

# CHICAGO

## PRE-EMINENTLY A PRESBYTERIAN CITY

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**President Young Men's Presbyterian Union of Chicago**

**With Supplementary Sketches of**

**McCormick Theological Seminary**

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**Lake Forest University**

**By Prof. John J. Halsey, LL. D., Acting President**

**Presbyterian Hospital**

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Andrew Stevenson

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## McCORMICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BY PRESIDENT JAMES G. K. McCLURE, D.D., LL.D.

McCormick Theological Seminary is situated at the very heart of the human needs of a great city. Its history has kept pace with the recognition of the social conditions of mankind. The seminary originated in the purpose of the nine ministers who constituted the Presbytery of Salem (that Presbytery embraced almost the entire state of Indiana and much of Illinois) to establish in their territory a collegiate and theological school. It was in January, 1827, in a log loom-house at Hanover, Indiana, that a grammar school was opened with six boys in attendance. This little school, solemnly dedicated to Almighty God as a nursery for the ministry, was the nucleus both of Hanover College and of the Indiana Theological Seminary, as McCormick Theological Seminary was then called.

In due time the seminary department passed from the village of Hanover to the city of New Albany, Indiana, where by reason of the greater population, there was larger opportunity for acquaintance with the experiences of humanity. Still later, through the offer of Mr. Cyrus H. McCormick to donate an endowment fund the seminary was removed from the comparatively small city to the thickly settled city of Chicago.

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In entering upon its connection with the multitudes of this rapidly growing city the seminary saw fit to place itself near the outskirts, and on what was then open prairie erected its first buildings. But the seminary was not to dwell apart from the lives of a populous community, for little by little the city planted its dwellings and homes close to the seminary until now the students who reside within its halls find themselves, not in secluded retirement, but in actual contact with the joys and sorrows, the weal and woe of humanity.

Earnestness of spiritual life has characterized the work of the seminary from its inception. While it has always sought, and to-day continues to seek, scholastic development, that scholastic development is sought, not as an end, but as a means. Those who constitute its faculty desire its student body to be composed of as bright minds as they can find; and they desire to inculcate in such minds the clearest possible thinking and to impart to such minds the most accurate information. They believe that the Gospel can only be preached worthily as men bring to it trained intellects, but they never intend that the training of the intellect shall interfere with, but rather stimulate, spirituality of life, ardor of purpose, and adaptation of effort. The seminary holds that there is no greater need in the world to-day than the need for consecrated men who lay all their talents at the feet of Christ, and then go forth with loving devotion to the hearts of men, to be the unselfish friends of their fellows and to be persuasive prophets of God.

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The seminary stands for profound convictions. It holds to the infallibility of the Bible as the teacher of life's meaning and the interpreter of God to man. It intends to keep abreast of all the discussions of the age and it places at the disposal of its instructors the latest literature and places also at their disposal opportunities for travel upon the continent and in the lands of the Bible.

In this union of earnestness and scholarship lies the hope of the seminary. It exalts every sphere of evangelistic effort. Its students are connected with missionary operations in the Churches and Institutional Associations of Chicago. They respond, as fully as faithful attendance to their studies will allow, to the opportunities for helpfulness that confront them in their environment. It is intended that when they graduate and pass out to their respective spheres of labor each man of them shall carry with him acquaintance with humanity as it is, as well as carry with him the heart of love and abiding confidence in the Gospel.

The graduates of the seminary are scattered everywhere throughout America. They occupy influential pulpits both along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. In village, town and city between these coasts they are doing a work that helps and blesses and glorifies humanity. And beyond the seas, in all the mission stations of our church, China, Japan, Africa, India, Korea, Chile, and other countries they are living lives of exemplary piety, are contributing

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to the succor of mankind and are glorifying their Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

(NOTE: The Seminary is located on North Halsted Street, Belden to Fullerton Avenues. It may be reached by the North-Western Elevated Railroad to Fullerton Avenue Station, or by the North Halsted or Lincoln Avenue surface cars.)