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HOW THE COLLEGE SERVES THE CHURCH.

BY REV. DR. GORDON,
PROFESSOR OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, HALIFAX.

(Delivered at the opening of the College, Nov. 2nd, 1898.)

AT the opening of another session I venture to address this Convocation upon a subject which may seem so familiar as to leave little that is new to be said about it, yet which, from time to time, may well admit of some restatement—the relation of the College to the Church. What is that relation? What are the functions and duties which it implies? In other words, How does the College serve the Church?

The ready answer is that the College exists, as the creature and servant of the Church, for the special work of training young men for the ministry. The church requires an educated ministry. She prescribes a course of study for those whom she will set apart for her service; and she provides the College for the purpose of conducting them through this curriculum. The Church determines what shall be taught in the College and who shall teach it. She examines the students, before licensing them to preach, to see how far her own purpose has been fulfilled by those whom she has appointed to instruct them. Over no department of her work does she exercise a more direct or prompt control.

The Church requires, indeed, that her students for the ministry shall, before entering on the study of theology, pass through a certain literary training. The means for acquiring this may be furnished, as with us, at