

## DECEMBER, 1876.

### COLLEGES, NOW, AND THEN.

In other times the College and the Seminary stood not so far apart as they do now. Such schools as those of Jerusalem and Alexandria partook of the character of both. Those Monastic Academies which owed their origin to the enlightened liberality of Charlemagne and Alfred, forming the germ of our Modern Universities, and relieving the gloom of the Dark Ages, were designed "chiefly for the elevation of the clergy." The Universities of Prague and Wittenburg and Strasburg, of Basle and Lausanne, and Geneva, of Oxford and Cambridge and St. Andrews, were the birth places of the Reformation. Its cradle was rocked and tended by men of culture and refinement, learned in all the wisdom of the age. Wickliffe and Huss, Renclin and Erasmus, Luther and Melancthon, Bucer and Calvin, Tyndale and Bilney, Buchanan and Knox were all University Men.

To the same honoured class, too, belong Wesley and Whitefield and their noble compeers who, two centuries after, ushered in a second Reformation. Nor can we forget that our Modern Missionary era, a third Reformation, has been associated with the honoured names of Claudius Buchanan, and Henry Martyn, of Alexander Duff and W. C. Burns, and others like minded, who linked the highest academic culture with the higher christian life.

Nor less in America have these lines ran parallel, and Literature and Theology, with their respective institutions been joined together. There, as was wont in the old world, the College was the child of the church.

In 1638, but 18 years after the mooring to Plymouth Rock of that tiny Shallop which brought to this Continent

the seeds of light and liberty, the giants of those days, founded *Harvard University*. "*Dreading to leave an illiterate Ministry to the churches, when our ministers shall lie in the dust,*" is the language of its pious and patriotic founders, when describing their motives. Strangely enough, considering its sad "*Eclipse of Faith*" which might have suggested the substitution of "*Iohabod,*" old Harvard retains its Original Motto: "*Pro Christo et Ecclisia,*" *for Christ and the Church.*

Over a century later (in 1746) the "*College of New Jersey*" at Princeton, was founded by the Synod of New York, for the purpose of supplying the Church with learned and able Preachers of the word. Her Patriot President (Dr. Witherspoon) whom American Presbyterians this Centennial Year, delight to honour, laid her foundations on Culvary, when he said: "*Cursed be all that learning that is contrary to the Cross of Christ; cursed be all that learning that is not coincident with the Cross of Christ; cursed be all that learning that is not subservient to the Cross of Christ.*"

Let us be thankful that, although certain of our Modern Magi, instead of following the Star of Bethlehem, walk amid sparks of their own kindling, yet, "the greater lights" revolved around the Sun of Righteousness. Let us be specially thankful that the colleges in these confederated Provinces, are under such wholesome presidential influences. Let it be our fervent prayer that their professorial chairs may be ever filled by men who will do nothing "*against the truth, but for the truth.*" Let us jealously guard these fountain-heads of secular and sacred learning from being poisoned or polluted. Out of them are the issues of life. It is impossible to calculate the amount of evil that may be wrought by one or two