

Church History Senior S 7

morning sermon to that report and one thing in particular interested me. He told how the ministers were very much interested in movements for social justice, improvements in every way in _____ in America, which is of course the big emphasis of most modernists, and he said that also they were interested in finding any new types of truth and was spiritism, and they wondered what there is to that and they had been told that the thing to do is to get in a dark room and put your hands on a table and sing songs that had something of a jazzy rythm to them and that the spirits might start knocking and making raps on the table and so this group of ministers assembled in this room in order to try it and he said they didn't get any/^{spirit}raps at all and so they got no results from it but he said they found that the songs that these men were familiar with that seemed to them to be somewhat jazzy were old revival songs so they started singing old revival songs and he said he was amazed to find that this group of advanced, modrrnistic, progressive-thinking Congregational ministers knew so many old revival hymns but evidently they sang one after another with the great bulk of them thoroughly familiar with them, which seemed to me to be an interesting indication of how comparatively recently the shift-over had come in the Congregational church, from an evangelical viewpoint to a viewpoint in which those things were looked on as rather absurd and ridiculous. Now the Unitarian movement was a movement, then, which seized the great leadership of the intellectual life in New England and which stole the great bulk of the property from the Congregational church and thus set back Christianity in New England tremendously. The Unitarian church as the years went by became more and more, departed more and more from the Scriptural foundation, became more and more liberal and radical in its viewpoint and New England has become more and more dead until today in large sections of New England you'll hardly find a church . There was a great deadness of religion and lack of interest whatever in religion that swept over what was at one time by far the most religious section of the United States as the result of Unitarianism taking over up there. The Congregationalists