

2. That the Fredericton Seminary was not a feeder to Acadia College, in the sense of sending a dozen or more students thither every year.

3. That fewer students went to Acadia College from New Brunswick, and more Baptists went to the University at Fredericton, during the Seminary days than since.

4. That experience will not warrant us in the belief that a Baptist academy in this Province would be nearly or quite self-sustaining.

Among other arguments that have been employed by the advocates of a resumption of academic work in the near future by the Baptists of this Province is this. It is said that considerable sums of money have been pledged by benevolent persons to be paid toward the Seminary funds, provided a corresponding amount be raised in other ways. To this it may be replied,—No such tempting offers should induce us to break faith with our brethren, or to commence a new enterprise, the sustaining of which would certainly detract from the contributions now made, or that might be made, to the funds of our existing Institutions. And further, there can be little doubt that, had the same benevolent persons or others been solicited with equal tact to contribute to the Endowment Fund of Acadia College, or the Building Fund of the Wolfville Academies, instead of the prospective N. B. Seminary,—equally large donations might have been obtained for those objects.

IN CONCLUSION

I would say, as I have said before, let those brethren who are anxious to have an academy in New Brunswick, submit their views to the Convention. When that body shall deem it proper to found such an institution, all will cheerfully co-operate. It will then rest upon the Baptist constituency of the Maritime Provinces, as do our existing Institutions. In the meantime, let us in New Brunswick, with our brethren in N. S. and P. E. I., meet our obligations, and avail ourselves to the fullest extent of our existing advantages.

Concentration of energy is the order of the day in all great enterprises. Our Methodist friends find it enough for them to sustain one group of educational institutions for the Maritime Provinces. These are situated at Sackville in New Brunswick, but the Methodist people allow no Provincial boundaries to divide them in their support of their College and Academies. The Presbyterians are about to establish one Female Seminary for the three Provinces. Shall we Maritime Baptists, having been united in Foreign Mission work for more than forty years,—in Collegiate Education for more than thirty years,—in Home Mission work from 1851 to 1857, and again from 1878 onward,—in Academic Education since 1874,—shall we now consent to a course of retrogression from the vanquished ground gained? Further than this, shall we not cease to talk and speak and act as New Brunswick Baptists, P. E. I. Baptists and Nova Scotia Baptists? Why can we not be simply *Maritime Baptists* all of us? Why should we not acknowledge that the Bay of Fundy, the Isthmus of Chignecto and Northumberland Strait are *thoroughfares rather than barriers*? Let us unitedly seek to perfect our denominational union, while preserving our Church independence and our individual freedom.