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ORIGINAL.

GENEVA COLLEGE.

BY PROF. GEORGE KENNEDY, LIBRARIAN.

I wish to write a few sentences to your readers for the purpose of renewing their interest in Geneva College. At this time of the year the colleges are all at work and know what will be their patronage during this session. According to its age and the facilities it can offer, Geneva College has a fair share of public support. Our number will be about the same as last year, and, what is of more importance, when we look to the future, the quality of work in every department is improving. Considering the chief purpose for which this college has been established, there is a great gain in having most of its instructors ordained ministers with some experience of pastoral work and a zeal according to knowledge for the church. On the other hand, when a college sets itself to attract the general public, it should be borne in mind that ecclesiastical titles and positions count for little. The public are attracted far more by proofs of literary and scientific activity in the college and the thoroughness and success of its instructions. To serve the church faithfully and to draw the public largely are two ends which cannot always be reached by exactly the same means, and no college has kept up very long the effort to attain both. Harvard College was established by the New England settlers to train a ministry for the growing colony, but now that Harvard has grown into a great university it has no more reference in its work to the ministry of the Congregational Church than to any other educated profession. In dependence on a denomination and obligation to serve its interests, Geneva College is in much the same position as Harvard was for many years of its early life.

It is not intended, so far as we know, that Geneva College should develop into an educational institution that would neglect the main principles of its founders. Up to this time it has been faithful to

its chief purpose and it has grown accustomed to any limitations which this purpose put upon it. Within its constitutional limits, however, it has been free to establish new courses and new departments and methods as they have been called for and made possible by increased income. A college is one of those institutions that must be either growing or declining. Every one who knows what the college has been has no hesitation in admitting that it is growing, and if its friends will continue to supply it with funds as they have been doing, they have a right to ask it these three questions which President Eliot says patrons and alumni may ask of Harvard: 1. Has her teaching advanced, that is, according to the changed state of society and the improvement in educational machinery? 2. Has the number of competent students increased? 3. What is the college doing for the advancement of learning and cultivated ideas? Those who are interested may get answers to some of these questions in the report made to Synod every year and printed. So far as learning and cultivated ideas are found in the books studied, it is not too much to say that instructors take pains to root them firmly and fairly in the minds of students. But the question should have a larger answer. A college should be a centre of refinement and progress, and its members should not only influence the student in the class-room, but by their writings and investigations advance cultivated ideas in a wider sphere. This comes in time, when there is a little relief from the incessant wear and stress of teaching and when we obtain the facilities needed for doing the higher work that the thinking world calls for.

One of the most important facilities for educational work is a good library, and this Geneva College does not yet possess. The Pittsburgh congregation very kindly, four years ago, furnished the library room with tables, carpet, lamps, book-cases and a number of excellent books. Professor Willson and Mr. Sommierville, of New York, have donated valuable volumes. Mr. Tibby, of the Pittsburgh congregation, has sent us a complete set of the *North American Review*, from the beginning, in one hundred and forty-two volumes, bound sets of the *New York Nation* since 1865, and a complete set of the *Christian Statesman*, besides other standard books. Two years ago, Mr. Andrew Carnegie, who has manufactories in Beaver Falls, sent us standard works to the value of about \$1,000. The United States Government is sending us elaborate sets of the census returns for 1880 and, occasionally, volumes from the Bureau of Education. In addition, Dr. George and Professor Johnston have been lecturing recently in the interest of the library. In all, our library numbers about 1,200 volumes. But there are many books asked for that we are not able to furnish to the student, and on some fields of inquiry, we have scarcely anything to help one who is investigating a subject or a period of history. After all that has been done by the church for the college, we hesitate to ask anything more. There are some, however, who

have not contributed much, if anything, to education, and our chief purpose at present is to put it in their power to do something to advance sound learning and to associate their names with the growth and work of a college.

If any one has facilities for obtaining good literature and wishes to have a list of books most needed, to the value of fifteen, fifty or one hundred dollars, I will be glad to send him a list.

If any one is willing to make a donation in money, it will be thankfully received.

It is not good that any one should send books without knowing what is wanted, for in this way we have already got two or three sets of some standard authors.

COMFORT YE, COMFORT YE.

ISAIAH 40: 1.

Comfort ye, comfort ye ; speak to the heart :
Some sweet thought of cheer to the weary impart ;
A glad word in season, to brighten their way,
Lest grief should o'erwhelm them in sorrow's sad day.

Speak gently of Jesus, their Refuge and Stay,
That He will support them, each step of the way,
Will guard them and guide them, redeem and defend,
Will be with them alway, till trial shall end.

Tell the tale of His love, unchanging and free,
Tell, too, how He suffered on Calvary's tree,
And, how, reascending from Olivet's height,
He sits in the heavenlies, radiant and bright.

A home for His loved ones He went to prepare ;
One day, with rejoicing, He'll welcome them there ;
Through suffering made perfect, life's crosses laid down,
From much tribulation, they'll pass to their crown.

Philadelphia, Pa.

SALLIE MORRISON.

THE COALITION OF 1782.

BY J. M. SLOANE.

One of the troubles that the great apostles of the Gentiles enumerates in that doleful catalogue in 2 Cor. 11 : 26, is perils among false brethren. From that day to this the church of Christ has often been in great danger from the same cause, men arising speaking perverse thing to draw away disciples after them. At the time of the persecution in Scotland, under the bloody House of Stuart, some of the greatest troubles of the people of God were brought upon them by false brethren. At the close of the persecution, "Heedless of consequences, Messrs. Linning and Boyd deserted the societies of the Reformed Presbyterian Church and persuaded even the author of the 'Hind let Loose,' to relinquish the