

The blessing of God, my friends, is indeed to be specially acknowledged, on this occasion, as having been experienced from the first conception of this institution to its completion. Those who have borne the heat and burden of the enterprise have found his providence their cloud by day and their pillar of fire by night, and therefore their courage has not fainted. The success of the seminary thus far has been only a fulfilment of the promise of Jehovah, *Them that honor me I will honor*; for holiness to the Lord was engraved upon its foundations, and stands out in bold relief upon the top stone. From the first it has been distinctly understood that, while an elevated and thorough system of instruction should be here pursued, religion should receive a still higher attention, and take the precedence of every thing else. This I conceive to be the grand fundamental principle on which the institution rests, and the secret of all its success hitherto, and the only ground of hope for the future. God has set his seal to this principle by the almost constant presence of that divine energy by which the soul is converted. And while that principle is practically regarded, it will continue to be blessed. Its teachers, its present mode of instruction, its peculiarities of domestic arrangement, may all be changed without essentially affecting its prosperity, so long as this principle is made the pole star of action. Nay, its influence shall become wider and wider, deeper and deeper. By means of its example and its well-educated pupils, it shall operate all over the land to raise the standard of female education, and to rescue woman from the perversion and waste of her powers. Man, too, shall come under its humanizing influence, and be awakened to new efforts in the cause of learning and benevolence. Nor shall that influence be limited to the civilized portions of our continent. Its daughters shall go forth, as some have already