

connected with this matter from beginning to end, and after they have impartially examined the extent and character of the work to be done, the certain prospect of the vast intellectual and religious results on a large scale, and the ability, enthusiasm and devotion of the newly appointed Professor, they, I am persuaded, will not only feel satisfied with what has been done, but they will see that they have reason to thank the governing bodies of the College for this "new departure."

THE HISTORY OF THE BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS.

To show the public that the business, transacted in creating the professorship of education in Acadia College, as well as in Dr. Rand's appointment, was fairly and honorable done, and not as it has been described by Mr. Barsa and others, I will give a plain outline of its history. These details are intended to refute the reports now current and evidently believed by some, and among them, strange to say, by Mr. Barsa himself, who, at his time of life, ought to know how misleading flying rumors are likely to be. Any knowledge that I have of the matter has been obtained since the Convention decided to transfer its theological work to Toronto, and since Professor Tufts resigned his place in the College. Before this I had not heard even so much as a hint that a chair of education was thought of for Acadia College; nor had any one in Halifax, interested in the college so far as I know, any earlier knowledge of the movement than myself. Although some of us, were, up to this time, entirely uninformed, yet others, in whom I, in common with the denomination, have great confidence, had for months been carefully considering the whole subject. Foremost among these was the president of the college; and was not this as it should have been? From his position as President is it not expected of him that he will wisely plan for the enlargement and up-building of our institutions? He is not unaware of his responsibilities. If he had needed any healthy stimulus in this direction, he certainly has had it within the last few years. Are we to suppose the president of Acadia College has been an indifferent spectator of the wise and far reaching policy of Dalhousie College? The able and successful plans of Principal Ross have been made plain enough to be seen even by the blind. To strengthen his arts course an efficient professor is taken from the staff of President Sawyer. When it is decided to establish another faculty, another professor is captured at Sackville and carried off to begin a law school. Has Dr. Sawyer been sitting by listlessly gazing at the development of these carefully laid plans? No. He too has been making arrangements for the future. He saw that the services of Dr. Rand, could they be secured, would do much to advance

the best interests of Acadia College. In this matter his perfect knowledge of the man qualified him to be an impartial and independent judge. He had known him as a student in his classes, as a teacher in Horton Academy and the Normal School at Truro; and as the superintendent of education in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In this case our president understood the needs of the college, and knew the ability and rare experience of the man. He knew that a man, who had successfully superintended, through great difficulties, the building up and perfecting of two complete systems of public education, would add much to the reputation and working power of Acadia College.

Here I would remind Mr. Barsa and those whose opinions he has adopted, that the Baptists of these Provinces have in the past trusted Dr. Sawyer as a wise and able leader. He has ever proved himself worthy of their confidence. Has he ever led them into any serious embarrassment? After the burning of college buildings he said, it is important to build a seminary for young ladies as well as a college for the students. It will be successful and give good returns. But Mr. Barsa said it is ruinous to go into debt, and it has not been submitted to the convention. Dr. Sawyer said it is wise, embark in it. The governors took his advice. To-day not even one word is needed to justify the course adopted, although a large debt was incurred by it. The denomination has practically said, by wiping out that debt, popular assemblies are not the places for determining the policy and developing the plans of our institutions of learning. This, we entrust to our president and to the governing bodies.

Are then these writers, anonymons and otherwise, not wise and otherwise, but altogether otherwise, to be followed rather than president Sawyer? Do these dealers in fugitive and groundless rumors assume to take the reins out of Dr. Sawyer's hands, and become the guides of educational affairs for the Baptists of these Provinces? I am strongly inclined to the belief that they will have a slight preference for following their old professional leader. They have not yet decided that the president, professors, senate and governors are a number of wire-pullers, "plotting in secret," and doing their work "in dark corners." In my opinion the Baptists are a little disposed to hesitate before assuming that Dr. Sawyer is designing unworthy things and plotting with others in secret. Rather indisposed are they, so I shall for the present assume to regard him in this light, or as a blind leader of the blind. When the public come to hear the president on this subject at the next convention, if it shall be necessary for him to speak, a subject concerning which there may be grave doubts, it will be apparent even to the retailers of whims and fancies, that in the matter of establishing a chair of education and in the election of Dr. Rand to fill it, the president has gone forward with his eyes wide open.