

*III.—THE GERRISH STREET PERIOD.**1848-1878.*

BY REV. PRESIDENT FORREST, D. D.

THE Free Church of Nova Scotia was organized in 1844. It consisted of a mere handful of weak, scattered congregations, very few of which were able to raise anything like an adequate salary for their ministers. But the devoted band of men who formed the Synod were not actuated by selfish motives. The country required ministers, and in spite of their poverty they resolved to start a college for the training of a native ministry. In the language of one of their own reports they resolved, that "It was necessary to institute, first, a College for imparting instruction in the higher branches that must be studied in preparation for the ministry; and secondly, an Academy for communicating instruction in the classics, &c., of a higher character than could be obtained in the common schools of the country, and which, notwithstanding, would be necessary to prepare the students for prosecuting with advantage the more advanced studies to which they would have to give themselves in the College." As it is with the Theological Hall we are dealing now, we will pass over the Academy and the Arts Department of the College. In 1848, Rev. Andrew King arrived from Scotland, and for six years he was the only Professor in Theology. In 1855, Mr. McKnight was appointed Tutor in Hebrew. From that time till the union in 1860, Professors King and McKnight formed the staff of the Theological Hall. The Gerrish Street building was purchased in 1852. After the union, Dr. Smith was removed from Truro to Halifax, and the Gerrish Street College became the Theological Hall of the United Church. Dr. King was made Professor of Systematic Theology and Church History; Dr. Smith, Professor of Exegetical Theology;