

We should have no centennial to-night. To speak only words of truth and soberness, what abundant reason have we at this time for devoutest thankfulness. We may well lift up our hearts and our voices, in wonder, love, and praise. We bless God who gave to our fathers such wisdom—for surely it was wisdom God-given—the wisdom that led them, amid manifold hardships, and privations, with untold pains and toil and self-sacrifice, to lay broad and deep the foundations of the educational institutions to which we are so entirely indebted for whatever of strength and efficiency as a church has been vouchsafed to us. We honor the names of these fathers. I make no recital of them now; but they will be had in everlasting remembrance. They labored, and we have entered into their labors. To them, under God, we owe our present happy position, our hopeful prospect. They have left us indeed a goodly heritage. Let us see to it that we walk in their footsteps, and improve the heritage worthily. God has been very good to us in many ways—in nothing has his goodness to us been more manifest than in his goodness to our colleges, those institutions of learning from which have gone forth from time to time men fitted to occupy any position, some of them actually occupying the very highest places in the field. God hath been mindful of us and blessed us. We are sure that he will bless us still. Therefore will we go on in the strength of the Lord God making mention of His righteousness even of His only. And ever as we go be this our prayer—he Thou the God of their succeeding generations.

THE EDUCATIONAL WORK OF THE FREE CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA.

ADDRESS OF REV. PRINCIPAL FORREST, D. D.
AT THE CENTENARY OF TRURO
PRESBYTERY.

Moderator, Ladies and Gentlemen :

I feel highly honored in being permitted to be present and take part in the proceedings of this evening. When I received your invitation, I felt that it would be more fitting that some older man should occupy the place, and yet when I read the subject on which I was invited to speak, I felt that there was a measure of fitness

in my saying a few words upon it this evening. The subject given to me is "The Educational work of the Free Church of Nova Scotia and the lessons it has for us." I think I may claim to be the nearest heir to the men who founded the Free Church in this Province. The only member of the first Free church Synod whose name is still on the roll, is the Rev. Wm. Duff, of Lunenburg. He came to this country in the year 1842 and for forty years laboured most faithfully in the county of Lunenburg leaving the impress of his life work upon the large county which was the field of his labours. Were he in his usual vigour I know how it would delight him to be present here to-night and take part in this interesting meeting. Often have I heard him speak of the praiseworthy spirit of the old Presbytery of Truro, setting an example in the matter of Union to Antiburghers on the one hand, and Kirkmen on the other. Mr. Duff enjoyed the friendship of the late Dr. McCulloch for a few months, after his arrival in this country, and thoroughly sympathized with his views on education, and the future of Presbyterianism in this Province. No one rejoiced more heartily than he did when in Pictou the first division in our church was ended, and the first step towards complete union was taken. Mr. Duff through age and infirmity, is unable to be present, but as his son-in-law I am here to represent him. There was only one elder present at the meeting of Synod, when the name of the Free Church of Nova Scotia was adopted. That elder proposed the name. It was unanimously adopted. The elder was my father the late Dr. Forrest. The noble and devoted man who introduced the overture for the establishment of a college, and who for years pleaded the cause of ministerial education throughout the whole church, was the Rev. John Stewart of New Glasgow. He baptized me, and during my earlier years, I enjoyed the benefits of his pastoral care and instruction. All of these men deeply loved the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ, and were strongly attached to the little branch of the church with which they were so closely connected. I esteem it a high honor to be permitted to represent them this evening and to say a few words about their strong faith, burning zeal, and self-denying labours.

It is pleasing to note how from the first every branch of the Presbyterian Church