

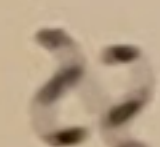
“THE
KING’S BUSINESS”

IN THE SYNOD OF ALABAMA



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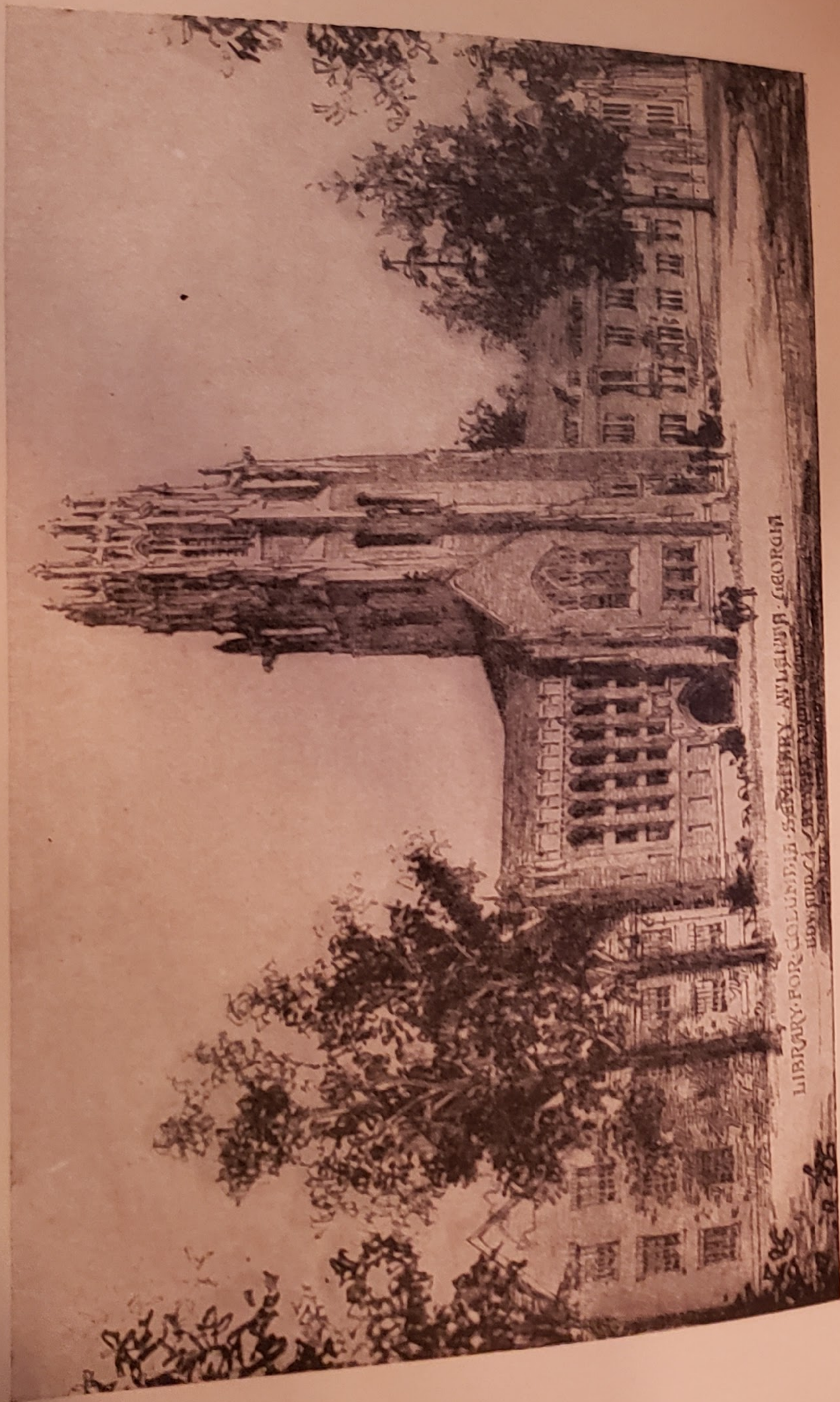


*“The King’s business re-
quireth haste.”*

*“The night cometh when
no man can work.”*



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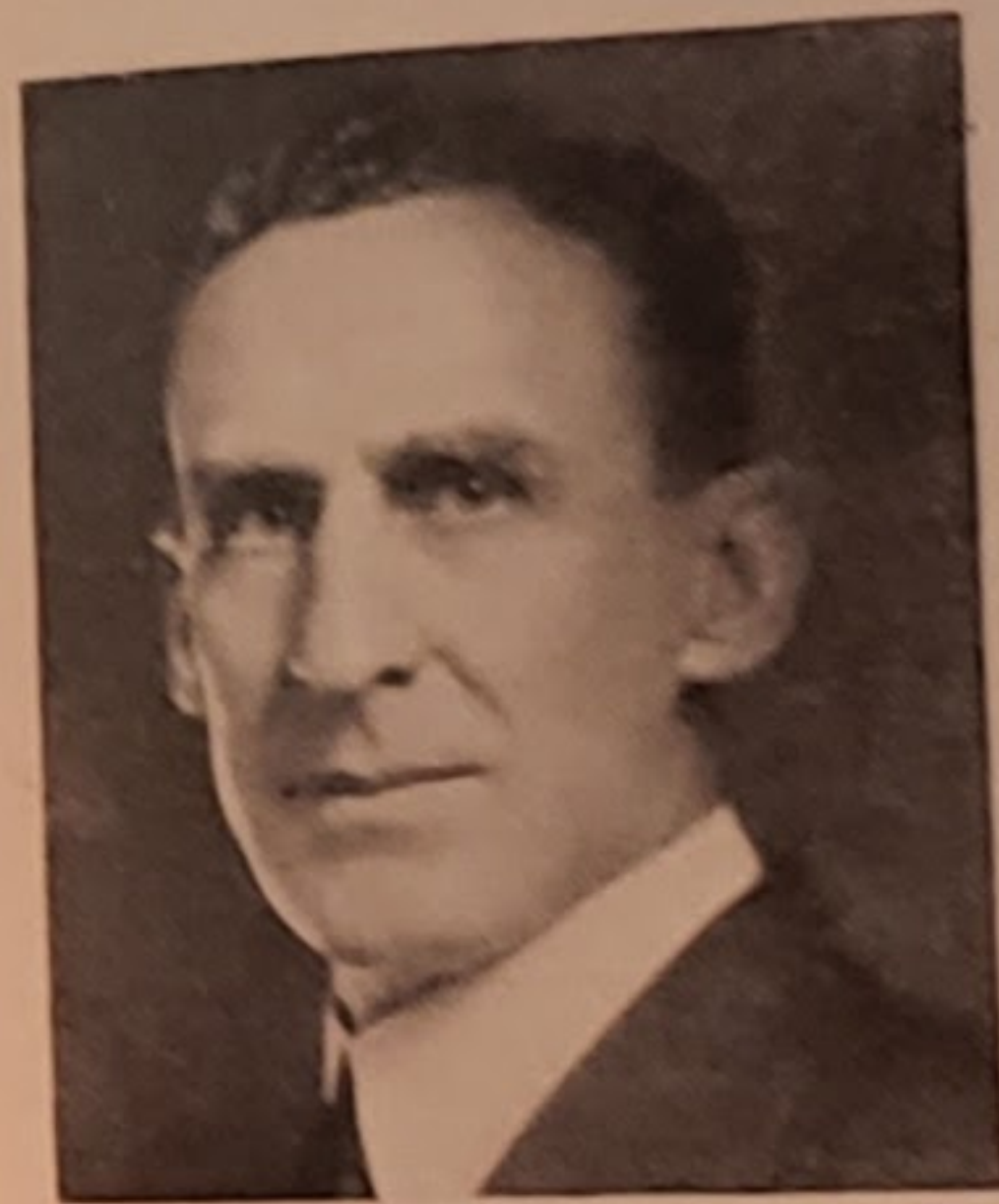


LIBRARY OF COLUMBIA SEMINARY, ATLANTA

COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BEGINNING OF THE SEMINARY

Hopewell Presbytery in Georgia first suggested the founding of a Theological Seminary, and in 1817 appointed a committee for this purpose. The next effort was put forth in 1824 by the Presbytery of South Carolina. The whole matter was finally turned over to the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia, which at that time was one Synod.



Richard T. Gillespie
President Columbia Theological Seminary

On December 15, 1828, Synod resolved to establish the Seminary, and elected Dr. Thomas Goulding, Professor of Theology.

Work was started at Lexington, Georgia, with five students.

EARLY YEARS IN COLUMBIA, S. C.

Early in January, 1830, Dr. Goulding, with his few students, moved to Columbia and was domiciled in the parsonage of the Presbyterian Church procured for his use. The next year he moved into the buildings occupying the present site of the Seminary.

That same year, 1831, Dr. George Howe was elected Professor of Biblical Literature, and



FORTY-TWO STUDENTS ENTER COLUMBIA SEMINARY, OCTOBER, 1926

the first class began the prescribed course of theological studies. The curriculum was modeled after Andover and Princeton. Two years later Rev. Aaron W. Leland was elected to the Chair of Christian Theology, Dr. Goulding having been transplanted to that of Ecclesiastical History and Polity.

The founders of Columbia Seminary were men of prophetic foresight. They realized that the Presbyterian Church in the Cotton Belt could not fulfill its mission unless an adequate supply of religious leaders were called out and trained by the Church in their own section.

Dr. Howe entered on a service for the Seminary that lasted fifty-two years and three months. When he was thirty-four years old, he had a call from the Board of Directors of Union Seminary, New York, to the Chair of Sacred Literature in that institution. The call was urged on him in most flattering terms. His reason for declining should endear his memory to us. He wrote: "When I accepted the Professorship which I hold it was with the hope that I might be the means of building up the wastes, and extending the borders of our Southern Zion. This motive still holds me here. Though our Institution must be a small one through the present generation and yours will be large, *it is important, it is necessary, whatever the fate of our beloved country, that this Seminary should live.* If I leave it at the present juncture, its continuance is exceedingly doubtful. If I remain, though the field of my effort must be small, and I must live in obscurity, *we may yet*

transmit to the men of this next generation an institution which will bless them and the world." Bear in mind that this was a man of Northern birth and rearing who was willing to sacrifice most flattering prospects of worldly advancement, to move in a small sphere and lead a life of obscurity, rather than endanger its perpetuity.

LOYAL TO A GREAT CAUSE

A hundred years of church history attest the notable contribution Columbia has made to Presbyterianism in the South. Few institutions in the country can show as great a record. It will never outgrow or forget the men who have made the Seminary what it is. Names like Goulding, Howe and Leland, Thornwell and J. R. Wilson, Woodrow, Plummer and Girardeau, are a part of the history of our denomination. Their work will always be revered. These and many more men Columbia has contributed in the past.

COLUMBIA'S CONTRIBUTION

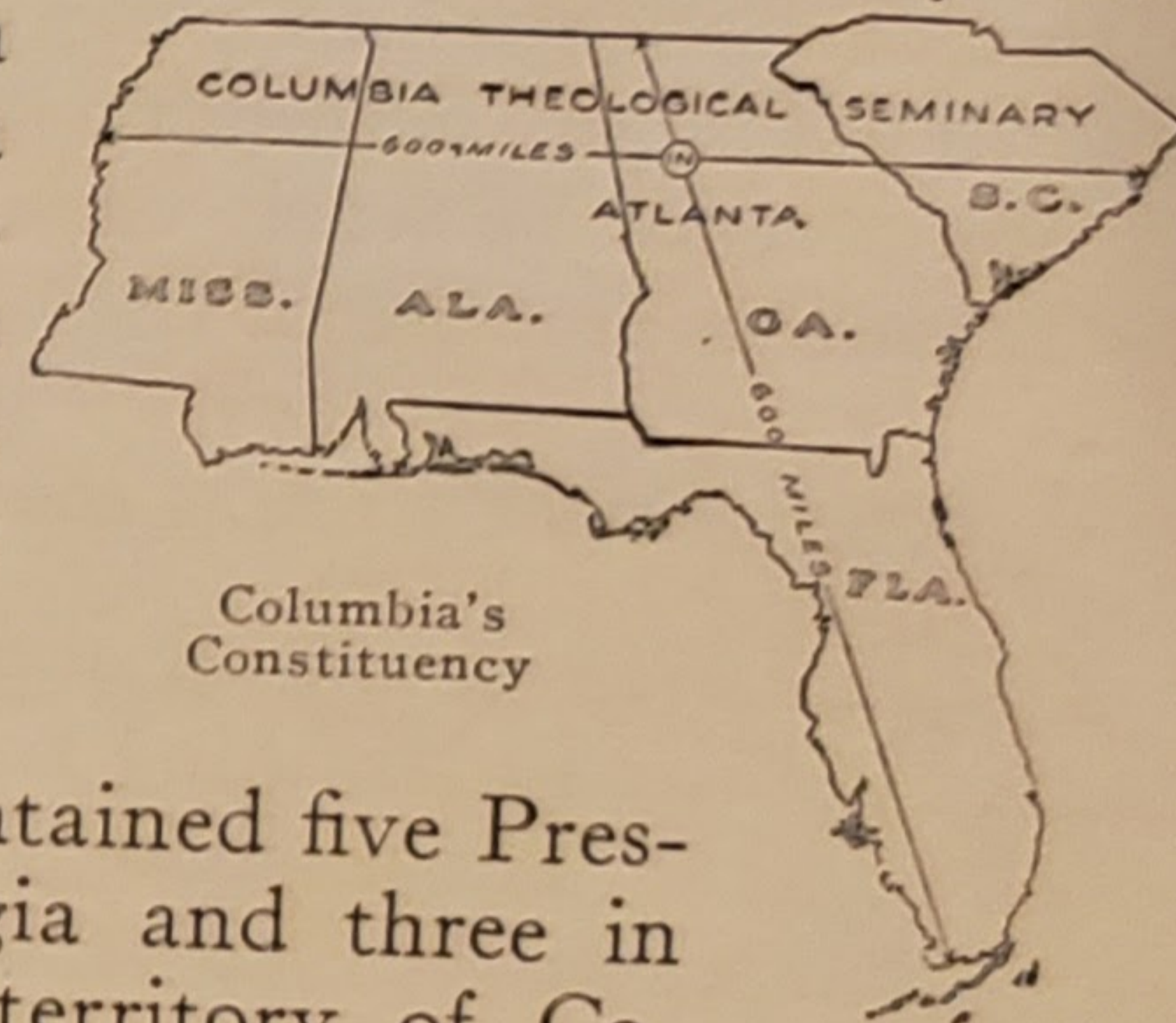
Columbia has trained 926 ministers, 350 of whom are living. The present enrollment is 65; Senior class, 7; Middle, 19; Junior, 39. This year 42 new students were enrolled. This is the largest enrollment in the history of the Seminary. It now seems certain that when the Seminary opens in Atlanta we will have 100 students. It is the earnest endeavor of Columbia Seminary to continue to provide

trained leaders for the future who are worthy of the traditions and heritage of the past.

COLUMBIA'S TERRITORY

Statistics of the Church in Columbia's territory tell a graphic story. When the Seminary was

founded it took South Carolina and Georgia both to form one Synod and that, at its best, was not a large Synod; 73 ministers, 11 licentiates, 128 churches, and 8,560



communicants. It contained five Presbyteries, two in Georgia and three in South Carolina. The territory of Columbia Seminary now contains five Synods, which cover a territory stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, and from the North Carolina-Tennessee line to Key West. Atlanta, the future home of the Seminary, is in the center, not only of this territory, but of the entire South.

This area contains 247,785 square miles with over ten millions population. Our Church in this territory reports 1,171 churches, a membership of 134,770, 632 ordained ministers, and 204 candidates for the ministry. The present available supply of recruits for the ministry is barely sufficient to replace those who are removed from active service, while many inviting fields, where strong self sup-

porting churches could be quickly developed, must be neglected because of the shortage of ministers. Every indication points to an unprecedented development in the South, which brings to our Church increased responsibility for trained Christian leadership to meet the growing need.

The challenge which comes in the movement to rebuild Columbia Seminary in Atlanta, and to better equip it for its work, calls for consecration of the resources and life of the Church.

THE CHURCH RESPONSIBLE

If the Church in this section does not provide adequate facilities for training her own men, they must go elsewhere. Those who go away rarely come back, and when they do return it is often difficult to hold them because of friendships made and associations formed during Seminary days.

To say that a hundred and thirty-five thousand Southern Presbyterians can not build and maintain a Theological Seminary to train our own ministers is to acknowledge weakness which no one is willing to admit. To know that we can do it, and yet will not, proves that we are unworthy of our task and of the privileges and opportunities which have opened to us.

THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE SEMINARY

A brief word about the present status of the Seminary. Modesty forbids our paying a just tribute to

the men who compose the present Faculty. Fortunately they can speak for themselves. It is enough that they enjoy the full confidence of the Church. They can be trusted to conserve and nourish and bring into larger fruitfulness the precious interests entrusted to them. They are forward looking men, anxious to see the leadings of God's providence and willing to follow it. Behind them are the fathers who wrought mightily for God, and who left a rich heritage of faith and achievement that is not to be forgotten. Looking both forward and backward they see nothing to shake their belief in the essential soundness of the distinctive principles which gave birth to our Church and for which it has hitherto stood.

WORTHY OF A GREAT FUTURE

In the last analysis a seminary is made up, not of buildings, but of *men* with common ideals and a wide range of scholarship coupled with the vigor and enthusiasm of young men in training. Columbia has these men although not in such numbers as she would like. New buildings, improved library facilities and equipment, will immediately bring more men and provide for them better training. The quality of young men coming to the Seminary today is worthy of the best that we can give.

The new location in Atlanta, recognized by 560 commercial companies as the distributing center of the South, assures easy access to this field. The generous support of the people of Georgia will

double the Seminary assets. So situated, with a new plant and larger resources, Columbia will turn out more men and better trained men for the ministry. It will render a greater service to the Synod of the Southeast.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

The dominant idea in planning for the new home of Columbia Seminary is that we are building for the future. The strategic location in Atlanta, the strength of Presbyterianism in this section, the anticipated rapid development of the South, and the growth of our church in the Cotton Belt call for forethought and far-sighted wisdom in planning a seminary for the future.

A comprehensive plan and building program to care for all possible needs of the future have been proposed. The larger program provides for the construction, first, of the Seminary itself. This will be built in units as needed and as building funds are secured.

The Seminary proper will include the academic group, consisting of the tower section, administration and class-room building, and the library; a beautiful chapel; dormitories for three hundred men; apartments for married students; a standard athletic field and gymnasium; homes for the faculty and others connected with the Seminary, and a central heating plant for the entire development.

In addition to the Seminary itself, provision is made for the future development of a Standard

Training School in Christian Education for lay workers, Mission Terrace with homes for missionary families, and a community church, when the growth of the community makes a church desirable.

The type of architecture adopted is scholastic gothic, following the type of the Oxford buildings. The buildings will be of fireproof construction, faced with red brick and trimmed in limestone.

The site consisting of 57 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres with its wonderful contour, the varied and rich plant life, its magnificent trees, and the superb outlook from its lofty elevation, lends itself admirably to the development of a great institution and offers in background everything which could be desired for artistic beauty and fitness.

The new plant of Columbia Theological Seminary, situated in this ideal location, will form one of the handsomest educational groups to be found on any Southern campus.

CONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY

On September 13th ground was broken for the Virginia Orme Campbell Memorial Building which for the present, provides for all Seminary activities including offices of administration, the library, and reading room, class rooms, students recreation, ladies parlor, a temporary chapel and the refectory. In this commodious building it is possible to make ample temporary provision for all of these activities without inconvenience or crowding. The day following the breaking of ground,

work on the administration building and the first unit of the dormitory was begun. The contract calls for the delivery of these two buildings complete, July 15, 1927. Good progress is being made and the contractors are keeping up with their schedule. Everything will be in readiness for the opening of the term in the new home of the Seminary, September 14, 1927.

RICHARD T. GILLESPIE, President.
Columbia, S. C.