

“ Hope evermore and believe, O man, for e’en as thy thought
So are things that thou seest, e’en as thy hope and belief.
Fear not, retire not, O man, hope evermore and believe.
So from East to West as the sun and stars direct thee,
Go with the girdle of man, go and encompass the earth.
Not for the gain of the gold, for the getting, the hearing, the having ;
But for the joy of the deed, but for the duty to do,
Go with the spiritual life, the higher volition and action,
With the great girdle of God, go and encompass the earth.”

At the close of the address, Professor Scrimger made a statement which indicated considerable increase in the number of students. The reading of the following letter from the absent Principal was greeted with loud applause :

Florence, Italy, Sept. 21st, 1896.

My dear Dr. Scrimger,

The thirtieth session of our College will be opened on the 7th proximo, and I shall be absent on that occasion for the first time during all these years. I well remember the first opening lecture, in 1867, by Dr. Gregg of Toronto, who, along with the late Rev. W. Aitken, then of Smith's Falls, Ontario, conducted the work of that year in the basement of the old Erskine Church. The following session I assumed office by appointment of the General Assembly. What changes have since taken place ! Very many who were warm friends and generous benefactors of the institution at its humble beginning, have passed away, but the good they did lives after them.

Only four of those present at the first meeting, held in Terrace Bank, in connection with it, now survive, viz. : Mrs. Redpath, Sir Wm. Dawson, John Stirling and myself.

To not a few throughout the Dominion and in other parts of the world, and, may I be permitted to say, especially to me, the story of the growth and progress of the College since then is one of deepest interest ; and my absence from it now seems to me so abnormal, that I find it hard to reconcile it with my sense of duty. But you know why and how it is that I am not in my accustomed place.