

COLLEGE OPENING.

The opening exercises of the Session 1896-97 were conducted in the Convocation Hall of the Presbyterian College on Wednesday evening, October 7th. There was present a large and representative audience. The Rev. Professor Campbell presided, and the following gentlemen were with him on the platform : Rev. Professors Scrimger, Coussirat, and Ross ; Rev. Dr. Barclay, Mr. David Morrice, Rev. Dr. Robert Campbell, Rev. Messrs. Mowat, MacLeod and Crombie.

After devotional exercises, conducted by Rev. A. J. Mowat, the inaugural address was delivered by Rev. James Barclay, M.A., D.D., of St. Paul's Church.

Dr. Barclay took for his subject, " Doctrine and Life ;" or in a more limited and practical form, " The meaning and value of doctrinal teaching, such as that given in this College, in relation to life." He dealt with the current views as to the needlessness, if not worse, of dogmatic teaching, quoting admissions from some of the strongest opponents of dogma, of the value and necessity of religion. The view exalting natural religion in opposition to revealed, and reason in opposition to faith was next dealt with.

The lecturer then took up the vaunted separation of religion from doctrine, characterizing it as as successful a separation as the separation of the flower from the root ; contending that all religion, morality, virtue, separated from the doctrinal roots on which they grow, must eventually wither and die : a statement finding ample justification both from philosophy and from history. The limiting of the character of God's operative influence by man's reason ; the dictating a plan to God ; the putting of the Divine mind beneath the human, was strongly deprecated. Not what a man knows, but what he believes determines his worth, gives strength to his character, and beauty and power to his life.