

Incidents.

No.39, Volume 9.

Subject:

Doctor Leonard Woods.
President of Bowdoin
College.

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~~Professor~~ ^{Doctor} Leonard Woods.----- President of

Bowdoin College

President Woods had a charming manner and a resonant voice. Every ^{living} graduate of the college ^{at the time} when Doctor Woods was president, when he ^{now} speaks of him ~~usually~~ undertakes to illustrate ~~his tones.~~ ^{his ~~tones~~ peculiar tones.}

Once when a young man had to attend church and had to sit in the south transept over against Doctor Adams' pulpit, he took with him a copy of Robert Burns poems instead of listening to the sermon which was ^{doubtless} a good one and magnificently delivered. He kept up the reading and became so absorbed in his reading that he did not notice the monitor who discovered him as he uncovered his book, turning over the leaves.

The young student was reported to President Woods. The next day the president called him up and began after his usual manner to praise him and said something like this: "Henry you have been one of the best students in this institution and I am delighted with your progress and conduct. I have noticed your standing in the languages, especially your fidelity in your mathematical studies; and I have had occasion from time to time to send a good report to your parents.

By this time the young student was greatly pleased and thought that perhaps he was to have some unusual reward for his good conduct. When with a little severity, President Woods remarked: "I see sir that you are reported for reading books in church during service; and it is indeed incomprehensible

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 replied stammering that he did not like that minister's preaching,
~~and~~ so he took a book with him to help him pass the time profitably.

"Oh! that it is it," said the president. Pray tell
 me what good book is better than Doctor Adams preaching? Why,
 sir, the poems of Robert Burns."

"Well! well," said the president, "I think that can ~~hardly~~
 hardly be the case. At any rate it is against the rules of this
 institution for the student to read ^{any} ~~books~~ in church."

In this gentle way students were dealt with and
 seldom ^{ever} repeated the same offense after such a gentle reprimand.
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