

thriving and pleasant village, having, at the time he left it for college, about six thousand inhabitants. The educational advantages were good for the time, and he studied in the academy where he was afterwards an instructor. He was prepared for college when fifteen years of age, and entered the College of New Jersey (Princeton), from which he was graduated in 1844. The two years succeeding his graduation were spent in teaching, first, near Lexington in Kentucky, and then as an instructor in Latin and Greek in Dayton Academy. While teaching in the latter place, he spent his leisure time in studying law in the office of Schenck and Conover, the latter gentleman being his older brother, and the first named being Gen. Robert C. Schenck, since distinguished for various public services.

But perhaps neither the study nor the practice of law were quite to his taste, which turned more naturally and eagerly to the quiet pursuits of the scholar, and to the attractive fields of literature. His talents and his training alike fitted him for success in a quieter vocation, where he could gratify his thirst for knowledge and his love of books. Another motive, arising from the profound moral earnestness of his nature, united with these to divert him from the profession toward which he had seemed to look. The claims of the Christian religion took hold of his intellect and conscience with great power. Though he had declared his belief in it, and had been for some time a devout and earnest church-member, yet amid the conflict of opinions and the differences of judgment and interpretation among good men, there were certain questions that lay near the foundations of religious thought on which his mind was not satisfied. If religion was grounded in truth, he perceived that it was the most momentous and important concern in human life. He determined to make a searching and honest inquiry into the matter, and arrive, if possible, at some clear and consistent view of the fundamental truths of the spiritual life. It is a striking testimony to his self-sacrificing devotion to the truth and to the heroic earnestness of his moral nature, that at this time he turned aside from the career toward which he had been looking, and devoted his little patrimony to