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ADDRESS ON ASSUMING THE CHAIR OF CHURCH HISTORY, &c
IN THE CONGREGATIONAL COLLEGE OF B. N. A.,
SEPTEMBER 20th, 1876.

BY REV. K. M. FENWICK.

In entering on the responsible work to which by the free suffrage of my brethren and the manifest indications of Divine Providence I have been called, it seems appropriate that I should say something concerning the main themes which will be discussed from the new chair, and their intrinsic value to theological students.

It would be untrue and ungenerous to profess ignorance of the honour which has been done me by this appointment. The cordiality and unanimity of the College Board and of the College Corporation, and still more, the frank and voluntary action of the venerable Principal, Dr. Wilkes, the prime mover in this matter, whose conduct has been marked with singular disinterestedness and unselfish kindness, have placed me under very great obligation, have completely removed all delicacy in accepting the appointment, and augur well for future usefulness and comfort.

For my Alma Mater, I need not say, I have ever cherished the strongest affection, and have sought to express my gratitude by endeavouring to increase her efficiency and influence, through the advocacy of those successive changes which, under divine blessing, have raised her from the comparative weakness of early youth to the growing strength of advancing maturity. By the call to occupy one of her chairs, an honour unsought, but since conferred highly prized, I am humbled under a sense of responsibility, but stirred to the exercise of determined effort by the contemplation of the moment and the grandeur both of the nature and design of the work which it involves.

In the very name of the chair, there is no small amount of inspiration. To all who ever enjoyed his friendship as a man, or were privileged to sit under his instructions as a Professor, the memory of the late Dr. Lillie will long continue sacred. In founding a chair of Church History to perpetuate his posthumous relation to the college there is much appropriateness. His love for the Institution was intense and changeless; and in no department of his labour did he evince more heroic consecration of toil and time, or reach a higher standard of proficiency than in his able lectures on Church History. Now that the chair has been practically established; as one of his students, called to fill it, it will prove a healthful incitement in the prosecution of its duties, to recall the diligence, the patience and the kindness of my revered predecessor, who has gone to study truth in its loftier forms—to learn from the Church the manifold wisdom of God—where the light casts no shadow, and facts, and principles alike, are seen in just proportions.