

three years of solid and thorough study in this field of inquiry. It was this motive, rather than any particular expectation of devoting his life to the work of the Christian ministry, that appears to have led him to Princeton Theological Seminary in 1846, from which he was graduated in 1849.

The result of this theological study, to which he gave the best energies of his mature and scholarly mind, was to bring him into a clear, rational and settled Christian faith, which was the solace and stay of all his after years. Certain conclusions, indeed, of his venerated instructors he could not accept. This spirit of frank but kindly dissent from the opinions of many good people, and of fearless but reverent inquiry for the truth, he preserved to the end of his life. Yet he had found firm footing for his faith upon the fundamental verities of religion, and he walked with steady tread in this pathway of Christian belief, all his days.

Though now licensed as a preacher, he rarely occupied a pulpit. Partly, perhaps, because he felt himself better adapted to other work than that of constant public speaking, and partly for other reasons, he again turned aside from the vocation on whose threshold he stood, to devote himself to other work, for which he deemed himself better fitted.

He came to Madison in 1849, then a little village of large expectations, and for a few months was the editor of a literary and educational monthly called *The North-Western Journal*. But in 1850, he was appointed instructor in the ancient languages in the University of Wisconsin, then newly organized. There were at that time but two members of the university faculty—John H. Lathrop, who had been elected chancellor in 1848, and John W. Sterling, elected as a principal of the preparatory department in the same year, and beginning work in his department, February 5, 1849. The university was not fully launched on its career of work until the formal inauguration of Chancellor Lathrop, January 16, 1850. Mr. Conover was soon after called to the work of instruction, and was thus the third member of its faculty in order of appointment in a roll that