

sustain the old reputation of the Kirk of Scotland. Only four first prizes were given this year; two of them in Classics and two in Mathematics; three out of the four were taken by young men whom we may call "our students." The highest place both in Classics and Mathematics was awarded to Mr. Robert Shaw, of New Perth, P. E. I., who received his preparatory training in the Prince of Wales' College, Charlottetown. As long as that College is under the presidency of Dr. Inglis we may look for ripe scholars and gentlemanly students to come from its halls. When Professors Johnstone and McDonald were handing over to Mr. Shaw the large volumes that were given as prizes, they spoke of him in terms of the highest praise—as a student who would do credit to any institution. The first prize in the Junior Mathematics was awarded to Mr. Aubrey Lippencott, of New Glasgow, whose progress throughout the session has been steady and marked. Mr. John Gow carried off the first prize in Junior Classics. Had prizes been given in the Logic Class, Mr. Gow would have received the first prize in it also, but as it was, he had to be satisfied with hearing his name read out as first.

When the prizes were being awarded, we could not help feeling sorry that so few were given, and that there had not been at least one good prize in each class. Indeed there would have been none at all, had not the Governors at the beginning of the session given ten pounds out of their own pockets to the Professors of Classics and Mathematics for the purpose. Will not our rich men institute medals, money prizes, or even book prizes, in connection with the various classes, and so stimulate and reward the young men who distinguish themselves? Here is a good investment for any liberal minded man. Here is an opportunity of honoring himself and others. Or congregations may endow bursaries to be given to deserving students. Which will be first?

After the prizes had been awarded, excellent advice was tendered to the students by the Chief Justice, the Hon. Joseph Howe, and the Principal, all of which was listened unto most respectfully, and will doubtless be attended to as long as it is borne in mind and as far as practicable. The meeting was closed by the Principal pronouncing the benediction.

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Letter from Rev. John Sprrott to Rev.  
Alex. McKay.

MUSQUODOBOIT, APRIL 20, 1864.

REV. ALEX. MCKAY:

My Dear Sir,—I have just now read an account of your Presbyterian visitations in the County of Pictou. I had always a favorable opinion of the Highlandmen, and the impression has been deepened by the state-

ments of the Presbytery. It appears that Sabbath schools, prayer meetings, and domestic worship, are in full operation. Churches have been built, and debt cleared off, and souls gathered to the Saviour. You throw older communities in the shade. We are delighted to hear that the stream of Christianity is becoming broader and deeper in the beautiful vales of Pictou. The tranquil frame of society favorably contrasts with the olden time, when there was often rough water among the exiles of our Scottish Judah. I came to Nova Scotia about the same time as the Rev. Donald Fraser. His character was assailed with evil reports. The Kirk was said to be a daughter of Samaria; her ministers preached a bare morality; and some of them would not quench their thirst with the liquids which her cold brooks afforded. Unfounded prejudices in time yielded to the force of truth, and died away like the mist of the wave; but while they lasted, they marred the harmony and beauty of our transatlantic Zion. The Pictou Academy was, for many years, an apple of discord, and kept society in a state of excitement like a pot of soda water. It split some congregations like an orange. The Pictou Academy at length found its way to the House of Assembly, and for weeks together shook the floors of legislation with stormy debates. In time it was buried with all the honors of war, without hope of resurrection. In the heat of the battle I visited Pictou on a preaching excursion. I met with a kind reception, and preached to good congregations in bars and school-houses. Pulpits were not then opened to Seceders. Some years afterwards, I asked the Rev. John Martin to assist me at the dispensation of the Lord's Supper. At that time, five of my Elders had been Kirkmen at home, and they were glad to see him. But some of the chief of the Pharisees regarded this as a premature exertion. But as Mr. Martin was as sound as a Covenanter, the matter passed away quietly. Mr. Duff and other brethren visited Musquodoboit. They began to see that a Kirkman could fly as high as the best-feathered eagles among the Antiburghers. I must not impute unworthy motives to our ministers; but I deeply regretted that they did not sooner come to a better feeling with ministers from the North British Church. If the angels of light knew the points of dispute, they must have regarded them more like the amusements of children than serious matters for sober men.

The Church of Scotland, like other Churches, has had her bright days and dark days. At the time of the Disruption, she had nearly lost her lights in Nova Scotia; and the matter might have been worse had not Dr. McGillivray and Mr. Martin stood by her altars and trimmed her fires. I was in Scotland soon after the Disruption. A man could hardly live in Glasgow unless he was a Free Churchman. On steamboats and railroads