

## THE WORK OF THE CHURCH AT HOME.

**Y**OUR College has always a warm place in my regard. My acquaintance with it dates back further than that of any of you. It began in the year 1857. The college then carried on its work in the house which had been occupied as a residence by Lord Elgin. Some who are now venerable ministers were then students. Professors Burns and Willis were then its prominent teachers. I had then a student of Knox for my tutor; and I had the honor of acting as a sort of "diaconos" to these eminent professors occasionally, when they visited the locality in which I lived, on missionary expeditions. In recent years I have known the college only through its students. In the mission work of our Presbytery, which is quite extensive, the students of Knox have done excellent service. More than one half of the congregations in our Presbytery have pastors who have studied at Knox. Of these, twelve have been received since my connection with it. Not only then, in the examination of the students, and in the duty of reading your discourses, but in the administration of the mission work in the field. I have had opportunities of being acquainted with you. Nevertheless it was with some surprise I received the invitation to address you to-night. I may not meet your expectations in doing so, but I think you are wise in asking one from the outside of college circles to address you, as often as you can. It is wise both for your society's sake and for the sake of the church. It prevents the idea being cherished that there are only a few men about the city, or that only those connected with the college, are interested in your work. I am glad to learn from your last report which I have seen, that your operations are being carried on with an encouraging measure of success. For one cannot but recognize that these operations are carried on under many difficulties. That you have been able to do so much for the church, and for the cause of religion in outlying fields, is creditable to you. I am pleased to learn of your mission work in the city among the poor and criminal. This is not only a field in which you may do much good, but one which cannot but be of great use to you in your training for the ministry. In this is brought home to you what the gospel has to do for men, and that *what* has to be done for sinful men, can only be done by the gospel. The best antidote for scepticism is to engage in the work of saving men from sin.