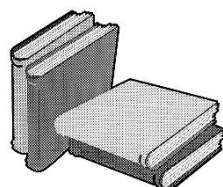


# The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,  
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*



Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,  
collected by Dean Brown

Issue 943

## **A Venerable Elder and His Pastor**

In the year 1812, the General Assembly, then in session in the city of Philadelphia, resolved to go into the election of Professor (the first professor of the newly established Presbyterian seminary at Princeton).

The Rev. Mr. Flinn of Charleston, South Carolina, was Moderator. It was unanimously resolved to spend some time in prayer previously to the election, and that not a single remark should be made by any member with reference to any candidate before or after the balloting.

Silently and prayerfully these guardians of the Church began to prepare their votes. They felt the solemnity of the occasion, the importance of their trust. Not a word was spoken, not a whisper heard, as the teller passed around to collect the result. The votes were counted, the result declared, and the Rev. Dr. Alexander was pronounced elected.

A venerable elder of the church of Philadelphia, of which Dr. Alexander was a pastor, arose to speak. But his feelings choked utterance. How could he part with his beloved pastor? His tears flowed until he sat down in silence.

From a journal of the time called *The Presbyterian*  
reprinted in James Garretson,  
*An Able and Faithful Ministry; Samuel Miller and the Pastoral Office*  
Reformation Heritage Book 2014