

Free, and now we rejoice in a truly Catholic Presbyterianism; and I fully expect that the gathering on the occasion of the celebration will be one of the most thoroughly Catholic which our age has witnessed. May it be a time of quickening and of impulse, not only to Canada Presbyterianism, but to the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ in which we all are one. With kind regards, Yours sincerely,

J. M. GIBSON.

### Historical Notes.

Rev. W. Reid, D.D., read the following highly interesting historical paper in Knox College. He said:—To trace the course



REV. W. REID, D.D.

and discover the origin of some famous river, or to clear up the beginnings of some of our old and venerable Institutions, has often been a work of laborious toil and patient research, there is no difficulty or trouble, however, in regard to Knox College. It had its origin in 1844.

I need not dwell upon the events which issued in what is known as the Disruption in the Church of Scotland, which took place in 1843, and the formation of the Free Church of Scotland, or of the corresponding events which took place here in July, 1844, resulting in the organization of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and its separation from the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland.

Whatever views may have been held at the time, especially as to the change in this country, few I think will now deny that the movement referred to, has in the Providence and under the blessing of God been the means of great good to the Presbyterian Church in Canada and has tended to its increased activity and energy, its missionary zeal and its spiritual life. We can now rejoice that the streams parted by the rocks and shoals, which had been encountered, have again flowed together, and now pursue their united course, cheering, gladdening and blessing our wide Dominion.

After the organization of the new Synod, one of the very first things which engaged its attention was the consideration of the arrangements for the education of theological students, and the preparatory studies of devoted young men aiming at the Gospel Ministry. Queen's College had just been started under a Royal Charter, but of course the altered circumstances in which the newly organized Synod was placed, and the fact that the larger number of students who had entered at Queen's, had decided to connect themselves with the new Synod, made it necessary to take steps for the education of young men for the ministry. Before the close of the first meeting of Synod, at Kingston, in July, 1844, there was a recommendation issued to Presbyteries to look out young men of pious character and suitable gifts, and to use all competent means for directing and forwarding their education; and at the second meeting of Synod, which took place at Toronto, on the 9th of Oct., 1844, the matter was considered at length. While on a few points there was some diversity of opinion, it was the unanimous sentiment of the brethren that Toronto should be for the present, the seat of the Institution, that provision should be made for strictly theological teaching, and for instruction in the preparatory branches of education, and for extending the greatest possible facilities for students in both departments, especially a low rate of board and lodging, and that in the preliminary stages of their course, young men should avail themselves of tuition from without the Institution in particular branches of study, as far as this might be found practicable.

At the first meeting, the Synod offered to the Rev. Henry Esson, M.A., then of Montreal, the care of the students in the Literary and Scientific Departments. After some consideration this offer was accepted by Mr. Esson. The Synod also agreed to appoint the Rev. Andrew King, of Glasgow, a deputy of the Free Church of Scotland, to take charge of the Divinity students during the first session. The Rev. Mr. King was a well read Theologian, and although he undertook the duty at short notice, he proved himself well qualified for the position. The Synod farther, in view of the Rev. Dr. Robt. Burns, of Paisley, accepting a call from Knox Church, Toronto, expressed the desire that he should undertake the duties of interim Professor, until permanent arrangements should be made, and the question of separating the pastoral and professorial offices should be determined.

The Theological Institution was opened on November 5th, 1844, with seven students whose names were:—Angus McColl, John M. Munro, Robt. Wallace, Patrick Gray, John Scott, James Nisbet, D. A. McInnes.

For the time they met in a room in Professor Esson's house on James street. The name "Knox College" was not given till the Synod of 1846, when after full consideration that designation was adopted.

I shall not dwell on all the changes and arrangements made from time to time and from year to year, but shall just give a general statement of the persons who took part in the work of the College, and especially of the succession of members of the staff of Instructors.

Dr. Michael Willis, of Glasgow, who was in the country as a deputy of the Free Church, taught theology in the Session 1845-46, while Dr. Burns conducted the Church History class, and the Rev. Mr. Rintoul, of Streetsville, gave instruction in Hebrew. Mr. Rintoul had been educated in the University of Edinburgh, and was well qualified for the work which he undertook. Rev. Mr. McCorkle, of St. Ninians, Scotland, conducted the studies of the theological classes in 1846-47. The Rev. Alex. Gale, formerly of Hamilton, and who had been appointed Principal of the Toronto Academy, an Institution established for the preparatory studies of young men preparing for the ministry, as well as other young men, gave instruction in classics, in which department Rev. John Laing, now Dr. Laing, of Dundas, also gave instruction. The College was transferred to a house on Front street, now included in the Queen's Hotel.

Hitherto the Rev. H. Esson was the only Professor permanently engaged in conducting the classes, but in 1846, after corresponding with the Free Church of Scotland, in reference to a permanent Professor of Divinity, the Rev. Dr. John Bayne, of Galt, one of the ablest leaders of the Church, was deputed to go to Scotland and was empowered to choose a Professor of Divinity, and also another to labor as tutor or professor in some other department. As the result of Dr. Bayne's enquiries and consultations, Dr. Willis was appointed and came out to Knox College in December, 1847. The chair to which he was appointed, that of Systematic Theology, he occupied for upwards of twenty years, with distinguished ability, giving, by his clear and sound statements of doctrine, his ripe scholarship, especially in theology, and his powerful and eloquent preaching, a character to the Institution which it has not yet lost, and I trust will not lose. He was appointed Principal of the College in 1857. Dr. Burns, meanwhile, still conducted the Church History class, and Mr. Rintoul taught Hebrew, until, in consequence of changes in the University, it was not necessary to continue Hebrew Knox College. Mr. Rintoul, who was afterwards minister of St. Gabriel's church, Montreal, died in 1851, while on a missionary visit to Metis. He was a truly good man and his removal was deeply lamented.

For a time Rev. Wm. Lyall from the Free Church, acted as Professor of Classical Literature and general mental training, but in 1848 he accepted an appointment as Professor at Halifax, in connection with the Free Church there, and afterwards filled an appointment at Dalhousie College.

The Rev. Henry Esson died in 1853, having discharged the duties of the Professorship since 1844. He was an excellent general scholar, an ardent student and an enthusiastic teacher. He was succeeded by the Rev. George P. Young, of Hamilton, afterwards Dr. Young. The charge to which he was appointed embraced the departments of Logic, Mental and Moral Philosophy and the Evidences of Natural and Revealed Religion. In 1856 he was relieved of the latter department, which was assigned to Dr. Burns along with Church History. Professor Young brought to his work thorough scholarship and extraordinary zeal and enthusiasm as a teacher.

In 1861 the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, were united under the name of the Canada Presbyterian Church. Up to that time the Rev. Dr. John Taylor had been Professor of Divinity of the United Presbyterian Church, the duties of which he discharged with great ability and success.

Knox College continued its work with Principal Willis, Dr. Burns and Professor Young, but in 1866 Dr. Burns and Prof. Young tendered their resignations, which were accepted. The Synod at the same time expressed its strong sense of the ability and efficiency of both Professors.

Although Dr. Burns formally resigned his Professorship, he continued in various ways to manifest his interest in the College. For some years, temporary arrangements were made for conducting several departments of the Institution. Rev. Dr. W. Caven, of St. Mary's, now Principal Caven, Rev. Dr. Gregg, Rev. Dr. R. Ure and Rev. Dr. Topp, of Knox Church, Toronto, kindly and most efficiently gave their services in several departments. In 1866, Dr. Caven was appointed Professor of Exegetical Theology, Evidences and Biblical Criticism. Dr. Ure, of Goderich, was appointed the following year to lecture on Evidences, which appointment he held with great ability till 1869. In 1867 Rev. Dr. J. J. A. Proudfoot, was appointed Lecturer in Homiletics and Pastoral Theology, an appointment which he has held to the present time with great credit and success.

In 1870 Principal Willis resigned his Professorship, having for upwards of twenty years discharged the duties with great ability. Temporary arrangements were made for a time. Dr. David Inglis, formerly of Hamilton, was appointed to succeed Dr. Willis in 1871, but held the appointment only for one year. He was succeeded by Rev. Wm. MacLaren, D. D., the present able and highly esteemed Professor. In 1873 Rev. Dr. Gregg was appointed to the chair of Apologetics and Church History. For some years Church History had been taught by Rev. John Campbell, now Professor Campbell of Montreal College.

Dr. Geo. P. Young, in the meantime, had returned to Knox College conducting the classes in Greek and Latin and in Moral Philosophy till 1871 when he was appointed to the department of Metaphysics and Ethics in the University of Toronto. I need not say, indeed no one could say, how much Knox College and the University of Toronto owe to the distinguished ability, the ripe