is now connected, and of which he is one of the most conspicuous ornaments, but also in the community with which he was so long identified, and with which he still remains allied by so many close and pleasant ties. The readers of the JOURNAL will be especially interested to know whether the young ladies at Vassar are to have the benefit of that ripe and varied culture which they themselves have learned to recognize so often in these columns. We are not aware that any intimation has been made of the decision that Dr. Caldwell is likely to make. The friends of the Newton Theological Seminary will doubtless spare no efforts to retain him in the position where he is rendering such efficient service. But we cannot refrain from expressing the opinion that, however useful as a theological professor, Dr. Caldwell has many eminent and exceptional qualifications for the very responsible office to which he has been called. Among these we reckon as not the least the fact that he has no claim to be an educator, in the popular acceptation of the term. He is not a man inclined to accept new theories, he will not be the advocate of any educational hobby. We do not regard it as any matter of regret that in many respects he presents a striking contrast to the gentleman whom he is called to succeed. For, after all, the secret of the highest and best training lies not in methods but in men, and it will be impossible for the young ladies at Vassar to come under the personal influence of so refined a gentleman and so finished a scholar without feeling the inspiring impulses which come from personal contact with the things that are pure and true and lovely and of good report. And this, in an institution devoted to the higher education of young ladies, will be of far higher account than the most approved text books, or the most promising method. For the sake of Vassar, we cannot help hoping that Dr. Caldwell will be persuaded to make his home by the banks of the Hudson.—*Providence Journal*.