

a deep sense of my unfitness to be enrolled among the honoured instructors who have taught in this College. And I cannot forget that the chair I am to occupy was held for many years by a distinguished divine who has left a deep impress on the mind of the Church. It is not for me now to become the eulogist of my teacher. But I would be untrue to my feelings, if I did not acknowledge my obligations to him, and false to my convictions, if I did not express the belief that for the pure, masculine, scriptural theology with which he was so largely instrumental in imbuing the rising Canadian ministry, he will long be justly held in grateful remembrance by the Church.

It falls to my lot to be the first *alumnus* of Knox College who has been honoured with a place in her professorial staff. The risk which a prophet encounters in his own country, will, I trust, in my case be in some measure compensated for by the *esprit de corps* which a Knoxonian may hope to evoke in his *alma mater*. It shall at least be my aim, with God's blessing and the cordial co-operation of my students, to achieve success, and to make it apparent that Knox College, which has already supplied half of the pulpits of the Canada Presbyterian Church, may not unfittingly do for herself what she has already so well done for a sister institution.

Instead, however, of dwelling on thoughts which my personal relations to the work and the institution naturally enough suggest, it may be more useful for me to call your attention to that branch of theological study which forms my special department, and to the baseless character of the hostility, more or less pronounced, which it frequently encounters in the present day.

I am required to teach Systematic Theology. There are two preliminary positions which every student who enters on this study is supposed to have reached. It is taken for granted that he has satisfied himself (1) that there is a personal God, the Creator and Moral Governor of the Universe; and (2) that God has made a supernatural revelation of Himself for our guidance, of which the Scriptures contain a trustworthy record. Whatever is necessary to establish or defend these positions, belongs to the