

Further references were also made by the various speakers to the loss sustained in August by the College and by the social and moral forces of Western Canada through Dr. George C. Pidgeon's recall to pastoral work in Toronto.

The Valedictory Address

The valedictorian of the Graduating Class of 1915 was Mr. Angus M. MacIver, whose address follows:

Mr. Principal, members of the Senate, fellow students, and friends: It has fallen to my lot to voice the farewell sentiments of the graduating class of 1915. This task I undertake fully conscious of the difficulty of doing ample justice to this occasion which marks the fulfilment of our hopes and early dreams. To-night we stand, as it were, at the parting of the ways. We have finished our course, but it still remains to be proved whether or not we have kept the Faith.

No body of men is more generally misunderstood than the class to which we belong, namely, divinity students. The student of theology is popularly conceived of as a man who takes very little, if any, interest in the ordinary affairs of life, and whose chief concern is to appear as if he belonged to a different world. He is interested only in far off things of long ago, or fixes his thoughts on some dim mysterious world that is yet to be. You will, I think, agree with me that this estimate of the theological student is entirely a false one. Theology, as it is taught in our colleges to-day, is intensely interested in everything that relates to the business and bosoms of men. It strives to study at first hand the great problems of life and seeks to give a spiritual interpretation to the vexing problems which confront the race. There is, in short, nothing that concerns mankind in which theology is not supremely interested. Hence the student of Theology must be an all-round man. He must take a live and practical interest in everything that concerns the good of humanity. He must not go about blindfolded but must study to keep himself abreast of the times. If, in any degree, we have failed in this, the fault, we must frankly admit, is in ourselves and not in our training.

As a class we have been exceedingly fortunate in the calibre of the men who have been our teachers. Unfortunately, however, two members of the regular staff have severed their connection with the College. Dr. Taylor, the bug-bear of the lazy student, went to Toronto University last year; but we shall always esteem it an honor to have sat for two years under one who, because of his intense spirituality, drove home with force the message he was so qualified by his scholarship to convey. Nor are we likely ever to forget Dr. Pidgeon, whose sweet reasonableness and kindly interest cheer us on our way. By the removal of Dr. Taylor and Dr. Pidgeon the College has sustained a great loss, but all is not lost: Our beloved Principal is still with us. I say "beloved" advisedly. We have heard a great deal about Grant of Queen's; but we have known Mackay of Westminster Hall. I venture to say that the Principal who wins the hearts of his students deserves to be canonised as a saint. Of all men, students are the most difficult to please. It has been my privilege to have spent six years in the Hall, and I know whereof I speak when I say that Dr. Mackay has won not only the respect but the love of his students in a very remarkable manner. Last spring it seemed to many that we came perilously near losing him. We knew that what would be our loss would have been the Province's gain; but even then we were loth to let him go. No sooner were our fears allayed than the sister college of Manitoba began to cast longing eyes on him. According to newspaper reports from Winnipeg he had been offered the Principalship of Manitoba College and had accepted it. There were, however, quite a few of the students who refused to believe these reports, knowing well, as they did, how Dr. Mackay loved the Hall. The course of events proved them to have been in the right.