

ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF TORONTO BAPTIST
COLLEGE, OCTOBER 1881.

This is a joyful hour. The dim anticipations, the vague hopes of past years, the ardent longings of many of our best people which seemed impossible of fulfilment, are this day a reality. A school for the training of our ministry, having its seat in Toronto, the focus of the intellectual, educational and commercial forces of the Province, is not a recent conception. Some of the wisest of our leaders who have passed from toil to their reward, saw clearly that the intense currents of city life, the multiplicity of its social, literary and religious opportunities ought to be utilized in the training of our rising ministry. But our limited numbers, our scanty means, the ever increasing demand with the settlement of the country for Home Missions, and the providences which directed us to embark in Foreign Missions, all seemed to forbid any attempt to enjoy an opportunity which in itself was so enticing; and some of the most loyal hearts among us, who had prayed, and toiled, and sacrificed for another institution, in their concern for its prosperity, were laudably jealous lest a movement to establish a seat of theological instruction here, might imperil a school around which already clustered tender and sacred associations. Although these honored brethren freely admitted the advantages of the Metropolis for a professional school, they shrank from the discussion of any proposal to secure them. But lo, what hath God wrought! The year which sees the completion and dedication of Toronto Baptist College, chronicles the payment of the first instalments of our endowment for Woodstock, the diminution of a debt which for years has been accumulating with alarming rapidity: and the session, which opens our work in Toronto, shows for the first time in eight years an increase in the number of students at Woodstock! Instead of a divided brotherhood, we have all taken both schools into our hearts, and consecrated ourselves afresh to the work of Christian education. The friends of Toronto are the friends of Woodstock! and among the best