

**ADDRESSES AND POEM ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE ONE  
HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
INCORPORATION OF BOWDOIN  
COLLEGE, JUNE 27 AND 28 1894**

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Addresses and Poem on the Occasion of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Incorporation of Bowdoin College, June 27 and 28 1894 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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1794

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

1894

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ADDRESSES AND POEM

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

One Hundredth Anniversary

OF THE

INCORPORATION OF BOWDOIN COLLEGE

JUNE 27 AND 28 1894



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1894

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of  
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ADDRESS  
ON THE  
RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE  
BY  
EGBERT COFFIN SMYTH D.D.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 27 1894





## ADDRESS

BY EGBERT COFFIN SMYTH,

CLASS OF 1848.

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*Mr. President and Brethren:*

OUR centennial day, like the first in the narrative of creation, begins with the evening. It carries us back, also, as does that ancient and inspired record, to the appearance of light;—light which has shone through the century with so pure and beneficent a radiance that we may gratefully and reverently say: it came from God, and He *saw that it was good.*

It belongs to others who will address you to analyze its seven-fold ray, and show what has been its illuminating and enlivening power. It is my office, if it may only be given me in some measure to fulfill it, in the opening of these services to turn your thoughts, in grateful recollection, to the goodness which has preserved and blessed, as it called into being, the College, which, more than ever perhaps to-day we think of, and love to think of, as our own, and to unite with you in the recognition that a peculiar value and honor belong to the religious element in the education for which it stands.

For only, I have supposed, from some such point of view could it have occurred to those who have arranged these exercises to devote this hour to the topic which has been assigned me. To narrate the history of the religious life of the College for a hundred years is, obviously, a task too large for such an occasion. In the enthusiasm of early years I sought to make a beginning of this enterprise, and it is my hope that Professor Little, who has so clearly and gracefully sketched for us the general history, will spare from his many labors time to gather up, ere they are irrecoverably lost, the religious reminiscences of the last fifty years; but nothing of the sort has seemed to me to be implied in the duty of this hour. This service, I conceive, is a holy vigil, like that of Christmas Eve,—not kept with fasting and humiliation, albeit we may not forget our shortcomings, if only by this we may be helped to better life,—but rather with thankful remembrances and joyful anticipations and new consecration. In a word, it is a religious service in which we would share. Otherwise I might feel, for one, that it should not precede the other exercises, nor even form a distinct part of our centennial, unless this were distributed far more than is contemplated or would be practicable. If, for instance, I were called here to speak of the history of religious instruction in the College, or of its dogmatic or theological forms and expression, I know not why Law or Medicine or the noble profession of the Teacher, or any other vocation for which college life prepares, or any

science or language or art which enters into its curriculum or has had a history here, might not prefer a claim to similar recognition. But our religion,—is there anything besides, in this world of ours, to which there belongs so plainly the right of pre-eminence, is there anything, whatever our differences of opinion, of dogma, of ecclesiastical relationships, so common to us all, so deep in our hearts, so intimate to our personality, so capable at last of binding us together in a supreme fellowship with each other, and a communion with all spirits elect and pure, and with Him who is "over all, blessed forever?" And is there anything else which so enters into the whole being and purpose and life of such a college as ours has been, and so binds together its golden years, and hallows them in our memories, and has a place in its history so unique and pre-eminent? This, therefore, if I interpret it aright, is the significance of this occasion, and by it my task is defined.

Professor Packard has preserved for us an utterance of the saintly Appleton which we may take as a watchword: "God has taken care of the College, and God will take care of it."

One marked instance of this care was Appleton's own coming hither to its leadership in the dark days when, in the summer before the graduation of the second class, its admired and eminent first President was removed by death. Was there not a similar providence when, more than a generation later, by the consenting action