

L.L.D., principal of Queen's College; Rev. Dr. Caven, principal of Knox College; Rev. Dr. Gregg, Professor Thomson, Rev. Dr. Proudfoot, and Rev. Dr. Wardrop. The meeting was opened by a short devotional exercise. Professor MacLaren then delivered a brief introductory speech. He said that the work of the institution, the semi-centenary of which they were celebrating, had been of such a character as to cause them to offer grateful praise to God and gather together for cheerful congratulation. He referred briefly to the history of the college as regards its influence in the mission field, and of his knowledge of its progress since his connection with it, two years after its foundation. It might, he thought, be said of their Alma Mater, as had been said of the virtuous woman, "Give her the fruit of her own hands and let her own works praise her in the gates." In conclusion he referred to what he considered were the two chief characteristics of the institution, namely:—A loyal attachment to the great fundamental principles of evangelical truth, and the interest taken in applied Christianity.

The Rev. Wm. Burns, Secretary of the Committee of Arrangements, to whom the following letters are addressed, has for some



REV. WM. BURNS, SEC. OF COM.

years been in active connection with the financial interests of Knox College—and is now also one of the Church agents having in charge the Aged Ministers Fund.

Mr. Burns spent his early days in the City of Montreal. Joining the Church at an early age in connection with Cote St. Free Church, then ministered to by Dr. Donald Fraser. Mr. Burns became by his position well acquainted with the ministry of the Church and its work. On coming west to Ontario he was led to abandon mercantile pursuits for which he had been well-trained; and devote his attention to the ministry. After completing his course in Knox College he became assistant for nearly

two years to the late Dr. Topp in Knox Church, Toronto. From this position he was called to Knox Church, Perth, where he remained over eleven years—leaving Perth to occupy the position which he has since held in connection with Knox College.

There are few men better acquainted with the Church, especially its Western Section than Mr. Burns, and his labors for Knox College have been enhanced in value by his general acquaintance.

#### FROM ABSENT ONES.

The following letters of apology were read by Rev. Wm. Burns:—

Woodstock, Aug. 27th, 1894.

MY DEAR SIR:—Your kind invitation to me to be present at the Semi-Centenary of Knox College is before me. I regret that it is not likely that I can attend. More than a week ago I took a berth in a steamer bound for Great Britain. I sail from Montreal on Sept. 1st. No other time would suit me to visit my fatherland. It is with sincere regret I think of the improbability of not being

present, for Knox College I love with all the love of this poor heart.

To Rev. Wm. Burns.

I am, yours sincerely,

G. L. MACKAY.

MANITOBA COLLEGE, WINNIPEG, SEPT. 1st, 1894.

MY DEAR MR. BURNS:—I am in receipt of your letter conveying the invitation of the Board of Management, the Senate and the Alumni of Knox College, to attend and to give an address at the celebration of the Semi-Centenary of the College. I fully appreciate the honor conferred on me in this invitation. Unhappily the date is coincident with the week of the opening of the college here, during which it is imperative I should be in attendance. I am obliged, therefore, to deny myself the pleasure of being present at and taking part in the celebration at Toronto. At the same time I desire to convey through you my cordial thanks to the Board the Senate, and the Alumni of the College for the invitation extended to me, and to express the deep sense which I entertain of the importance of the service which the Institution has rendered to the Church and to the world during its honorable history, and the wish and hope which I cherish that its future may be not less useful and honorable. I may be permitted also to express the deep and grateful sense, which is entertained by the Board and Senate of the College, and very especially by Professor Baird and myself of the service rendered by the Principal and Professors of Knox College to us in connection with the summer session in Theology. Trusting that the occasion may prove not only one of much interest but also one of real service to the College. I remain, my dear Mr. Burns.

Very truly yours,

JOHN M. KING.

PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, MONTREAL, SEPT. 3rd, 1894.

MY DEAR SIR:—I beg to acknowledge, with cordial thanks, the kind invitation of the Board of Management, the Senate, and the Alumni of Knox College, Toronto, to take part in the celebration of the Semi-Centenary of the College on the 3rd, proximo. I regret very much that my official engagements for that day are such as make it impossible for me to join in the celebration. Permit me, however, to express the hope that it may be in all respects a fitting recognition of the eminent service rendered to the cause of Theological education by the Institution, during the last half century. The Founders and Professors of Knox College have earned for themselves a high and permanent place of honor in the history of Presbyterianism in Canada. The memory of Principal Willis, Professors Eason, Burns and Young, will always be fragrant to those who were privileged to wait upon their prelections and to enjoy their friendship. They were men of fervent piety, rare and varied gifts, profound scholarship and Apostolic zeal for the truth. The faithful and able manner in which their successors have sustained and extended the great work committed to their care is well known to all. May the future be characterized by still greater prosperity than the past; and may the King and Head of the Church ever use my Alma Mater as a powerful instrument for the advancement of His glory.

The Rev. Wm. Burns.

Yours very truly,

D. H. MACVICAR.

LONDON, SEPT. 20th, 1894.

DEAR MR. BURNS:—Returning home from a lengthened holiday in Switzerland, I find your kind letter giving me some idea of the arrangements for the Jubilee. You will by this time, no doubt, have the letter I sent you from Weissenburg with my subscription. We too are celebrating the Jubilee of our College. I have not the exact dates before me; but I believe that our first step was taken within a month or two of yours. So let us rejoice together, and mingle our prayers at the Throne of Grace, committing each the other to Him who has dealt so graciously with both. Notice has already been taken of our Jubilee at Synod time; the opening exercises, held at the same time as yours, will afford another opportunity; but the chief celebration is to be on the occasion of the meeting of the Synod Committees in the third week of November.

I am much interested in these proceedings of ours; but I am not ashamed to confess that I am still more interested in the Toronto celebration. Never before have I borne such a grudge against the envious sea, for depriving me of the double pleasure of being present at the College Jubilee, in Toronto, and the opening of the new Erskine Church, in Montreal. Perhaps you will kindly take some opportunity of expressing my regret and assuring my dear old friends that I share with them the gladness of the occasion, and join in the prayers which will rise to God for the professors and students, and for the new Great Church, to the growth and power of which Knox College has so largely contributed.

It is sure to be an inspiring time, and I rejoice exceedingly that it is to be the occasion of a manifestation of that unity among Christians, in which my beloved Canada seems to be in advance of all other countries. My very earliest experiences in the Church were connected with Union; for I began my theological course under Dr. John Taylor in the U.P. Hall, and finished it in Knox College, which by that time knew no dividing line between U.P.'s and



Toronto Academy.

TORONTO ACADEMY—THE FIRST BUILDING USED FOR KNOX COLLEGE.