

respecting affiliation in 1876, an effort was made still further to increase the endowment, which resulted in the addition of several thousands of dollars. In the midst of this movement the College building, with nearly all its contents, was destroyed by fire. With admirable alacrity the people rallied to the work of rebuilding, and in a little more than one year two buildings were completed and furnished, one for the use of the College, the other for a Ladies' Seminary, at a cost of about \$45,000. Since that time subscriptions have been given which practically cancel the debts on the buildings. Thus within some twelve years the endowment has been raised from about \$40,000 to \$100,000; buildings have been erected at a cost, exclusive of the insurance money, of \$57,000; the College, with an enlarged staff of instructors and an increasing rate of expenditure, has been maintained in the interval; and, if we count the subscriptions to the debt as paid, the board are now substantially free from indebtedness, with the departments under their care indicating at least as much promise of growth and increase of usefulness as at any time in the past. Certainly in view of this we may thank God and take courage.

In regard to theological education the changes of the period have terminated in the adoption of a new policy. Since 1870 various attempts have been made to meet the demand that something should be done to provide theological instruction for our students. But the invariable experience has been, that whatever might be attempted at Acadia in connection with this subject, a large number of our brethren were not satisfied. They urged that it would be better for our theological students to study elsewhere, and that the energies of our people should be concentrated on strengthening the arts course. In the midst of the perplexities of the board by reason of these conflicting views, the proposition came from our brethren in Ontario that all the Baptists of Canada should accept one institution as their theological school. We acceded to this and our deliberations and discussions regarding theological education are presumably at an end. Whatever the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces may judge to be best in the future, for years to come our churches will look to Toronto as the immediate source from which they are to receive their ministers and their missionaries. Here we ought to make grateful mention of the munificent liberality of Senator McMaster in bestowing such bountiful gifts to promote the education of ministers for the Baptists of Canada. Expressions of thankfulness are due to him for what he has done, and to God for all He has wrought through the heart and the hand of His honored servant.