

HISTORICAL SKETCH:

The Presbyterian College, Halifax, claims to have originated at a date earlier than that of any other Presbyterian theological college in Canada. Its oldest branch was founded in 1820, when the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, being compelled to train a native ministry, appointed Dr. Thomas McCulloch their first professor of theology. The Pictou Academy had been in operation for several years previously, and from it a number of young men had entered the Hall. When they completed their theological studies they were licensed and thus became the first fruits of the Church's educational efforts. Three of these licentiates visited Scotland where they preached with much acceptance, and where before their return they received the degree of Master of Arts from the Senatus of Glasgow University. In this humble theological school at Pictou other bands of young men were trained and sent out into the field. But adverse days overtook Pictou Academy, and its efficiency became seriously impaired. In 1838 Dr. McCulloch came to Dalhousie College, where he laboured till his death in 1841. Altogether apart from his connection with Dalhousie College, during this time he continued to act as the Synod's theological professor. Professors Keir and Ross were appointed to carry on the work of the Hall, but young men who desired to study theology had no opportunity to receive an arts course, as the doors of Dalhousie had been closed and as the standard of teaching in Pictou Academy was not sufficiently high. The Church, therefore, in 1848 opened a seminary at the West River of Pictou, and gave in charge to Professor Ross the classical and philosophical department, assigning to Professors Keir and Smith the