

While a student at the College, Mr. Johnston was baptized by the Revd. Dr. Pryor, and united with the Baptist Church in Wolfville. It is possible, but hardly probable that any who were members of the church at that time now survive.

The venerable John Barss, whom it is presumed is now the oldest resident member of the Wolfville Baptist Church, did not remove to Wolfville, or join the church until some time after Mr. Johnston had been a member—and for more than thirty years, he has been a Deacon, and an active member of the Dartmouth Baptist Church.

The subject of this sketch always took a lively interest in his Alma Mater. He first suggested and drew up the Constitution of the Associated Alumni of Acadia College, of which he was the first President. This society has since grown to large proportions, and is today no unimportant factor in the sustenance and government of the College; the Society having been accorded the privilege of nominating two of their members as members of the Governing Body of the College.

In 1882 Mr. Johnston was appointed a Fellow of the College, which under the provisions of the original charter was charged with the administration of the literary and disciplinary affairs of the College; and with the nominations of recipients for degrees. The name of this body was changed to that of the Senate of the College.

Mr. Johnston continued a Fellow and member of the Senate, attending sedulously to the duties of his office, until the adoption of the new charter in 1892 when he was appointed on the Board of Governors, which position he continued to hold until this year 1898 when his term of office expired. In 1886, his Alma Mater conferred on him the degree of D. C. L.

In 1874 Mr. Johnston was requested by the then Attorney General of the Province to frame a bill for the establishment of County Courts in Nova Scotia. His experience had led him to the opinion that on the trial of all but a very limited class of cases, such as libel and slander a petit jury was a useless appendage, and that a judge was more capable of satisfactorily determining the facts than nine men drawn by lot from a list, and of varying intelligence. And accordingly in the act which he prepared, the judge was constituted the arbiter of the facts as well as the law. This departure which was at first viewed with suspicion by those who deemed it an innovation on a time honoured institution, was after a short trial found to work so well, and so to expedite business, that the practice was introduced into other Courts; and to day a petit jury in a litigated case has become the exception and not the rule.

When the Court was inaugurated in 1876, Mr. Johnston was offered, and accepted the important position of County Court Judge of the metropolitan city and County of Halifax, an office which he has filled for a period of 22 years. His judicial duties have been laborious and responsible, and in addition the speedy trial act has cast upon him by far the largest bulk of the criminal business of the city