

**CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY.  
QUARTER CENTENNIAL  
HISTORICAL SKETCH**

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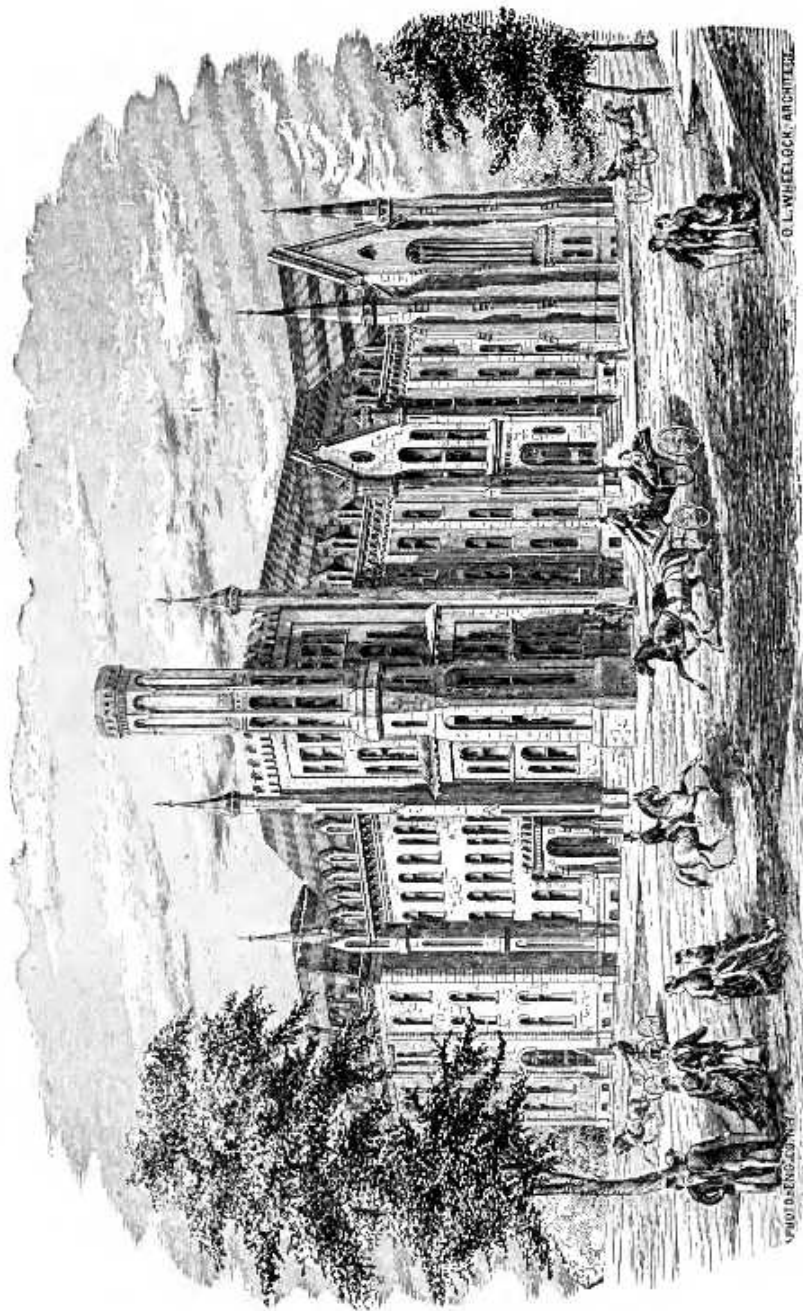
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**CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.**

AS PLANNED AND PARTLY BUILT.

# Chicago Theological Seminary.

QUARTER CENTENNIAL

HISTORICAL SKETCH.



PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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## STATEMENT.

By the "Great Fire" in Chicago, October, 1871, there were lost the Records of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Theological Seminary, also the Records of their Executive Committee, the official Reports of the Treasurer and Agent, as well as many other important documents. In consequence only a meager History of the Seminary did the Committee, appointed for that purpose, count themselves able to make.

They have, however, been gratefully surprised to find how much reliable history they still could gather. This required minute search in private diaries and letters, in written memoranda, published periodicals and the fortunately preserved duplicates of Reports made by Mr. Kedzie during his Agency, and involved also extensive correspondence.

Often long search and much correspondence has been necessary to settle a date or fact, which could be recorded in a single line. The Committee have spared no pains to make this History accurate. For all important dates and facts they found some printed document, written memorandum, or personal testimony, on which they could rely. Thus they have been able to gather the important facts concerning the organization and work of the Seminary thus far, which, else, were likely to perish with this generation.

A review of those early times awakens conflicting emotions in the minds of those participating therein. The Directors, undertaking a work in which they never



before had been engaged, saw, afterward, wherein errors of judgment were committed, for which they found some excuse in their right intent and lack of experience. To bring the Seminary to its present stage of progress, has cost much care and labor on the part of the Directors and Professors — gladly again to be endured for completing a work so well begun.

Upon our Chicago Theological Seminary, this sacred, and, we trust, yet to become ancient seat of learning, we invoke what it has hitherto enjoyed, the coöperation of the churches and the favor of Him, their Divine Head, that thus it may grow to full maturity of strength, and come to ripe, abundant and perpetual fruitage.

A. S. KEDZIE,

*Chairman of Committee.*

CHICAGO, ILL., June, 1879.



## I.

### PLANS FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDY IN WESTERN COLLEGES.

The establishment of colleges in the Northwest was in the interest both of education and religion. Their founders looked forward to educating a christian ministry, as an important function of those colleges. Facilities for theological education were provided in the plan of some of them.

Soon after Beloit College began its work, the question of providing theological education came before its Trustees in consequence of actual application for such instruction. To meet this want, early in 1852 the Pastor elect of the First Congregational Church in Beloit was elected Professor of Theology in the college. This, it was thought, would be the beginning of a Theological Department in which Congregationalists and Presbyterians could unite, and where students in theology would come with advantage under the influence and instruction of a pastor. The call to both offices was declined. No further attempt has been made to open a Theological Department in Beloit College. The large number of young men whom this college has helped train for the ministry, shows that it is fulfilling a noble design in its own proper sphere as a college.

When the attempt was made to found Illinois College there was in a large part of Illinois a violent prejudice against church and clergy—so violent that for two

years the Legislature refused a charter for the college. One cause for this hostility was a wide and wild excitement caused throughout the West by Hon. R. M. Johnson's Report in Congress against the Anti-Sunday Mails Petition, charging the petitioners with the design of uniting church and state, and of establishing a religious despotism. Men, whose memories run not back to that time, have little idea of the violence and bitterness of that excitement. Only when, later, four religious denominations united in application for charters, were any granted. The charter of Illinois College, when first granted, forbade theological education: afterward this prohibition was repealed. A legacy was received by the college toward founding a Professorship of Theology. The Trustees, though not making any formal relinquishment of the design, have not, as yet, taken any steps to open a Theological Department.

It was in the original design of Knox College to have a Theological Department, and a fund was set apart for that purpose. Afterward the plan was abandoned, and the fund, according to provision before made, was devoted to the college proper.

When founding a Theological Seminary in Michigan was first discussed, one of the projects under consideration was to have the Seminary located on the campus of the State University, by permission of the Regents, that the theological students might avail themselves of certain courses of instruction in the University, thereby enlarging the range of study, and affording helps to those pursuing a special course of studies.

Iowa College had no place in its plan for a Theological Department: yet the education of ministers was central in the aim of its founders, so far as it could be helped by a thorough course of collegiate study. The