

This period manifests the influence of Robert Alexander Fyfe. In 1855 Dr. Fyfe proposed a literary institute to which Baptist parents could send their boys and girls, and at which our theological students could obtain ministerial training, both literary and theological. In those days the inefficiency of secondary schools and the fact that over one-half of the students had to go away from home to attend such schools were strong arguments in favour of the establishment of the Canadian Literary Institute. After twenty years of experience in the work and after secondary education had been greatly improved and brought nearly to the doors of the homes, Dr. Fyfe, reviewing the results of the Christian residential school and the very important incidental associations and religious atmosphere of this school, declared, "the necessity for a preparatory department seems more clear and imperative than ever." The proposal was to have the literary department co-educational. Dr. Fyfe explained the situation: "We could not raise money for two schools, one for gentlemen and one for ladies. So we put them together."

The object of the new policy was not merely to train men to be pastors but to bring together the young people of our denomination in the developmental process under positive religious conditions. Although the youth of other denominations were made welcome, one of the main benefits which it was hoped could be obtained was the greater unity of the denomination through the massing of the best young life under the same auspices and influences. The late Professor Trotter thus speaks of his days at Woodstock: "I found an institution that was so rich in everything that my life needed and that made such a ministration to me as to hundreds of others that I cannot think of it to-day without my heart growing very tender at the gracious recollection." From this testimony we see that noble personalities and spiritual atmosphere were doing their work. "The life and teaching were a perpetual challenge to the best that was in the students, and the fruitage of it all in idealism and attainment was incalculable. Every now and then the breath of God swept through the place, when scores of students were quickened to a new life in Christ, and others got their call to the ministry." One of the benefits of the new policy therefore was more recruits for the ministry.

This policy had been gradually forming itself in the mind of Dr. Fyfe while he was Acting-Principal at the College in Montreal for a year and while he was being educated and was working in the United States. In 1851 he wrote to a friend in Canada: "It must be self-evident to any clear-sighted man that nothing but a Canadian institution can supply Canada with a ministry. I have lived on both sides