

always been deeply impressed with regard to the importance of home missions. After the desultory, but nevertheless effective, labors of the first stage in the history of the denomination in these Provinces, there arose a variety of organizations for the propagation of the gospel in destitute places. At the opening of the period which we are reviewing, there were two home-mission boards in Nova Scotia, one in Prince Edward Island and one in New Brunswick. A few brethren became convinced that such narrow and unrelated efforts for the spiritual care of the destitute portions of the country were not the best possible. They desired to see one society directing missionary labor in all parts of the Maritime Provinces. The Nova Scotia Home Mission Union was formed, holding its first meeting in the same year in which our first foreign missionaries were sent forth. This society was accepted by the churches of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Subsequently the constitution of the Convention was changed to include home missions among its objects, and in 1880 the missionary operations of the entire home field came under the control of the Convention. This change has been so recently effected that we are not yet able to compare the conditions of the field under the different systems. But the possibility of more comprehensive plans and of the concentration of labor at important points, the possibility, also, of more permanency in the plans and of the continued devotion of the energy and wisdom of men specially fitted for such service to the maturing and successful accomplishment of far-reaching purposes to care for the neglected thousands in the land and at the same time to build up strong churches in the centres of business and social influence, this possibility should make the next decade conspicuous in comparison with similar periods in the past for the success that should crown the faithful activity of your board in extending and strengthening our denomination in these Provinces.

At a very early day in its history the Convention adopted Acadia College, and became responsible for its support. As the invariable policy has been to make the College as effective as possible for the time being and provide for its enlargement as fast as means could be gathered, its history cannot be divided into very distinctly marked stages of growth; but in the period which is under review some changes have taken place which ought not to be overlooked in estimating what the people have accomplished within that time. In 1872 more than \$20,000 was added to the endowment in connection with the creation of the new scientific professorship. In 1874 enlarged accommodations were provided for the Collegiate Academy at a cost of nearly \$20,000. As a consequence of the discussion