

chant will not receive his teas and other products of the distant East by railway direct from British Columbia, and that Nova Scotia in wealth and importance will not be the England of this continent?

Early in the history of our Province, while our fathers cleared the forests and caught fish, while they traded and bartered, while they formed the nuclei of villages and towns, although interest in educational matters was at a low ebb, it was not altogether wanting. Scattered over our land were clergymen who had come from the fatherland to break the bread of life to the scattered children. While these honored men toiled and suffered all the privations incident to travelling through our country at this early period, while they erected altars to God amid the forest homes, they sedulously labored to educate the people, and to found educational institutions. And their labor was not fruitless. Seats of learning soon sprang into existence. King's College, Windsor, the oldest in British America, was founded by Royal charter in 1789, in the eventful reign of George III. Pictou Academy was founded in 1814; Acadia College in 1838. The Male Branch of the Mount Allison Institution, founded by the late C. F. Allison, Esq., was opened in 1843, the Female Branch in 1854, and the College in 1862. Dalhousie College, under present arrangements, was opened three years since. St. Xavier's College now confers degrees. The University of New Brunswick, and the different higher seats of learning in Canada were established at an early day. Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown, was opened six years ago, and St. Dunstons many years previously.

Not a few of the thousand sons of these various institutions have made themselves illustrious in letters, in science, in politics, in jurisprudence and in arms. While with pride we claim as our countrymen the heroes Williams and Inglis, whose names will long remain household words, not only in Nova Scotia, but throughout the British empire, with pride, too, we point to their Alma Mater.*

More than two centuries ago the pious pilgrim fathers conceived the magnificent idea of placing education within the reach of all

* King's College, Windsor.