

MANITOBA COLLEGE.

PROGRESS OF THIS INSTITUTION IN TWO DECADES.

Address by Rev. Dr. Bryce before the Literary Society—The several Buildings which have sheltered the Students.

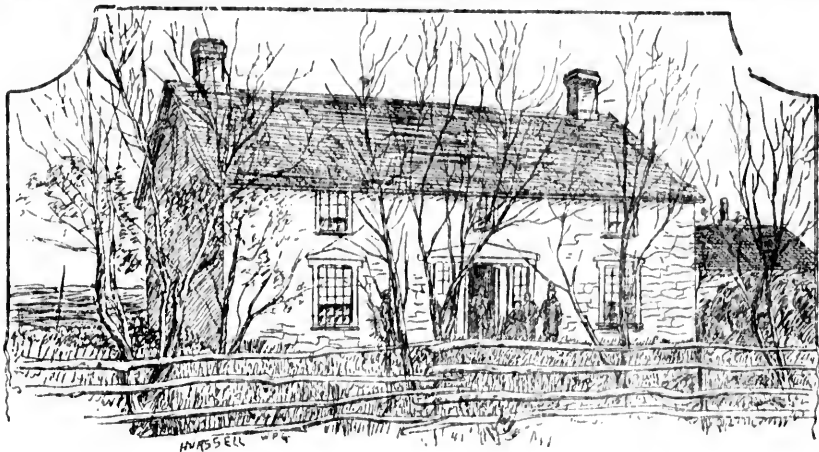
At the open meeting of the Manitoba College Literary Society, held on the evening of October 22, 1891, in the lecture room of Knox church, the following interesting paper was read by Rev. Dr. Bryce on "Early Reminiscences of Manitoba College":—

A scene of twenty years ago comes vividly to the writer's mind to night. He was in Kildonan (October 1871), and in the study of the Presbyterian pioneer of Manitoba, the Rev. John Black. Frasers, and Sutherlands, and others of the clausmen of Kildonan, a dozen or so, had gathered together at what may be called the first board meeting of Manitoba College. The writer had but lately come from Toronto commissioned by the General Assembly to begin the new college, and the represen-

the honored names of the settlement, such as Selkirk or Kildonan would be appropriate, but the writer's suggestion that the name of the new province so lately established would be very suitable was at length adopted, and the infant institution was called Manitoba College.

PRECEDING STEPS.

Kildonan, established as a separate parish on the arrival of Rev. John Black in 1851, had not been slack in the matter of education. For the greater part of the twenty years following this beginning the parish, had by subscription maintained a good school. Among its teachers had been the Rev. Alexander Matheson, who has lately returned to this province, Adam McBeth and Alexander Ross, both now



MANITOBA COLLEGE (1871 2).

tatives of the Selkirk settlers were assembled to set agoing the enterprise. The Rev. Mr. Black, who was a man of fervor and hope, now saw what he had desired for many a year about to be accomplished, and was in high spirits. The prospects of obtaining students were discussed, and the probability of eight or ten young men coming forward for the first class seemed good. The necessity for pushing on and completing the half finished building was admitted, and arrangements were made for temporary class rooms. A considerable discussion arose as to the name to be given the college. Some of the true-blues insisted on the word "Presbyterian" being in some way incorporated, others thought one of

dead, James Harper and James Murray. The school had become the best parish school in the settlement. In the year before the rebellion, the Rev. David Whimster, at that time a student, had come to Red River as teacher of this school, and had given educational matters in Kildonan a decided impulse. Local complications had led to a number of the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company encouraging the people of Kildonan to begin an institution of higher learning, and a subscription—liberal for those days—was begun for its establishment. An energetic committee had been chosen, and at the time of the arrival of the writer in October, 1871, the building (plate 2) was half erected. The college was of log, built in Red