

Had Dr. Crawley obtained the coveted appointment—to human ken this purpose would have been hindered, if not indefinitely postponed—but his rejection was used by infinite wisdom as the hand to ring the bell which called the Baptists to action.—And now looking back through the long vista of the fast receding years the Baptists of to-day reviewing the value of their educational achievements to the Body at large gratefully acknowledge that in Denominational as in individual life

“There is a Divinity that shapes our ends
Rough-hew them how we will.”—

At that time the Baptists were comparatively few in numbers, and of very limited financial ability; it need occasion therefore little surprise if the building and equipment of a College seemed an undertaking beyond their power to compass; but they went bravely forward, fully assured that He who laid the burden on them, would not withhold the needed aid. No blare of trumpets, no public meeting, and no inaugural addresses heralded the advent of the College.

In the beginning of the year 1839 some half dozen youths, of whom the subject of this sketch was one, attended, and passed their matriculation examination, signed the roll, and presto, the College was launched.

It opened modestly, with but two professors—Dr Pryor, and Dr. Crawley, who filled between them the chairs of the different subjects which then comprised the curriculum of the College.

In the commencement of the second year, Mr. Isaac Chipman, just fresh from Waterville, now Colby University, took the chair of Mathematics and Natural Science; he was the first Nova Scotia Baptist, as it is believed who ever won a collegiate degree, for Drs. Crawley and Pryor were not Baptists, but Episcopalians when they graduated from Kings College. In the case of the first students who matriculated, the term was extended to five years, instead of four as at present.

In 1843, the first class consisting of four, graduated. The subject of this sketch and one other survive.

On leaving College, Mr. Johnston studied law in the office of Johnson and Twining and on his admission to the Bar in 1846, was for a time a partner in that firm. He afterwards entered into business for himself; and in 1864 contracted partnership relations with John Y. Payzant which continued until 1876 when he was elevated to the Bench.

In 1871, the Dominion Government commissioned him one of Her Majesty's Counsel learned in the law. He was also appointed an ad hoc judge to try petitions against sitting members of the Dominion Parliament whose return was controverted.

On two different occasions he was a commissioner to revise and consolidate the Provincial statutes.