

# British American Presbyterian

Vol. 4—No. 36.]

TORONTO, CANADA, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1875.

[Whole No. 192]

## KNOX COLLEGE.

### OPENING OF THE NEW BUILDING.

The new home for Knox College, the foundation stone of which was laid with befitting honours seventeen months ago, was formally opened on Wednesday, 8th inst., in the presence of a large and distinguished company. The occasion was an auspicious one, following season after the consummation of union between the Presbyterian bodies of the Dominion. The event furnished additional proof of the determination of the United Church to follow the course adopted by the brethren in the Mother Country, in providing educational institutions where students may obtain high-class instruction in theological studies, thereby securing a body of learned ministers for the Church. The United Church is now pledged to its support, and under the fostering care of the General Assembly the institution cannot fail to perform more effective work in a wider field. Although dependent upon voluntary contributions for the means to erect the new building as well as to provide the annual income, the College authorities have succeeded in carrying their design to completion with marked success. Towards the estimated cost of the edifice as completed, \$144,000, no less than \$116,000 has been promised, and upward of \$52,000 paid. The ordinary expenditure for the year is placed at \$11,000, and this will no doubt be met by the liberality of friends of the cause. The session was opened on Friday last with a complete staff of able and energetic professors, comprising Rev. W. Caven, D.D., Principal, and Professor of Exegetical Theology; Rev. W. Gregg, M.A., Professor of Apologetics and Church History; Rev. W. McLaren, Professor of Systematic Theology; Rev. Dr. Proudfoot, Lecturer on Homiletics and Pastoral Theology; A. M. Hamilton, M.A., and W. A. Wilson, B.A., Classical Teachers; Professor Taverner, Teacher of Eloquence.

Two years ago the College Board, with the consent of the Assembly, made an appeal to the friends of Presbyterianism for aid in the erection of a new home for the College, which appeal was shortly responded to, and the work soon afterwards entered upon. The result of the energy of the College Board and professors, and of the liberality of friends of the cause, is seen in the handsome edifice just opened, and of which we give an illustration this week.

### THE COLLEGE BUILDING.

occupies a splendid site on the Crescent, which occupies the centre of Spadina avenue, just north of College street. The design is Gothic. The block is planned in the form of the letter E, and is built of white brick, with stone trimmings. An exceedingly effective and artistic appearance has been obtained by relieving the outline of the building with a handsome tower, 150 feet high, flanked on each side with stone pillars, carved stone capitals, tracery heads, and surmounted with moulded pediments and carved stone finials. The facade fronting the avenue has a length of 280 feet, and there are wings running north, each 150 feet long. The main entrance lobby, under the tower, is 15 feet wide, the floor covered with encaustic tiles, the roof being groined with oak moulded ribs resting on carved stone corbels. To the right and left of the main entrance are corridors ten feet wide, with arches at intervals, leading to the various class rooms, Professors' rooms, lecture room, and dining hall. Of the class rooms two are constructed to accommodate eighty students each, and two for fifty each. On the ground floor are also the Secretary's room, four rooms for Professors, Senate room, Visitors' room, kitchen, laundry, and other domestic offices, over which are servants' rooms. With a view to safety, the boiler room is placed outside the central portion of the main building, and is in connection with the cellars. Passing up a heavy oak staircase the first floor is reached. In a central position is the Library, 50 feet long by 80 feet wide, with reading rooms opening into it. Over the Library is the Museum, with handsome timbered roof. The Lecture Hall is a handsome apartment, high and well-ventilated. Opposite the platform at the east end is a gallery approached by a stair running up in a tower over the east entrance, and also from the first floor. The hall has a rich open timbered roof, and the windows are decorated with tinted glass. The building contains thirty-six rooms for students, each room averaging fourteen feet by twenty feet, thus affording accommodation for about eighty resident pupils. The bath-rooms, etc., are very complete. The heating will be done by steam, and the different apartments will be ventilated by a system of flues connected with the boilers. The roof is covered with slates laid on felt. The work has been carried to a successful completion under the direction of a committee connected with the college. The architects were Messrs. Smith & Gommell; the contractors, T. Hughes, brickwork; John Eason, stonework; J. Plenderleith, carpenter; J. Farrell, plasterer; J. McCauland, painter; — Bennis, slater.

### THE OPENING CEREMONY.

The attendance of the friends of the institution at the opening ceremony was exceedingly large, the floor and gallery of the room being crowded with an audience comprising many ladies. The proceedings were characterized by much earnestness for the future welfare of the College, and the addresses of the representatives of the different educational institutions connected with the Presbyterian Church were listened to with much attention and frequently applauded.

College, Quebec, presided. Among those on, and in the immediate vicinity of, the platform were Rev. Principal Caven and the Professors of Knox College; Rev. Dr. Proudfoot; Rev. Dr. McCaul, of Toronto University; Rev. Principal Snodgrass, of Queen's College, Kingston; Rev. Mr. Berminger, of Montreal Presbyterian College; Revs. Dr. Topp, John Bourne, Fraser (Bendhead), Wilson, Dr. Bell, D. J. Macdonell, J. G. Robb, W. Reid, T. Macpherson, Warden, J. MacTavish, J. M. King, J. Wardrop, J. Gray, Hon. John McMurtrie, Rev. John Potts, of the Wesleyan Metropolitan Church, and Rev. F. H. Marling, Bond St. Congregational Church; Dr. J. G. Hodgins.

Church and the conversion of the world. That was eminently valuable at the present day, because this was a peculiarly trying age for the ministry. The erection of the new college building indicated moreover the belief of the Church that it should have an educated ministry, and that it was determined to have such, cost what it might. They knew how much importance our Lord attached to this qualification, for He passed three years of His life in teaching those who were to be the first preachers of Christianity. Although the apostles could not be called learned men, as the term is used at the present day in regard to distinguished philosophers or public men, they were sufficiently educated to

in discharging the official duty, which somewhat singularly devolves on me, of formally giving you in trust, and placing under your care for the use of the institution over which you preside, the splendid building in which we are now assembled. It cannot be a source of satisfaction to every member of the Presbyterian Church in Canada that one portion of that Church, and that only a portion of one of the bodies in the now united Church, has had such just views of the office of the ministry, and of the need there is that candidates for that office should be wisely and carefully trained for the discharge of its duties, as to make provision so ample and commodious for the purpose of theological education.

be endowed as well as placed in this handsome building. It must be rescued from seeking an almost elementary support in annual collections among the congregations of the church. No academic institution, no Theological Seminary of any high character, can stand long or stand respectably without endowment either from public or private sources. The claims of such bodies, because not of a nature to be fully understood by the general public, do not meet with general sympathy. They must be met either by the State or by wealthy members of the church. The plan of taking up annual collections in the different congregations of the church may do for a time—must do, indeed, till endowments come unsought or till circumstances become favorable for seeking them. Both will in progress of time come about. This building is itself a partial endowment, and it will certainly lead to others. Already there is assurance of one large bequest, and more will follow. The very sight of this building, from time to time, will suggest the endowment of chairs, and the instituting of scholarships. And to wealthy members of the church who may have few claims on them, it will occur to think in the final disposal of their property, that a portion of it cannot be better bestowed than in meeting and supplying the wants of an institution whose object is to supply the church with thoroughly trained ministers of the Gospel. But the gifts of the living are more to be valued than the bequests of the dead for they are indications of that self-denial and self-sacrifice which our great Head himself exemplified, and which, in their measure, he expects from his followers. And for such gifts I think we may also confidently look. The Canadian Church must not, according to its means, fall behind the Churches in Scotland or in the States. In this period of general depression it might be unwise to originate any effort for endowment, but that depression is not always to continue, and with returning prosperity, I do confidently trust and expect that little difficulty will be found in giving Knox College the permanent endowment which it requires for the full performance of its sacred work. (Applause.)

Rev. Principal Caven said they all felt that the event of today was one of much interest in their history as a theological college and in the history of theological education in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. He briefly recapitulated the history of Knox College. Time would not permit him to recount the names of the services rendered to this theological institution by the eminent men who had taught in it in time past, but he might state that during the existence of the college about 400 names had been enrolled in it. Besides those who had finished their course on earth and those who were still labouring in other lands and other churches, there remained in the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada about 180 who had received their complete theological training in Knox College. He counted in this number those who were trained in the United Presbyterian Church previous to the Union of 1861, because after that union that institution became the one logical institution of the Church, and remained so until 1867, when their vigorous younger sister in Montreal commenced her labours with so much success. As one who had borne some humble part in the canvass to which allusion had been made, he might be allowed to say that nothing could be heartier than the response of the Church when his appeal was made to it. There were individuals who did not see the necessity of going to any great expense in a theological institution, but far more than nine-tenths of the people took up the matter intelligently and heartily, and with so much zeal that a work which would have been quite laborious, which was in fact laborious, was nevertheless carried through with a great deal of sympathy and encouragement, and so far that before it became necessary for the professors to give it up its success was entirely assured. He should like to endorse what Dr. Proudfoot had said as to the opportunities which they had of speaking to their people upon the whole question of educating the ministry. Their statements on this subject were made in almost 150 congregations of the Church. They represented the great importance of the Church bestowing the very best education—literary and theological—which it possibly could upon its ministers; but what was nearer to their hearts than this was the duty resting upon Christian ministers and Christian parents of looking out and encouraging and stimulating young men whose characters and qualifications seemed to point them out as proper persons to study for the holy ministry, because their conviction was that there were young men in all their congregations, sometimes of fine attainments, but of great modesty, whom the minister and pious parents, by speaking at the proper time, might well encourage, and this without invading a province too sacred for them to enter, or assuming to do what it was the exclusive prerogative of the Divine Spirit to do; for, though they believed in an educated ministry, they at the same time believed that none except those called by God and by His grace, those to whom he gave the intellectual and spiritual gifts which were necessary, could be expected to prosper in the work. The erection of this building and the increased magnitude thereby given to the work of theological education necessarily committed them to a larger annual expenditure. He had no doubt this would be met by the intelligence of the Christian people and by the zeal of the Church, and he would not think it necessary to do more. (Continued on 4th page.)

After devotional exercises, conducted by the Moderator,

Rev. Principal Caven read letters of apology for non-attendance from Rev. D. Hodge, of Queenston; Rev. Dr. John Hall, of New York; and Principal Dawson, of McGill College, Montreal. The last named gentleman promised to be present on Friday and lecture in the College.

Rev. Dr. Proudfoot, Chairman of the Board of Management of Knox College, addressed the meeting. As Chairman of the Board, he said, it became his duty to hand over the new building to the Chairman as Moderator of the General Assembly, but in doing so he desired to offer a few remarks in reference to the erection of the College. It was well known that for a long time the accommodation at the old college was felt to be totally inadequate. It was felt that it did not properly represent the resources of the Church or the interest which it unquestionably felt in ministerial education. The Board, therefore, determined in October, 1872, to take steps to procure a more suitable building for the college, and subscriptions were solicited with that object. Those efforts fortunately proved so successful that, when the Assembly met in June, 1873, the Board were able to report that the subscription list had reached \$40,000. He was gratified to be in a position to state that for this fact they were mainly indebted to the professors of Knox College, whose labours had been supplemented by those of Rev. Mr. Warden, who in November last was appointed canvassing agent. The probable cost of the building when finished would reach \$140,000, of which \$116,000 had been already subscribed, and \$52,000 actually paid. (Applause.) It was, therefore, confidently anticipated that when the canvass was completed, the college would be free from debt. The Board, moreover, still held the old college building and site, which could not be disposed of at the present time to advantage, and the proceeds from which, when sold, would be applied with any surplus subscriptions, to carrying out the recommendation of the last Assembly, to have, if possible, houses erected for the professors. (Applause.) He was free to confess that it was not at first intended to erect an edifice so costly as that just completed, but as the subscriptions flowed in the ideas of the Board expanded, (laughter,) and they felt that if the congregations yet unvisited were to subscribe according to their means the requisite amount would easily be raised. Without appearing to be invidious, he thought that great praise was due to the Chairman of the Building Committee, Hon. Mr. McMurtrie, for his indefatigable labours. The canvass for subscriptions had been conducted chiefly by the professors, who endeavoured to set before the Church the claims of the College; so that the money that had been given had been subscribed discriminatingly, the persons knowing full well the object contemplated. He, therefore, viewed the new building, not merely as a place which would accommodate properly the students, but as an expression of the confidence of the Presbyterian Church on some important points. It indicated the confidence which the Church has in the Christian ministry as the instrument appointed by God for the edification of the

appear to advantage in any ordinary society. Men who could in addition to their own language speak and write Hebrew and Greek, the two learned languages, could not be called unlearned. Not only so, but in the early ages of Christianity the great and distinguished men were always men of culture whose writings were monuments of their learning. The great reformation of the sixteenth century, to which we were so much indebted, was brought about mainly by the instrumentality of thoroughly educated men. The truth was that uneducated men, as preachers at least, had done very little permanent good to the Church of Christ. They had done good work as pioneers in new countries and in heathen lands, but their labours were almost inevitably succeeded either by a reign of scepticism and irreligion, or by educated men as preachers. An educated ministry was urgently needed at the present day. The ministry had to contend with the press, with popular lecturers, and with cheap publications. If a minister was not educated he must be placed at a very great disadvantage, and through his incompetency to present effectively the truth he did an injury to the cause of Christ. He did not contend that the minister ought always to be the best educated man in his congregation, but he ought to be the best educated man in his own special department—theology. (Applause.) If he was not so educated he could not long maintain his position. Any college which bore the name of Knox could not be intended to afford any education but that of Presbyterianism. He thought that Presbyterianism was rising in this age to a higher position than it had ever occupied in the past. An evidence of this was found in the fact that a great many other Churches were introducing Presbyterian element into their system: Synods, a large lay representation in Church Courts, and increased power to these Courts. The recent meeting at London, England, where an attempt was made to unite in one body the whole Presbyterian family, was another evidence of the power of Presbyterianism. Under such circumstances they would be unworthy of their position as supporters of the principles of the Church if they were ashamed to defend and advocate them at the present day; they would be unworthy of the grand history of the Church if they would not put forth adequate efforts at this most interesting juncture of their history. A great work was assigned for the Presbyterian Church to perform in this Dominion in forming and consolidating the religious character of the people. The Church was beginning to realize this fact, and was putting forth an energy which at one time was hardly dreamed of. He trusted that would prove but a beginning of great and good things. With those bright prospects and ardent hopes before them, he had great pleasure in handing over that noble edifice to the Moderator of the General Assembly, as the representative of the Church, at the same time expressing his most ardent desires and fervent prayers to God that nothing incompatible with sound Presbyterianism and strong, vigorous, life-giving doctrine would ever be heard within its walls. (Long applause.)

The Moderator, addressing Principal Caven, then said:—“I have great pleasure

And it must be equally a source of satisfaction to every member of the Presbyterian Church in Canada that there is such a body as that before me in whose hands to place the trust now given, and to the members of which the Church can look with confidence for the able and faithful discharge of the various duties which devolve on them. It is, I am sure, the universal wish and prayer throughout the Church that this building may ever remain consecrated to the sacred purpose for which it has been erected, and that from year to year, and throughout successive generations, there may go forth from its walls men prepared to enter with knowledge and zeal, with fidelity and acceptance, on the work of the Christian ministry. To you, gentlemen, in the name of the Church for whose benefit and extension in this land it has been erected, I again formally commit it, trusting and praying that you may long be spared to give to the youth that assemble in it the benefit of your learned and pious labours, and to enjoy the satisfaction of witnessing the fruit of these labours in the enlightened character and Christian exertions of those whom you send forth into the vineyard of the Lord. (Applause.) Having discharged this official duty, allow me to say that while I cannot help feeling in some degree incongruous that I should be found taking a leading part in this day's solemnity, being comparatively a stranger, and having had no share whatever in the constituting of Knox College or in the erection of the noble building in which it is now to be located. Yet my appearance here to-day is not altogether unsuitable. For it is the plain, manifest, and unmistakable sign and symbol of that union which has recently been so happily and heartily consummated. (Cheers.) It gives too, opportunity to express on the part of those who like myself preside over and take part in the work of the other theological seminaries of the Church, that as there should not be, so neither shall there be, any jealousy of one another's prosperity—nor any rivalry among us, except what is fair and honourable, and for the Church's good, to raise the character and extend the attainments of our students. And further, my appearance here to-day, having come all the way from the distant capital of Canada, may be taken as a token that though the different portions of the church be removed at large distances from one another there runs a common and kindly feeling through the whole, and already there is felt what will daily increase—the sympathy which is suitable in a body all the members of which are bound to care for one another, and of which “whether one member suffer all the members suffer with it, or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.” There is honor done this day to the Principal and Professors of Knox College, and the Church rejoices in it—recognizing the value of the work they have done and the work they are continuing to do. And there is honor due to the Christian people whose enterprise and liberality have conferred so valuable a gift upon the church, and the church gladly and gratefully renders that honor. (Applause.) But I should fail in my duty if I did not take the opportunity of saying that more yet needs to be done. Knox College needs to

KNOX COLLEGE.

