

manifested such a deep interest in the cause of education. No one who listened this evening, to the story of the work of those devoted men, McCulloch, Ross, and the others who laboured with them, can fail to recognize how much our Province owes to these men who struggled with almost insuperable difficulties to give young men the benefits of a liberal education. While these fathers of the U. P. Church were striving to establish an institution at West River,* the Free Church Synod was putting forth extraordinary efforts to provide instruction for the young men of their church. At the very first meeting after the disruption, we find the Rev. John Stewart of New Glasgow introducing an overture proposing to establish a College for the training of a native ministry. The church at that time was made up of thirteen weak struggling congregations, many of them scarcely able to maintain ordinances among themselves. But the harvest was great and the laborers few, and the prospects of obtaining more ministers from Scotland was so poor that it was felt to be a question of life and death. Either they must provide a home trained ministry, or they must abandon many promising fields and give up all hope of progress as a denomination. It was a trying time, but the men were equal to the difficulties of the situation. With perfect unanimity they resolved to establish a College. To the untiring energy and unflinching zeal of one man, the Rev. John Stewart, the success of the scheme was largely due. He visited every congregation in the Synod, and so successful were his efforts that in the course of a few years College buildings were purchased and paid for and an endowment of \$26,000 secured. A small portion of this, it is true, was raised in Scotland, where Mr. Stewart had gone to plead the cause of the College, but the greater part of it was raised by the pounds and shillings, which represented real self-denial on the part of ministers and people. In 1848 two Professors arrived from Scotland, Professor McKenzie, who died a short time after his arrival, and Professor King, who labored with great faithfulness and success for more than twenty years. In 1852 the old St. John's Church in Gerrisi street was purchased and altered to suit the purposes of a College. Here in a short time an educational institution, consisting of a College with three Professors, King, Lyall, and

McKnight; an Academy with three teachers, Munro, Fowler, and McKay, and a common school with two teachers, was in operation. In 1852 there were 22 students in the College, and 38 in the Academy. From that time till the union in 1860 it continued to do admirable work, and was able to report that it had paid for its buildings and apparatus, secured an endowment of \$26,000, trained for the church thirty men, besides providing a liberal education for a large number of young men in business and the other professions.

Looking at it in one way, it was a small affair; but looking at it as the effort of a mere handful of poor people we have no hesitation in saying that the Province has seen nothing like it since. With the same spirit of earnestness and liberality for higher education this Province might establish a university equal to anything on the continent, the strong and wealthy church of the Maritime Provinces might place its Theological Hall in a position second to none. I confess it is somewhat disheartening to hear some of the sons of men, who in the poverty of the times and the weakness of the church, faced the question of establishing and equipping two Colleges, and did it successfully, sometimes talking of closing our Theological Hall to save the small sum that is required from the church's abundance, to enable it to do its work successfully. Our fathers felt that a Theological Hall was absolutely essential to the progress and prosperity of the church. Experience has proved their wisdom. I know there are those who laugh at our small Halls. Even at present, they say, we have only six or seven students to each professor. In this connection it is interesting to notice, that the large institutions of the United States, Catholic and Protestant, have barely seven. It would be a dark day for the church of the Maritime Provinces if its Theological Hall should be closed. It is one of the most powerful agencies we can employ for advancing the interests of our church. The student who allows himself to be drawn away by the gratuity of another church, and then seeks to justify himself by disparaging our own Hall, does more injury to the real interests of our church than years of faithful labour can atone for, while every student and every member of our church who can do anything to strengthen the hands of the men who