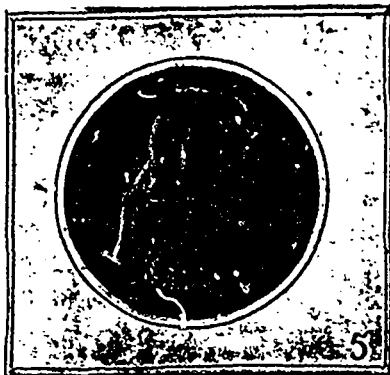


partly from the shrinkage in interest, which I suppose every business man understands, and partly from the fact that the false impression has gone abroad that the College is inadequately endowed with the result that many congregations are contributing very little. I almost blush to say that congregations which should do more for the College are doing almost nothing and some of them nothing at all. That is not right: and if the College has been too modest hitherto in presenting its claims I do trust that the ministers of the Church, and very specially the Alumni of the College,



REV. WM. GREGG, D.D.

in the development of the College."

#### DEGREE CONFERRED.

Rev. Mr. Wallace presented Rev. W. R. McIntosh of Allandale for the degree of Bachelor of Divinity. Mr. Wallace stated that Mr. McIntosh was a graduate in arts in Toronto University, that he had taken a distinguished course in theology and had now succeeded in the apologetic option in carrying off his degree of Bachelor of Divinity in Knox College. Principal Caven conferred the degree and Prof. Gregg invested him with the hood.

#### PROF. GREGG'S PORTRAIT.

Rev. P. Straith, M.A., on behalf of the Alumni Association, then presented to the College a splendid portrait in oils of Professor Gregg. In making the presentation the rev. gentleman briefly sketched the career of the aged professor. Mr. W. Mortimer Clark, chairman of the College Board, accepted the gift on behalf of the College. "To know him is to love him," were the words he used in his reference to Professor Gregg's work. He concurred in the eulogies of the preceding speaker, and assured the Alumni that the Board would always guard the portrait, and see that, whatever the future size of the lecture-hall might be, it hung in a prominent place.

#### INAUGURAL MEETING.

After announcing that the classes would commence on Friday next Principal Caven called upon Rev. Professor MacLaren to deliver the opening lecture. The lecture was entitled "The Witness of the Spirit in Relation to the Authority and the Inspiration of Scripture." In his opening remarks Professor MacLaren said:—"The authority and inspiration of Scripture are closely connected, but they can be conceived of as separate. There is a measure of authority due to writings to which we ascribe no inspiration, in the theological sense, but entire inspiration necessarily carries with it complete authority. . . It is evident that when we discover that the Scriptures give us not merely a credible record of a supernatural revelation, written by intelligent and reliable authors, but written by men who were supernaturally guided, to embody correctly, in language, what God had supernaturally given to them, it must necessarily have for us the highest authority. While, therefore, these books (of the Bible) might have a measure of authority apart from inspiration, their highest authority is linked with plenary inspiration." . . . Continuing, the lecturer referred to the confessional doctrine of the authority of Scripture. According to the Romish view, he said, man was entirely dependent on the Church for the knowledge that God speaks to us in the Bible. The Protestant, however, went to the Bible itself, and recognized in its sacred teachings the voice of his God. . . The Bible demanded faith and obedience wherever it came. Were a copy picked up on a lonely island by a man who had never seen a Bible or heard of a church, and who was entirely ignorant of the external evidences of its divine origin, he could not read it without discovering that it demanded of him immediate faith in Christ, and obedience to His will. To every human heart it spoke with all the urgency of Divine authority, and set before him the choice of life or death. . . It was only the musical ear that perceived the beauties of musical harmonies, and it was only the heart which by the inward work of the Holy Spirit had been made receptive of the truth to which the truth was unveiled in its

beauty. That explained why men, with example, evidence, external and internal, before them, failed to reach a Divine faith until the inward work of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness by and with the truth in their hearts, overcame their questionings and enabled them to rest with full persuasion and assurance in the infallible truth and divine authority of the Holy Scriptures. . . We place side by side the efficacy claimed for

#### THE GOSPEL MESSAGE.

in the Word, and the results achieved in the history of the Church and in our personal experience, and we find the one is counterpart of the other, and the efficacy of the doctrine is proclaimed by the record of its triumphs. The central message of God's Word has, in all ages, been to the Jew a stumbling block and to the Greek foolishness, but it has held on its way doing its work unmoved, and, wherever it has come, it has proved the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. It has brought a consciousness of peace and pardon to the guilty. It has transformed hearts impure and vile into the Divine image; and lives fast sinking into moral degradation it has ennobled with lofty aims, with Christian virtues, and with high achievements." . . . The Scriptures supplied sufficient material, the lecturer believed, to sustain the doctrine of plenary inspiration. They did not teach it in the set phrases of systematic theology, but in the incidental way in which they were wont to set forth all the great doctrines of religion. They made known these doctrines by a body of evidence, direct and indirect, that should satisfy every mind which yielded itself to the natural impression which Scripture gave of its own composition and authority. It was certain that the Christian Church, from the Apostolic age to the present day, had always treated the Scriptures as the supernatural record of a supernatural revelation. It was unquestionable that the majority of those who, in modern times, had studied the Scriptures inductively in their relation to that doctrine, whether they accepted or rejected plenary inspiration themselves, had reached the conclusion that Christ and the writers of the New Testament believed and taught that view of Scripture. . . In concluding, the Professor said: "Finally we have seen that while the witness of the Spirit does not prove the absolute freedom of the Bible from error, it should increase our confidence in its teaching, and lead us to search the Scriptures for the testimony they give, and the indications they supply, of the nature and extent of their own inspiration. The result of this search is not doubtful, for we have seen that the testimony of those who have made the most careful inductive study of the Word, whether friends or opponents of plenary inspiration, is that, if we do not accept the infallibility of God's Word, written, we must part company with Christ and all the writers of the New Testament."

The discourse was exhaustive and able, and evoked frequent applause.

#### THE BOARD MEETING.

During the afternoon a meeting of the board of the college was held. There was a full attendance, and among the members present were the following gentlemen from points outside the city:—Revs. Dr. Grant, Orillia; Dr. Fletcher, Hamilton; J. C. Tibb, Streetsville; John Currie, Belmont; W. J. Clark, London; Peter Straith, Innerkip. Mr. W. Mortimer Clark, chairman, presided.

After the reception of the minutes presented by Rev. Principal Caven, it was moved by Rev. Dr. Fletcher, and seconded by Rev. Principal Caven, that Rev. Wm. Burns be appointed to the vacant secretaryship. This carried. On motion of Rev. Professor MacLaren, seconded by Rev. Dr. Parsons, it was agreed that a committee consisting of the Chairman, Secretary, Rev. L. H. Jordan, and J. K. Macdonald be appointed to consult with Dr. Reid in reference to the transfer of the securities of the College at the close of Dr. Reid's term of office to the treasurer, to be appointed by this Board, said Committee to be authorized to make any special arrangements in connection with the management of the finances of the College which circumstances may call for.

It was arranged that at the next regular meeting of the Board, the returns from Presbyteries in regard to the appointments for the vacant professorships would be considered.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Mortimer Clark for her kindness in attending to the many necessities of the College in regard to its home comforts.

The report of a Committee previously appointed to consider the financial question was then received and adopted. The report recommended the appointment of the following Committee:—Revs. Prof. MacLaren, Prin. Caven, Jordan, J. D. Macdonald, of Hamilton; Messrs. J. K. Macdonald, Robert Kilgour, W. Mortimer Clark (convener), and Rev. Wm. Burns (secretary). The Committee will take the necessary steps for securing an increase to the endowment of \$200,000, and to increase, as far as possible, the ordinary revenue. They will report at the next meeting of the Board, to be held in April next.

The Alumni Association met, but immediately adjourned to convene on Tuesday, October 15th, at 2.30 o'clock.