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## KNOX COLLEGE.

### Interesting Ceremony.

#### History and Prospects of the Institution

Last Thursday one of the most important events in the history of the Presbyterian Church in this country transpired when the foundation stone of Knox College was laid. As will be seen from the statement of Principal Caven, published in full below, this is an institution which has passed through almost every grade of tribulation, so far as external difficulties have been concerned, but it is a matter for congratulation that since the commencement there has been a steady progress, and that the work has, in every department, shown marked signs of efficient and faithful labor. It is, therefore, an occasion of which the entire Presbyterian should be proud, that this building should have been commenced under such favourable circumstances, with such good prospects that in the very near future it will stand entirely free from debt, and that additional facilities will thereby be afforded for carrying on the work which, during the past thirty years, has shown such magnificent results.

#### PLAN OF THE BUILDING.

The building now in course of erection is on the Crescent, a little north of College-street and opposite Spadina-avenue, is designed in the Gothic style of architecture, and a plan is in the form of the letter E. The main entrance is on the east side, and is 230 feet in length, and the wings running north and south are each 160 feet in length. The main entrance is under a lofty tower of 180 feet in height, and is flanked on each side with stone-pilars with carved stone capitals, tracery heads, and surmounted with moulded pediments and carved stone finials. The main entrance lobby under tower will be grained with oak moulded ribs resting on carved stone corbels. The floor will be laid with encaustic tiles.

The main entrance hall is 15 feet wide, with a heavy oak staircase opposite it, leading to the library, museum, reading-rooms, &c.; then to the right and left of this main entrance are the corridors, 10 feet wide, with arcades at intervals, leading to the various class-rooms, professors' rooms, lecture-room, and dining hall.

There are two class-rooms holding 80 students each, and two holding 50 each. On the ground floor are the Secretary's room, four Professor's rooms, Sonatoroom, visitors' room, kitchen, laundry, wash room, housekeeper's apartments, &c.; over these are the servants' rooms, and under are the cellars.

The boiler-room is outside the central portion of the main building, and connected with the coal cellars, &c.

On the first floor in the centre of the building is the library, 60 feet long and 80 feet wide, with reading-rooms opening out of it at each end.

Over the library is the museum, with a handsome timbered roof.

There are 86 rooms for the students, each room averaging 14 feet by 20 feet, thus giving accommodation for about 80 resident students.

The building will be heated by steam, and ventilated with a system of flues connected with a rarefied air shaft around the boiler chimney flue.

There are bath rooms and water closets on each flat for the use of professors and students.

The building is being erected with white brick, with stone base courses, belt, strings, sills, and door steps, moulded drips to windows with carved bosses, stone angle columns to tower, with carved capitals. The upper windows of the tower will have moulded and carved balconies, supported on carved stone corbels.

All the gable copings will be of stone, with wrought iron terminals.

The windows of the lecture hall will have stone jambs and sills, resting on moulded stone strings with moulded drips, and bosses over them.

The Lecture Hall will have a rich open-worked hammer-beam roof. At the west end of this hall is the gallery, approached by a stair running up in a tower over the side entrance.

The whole of the roofs are to be covered with slate laid on felt.

It is expected that the building will be completed this fall, as most of the wood and masonry work is already prepared, and on the ground.

#### THE CEREMONY.

An assembly at the ceremony was peculiarly large, and much interest was manifested in the proceedings notwithstanding the very cold wind which prevailed.

Among those present we noticed Professors—Prof. Wallace, Rev. W. Reid, Rev. Prof. Caven, Rev. Mr. McDonnell, Rev. Mr. Morrison, Rev. J. M. King, Rev. W. Frisvold, Rev. W. Burns, Perth; J. N. Anderson, Paris; M. Fraser, Barrie; B. N. Ingersoll, F. M. James, Paris; J. H. Bell, Hamilton; J. Woodrope, Guelph; J. Hughes, Cobourg; Dr. Thornton, Oshawa; M. Johnston, J. H. Croley, Millbank; J. Thompson, Barrie; R. Pottgrew, West-Down; B. Cameron, Bradford; J. Beckett, Toronto; Bruce, Newmarket; Ewing, Toronto; Ballantyne, Whitby; D. H. Kerr, Hamilton; J. Scott, London; P.

J. McEam, Drummondville; T. McPherson, Stratford; K. Hamilton, Aronbank; J. L. Murray, Woodville. Hon. A. McKellar, Messrs. D. Galbraith, J. Kerr, T. W. Taylor, D. McKay, Currie, J. Playfair, W. Alexander, J. L. Blakie, M. Clarke, S. D. Clarke, D. McGee, J. Brown, W. Boll, G. L. Boardman, Capt. Dick, J. Fleming, J. Harvey, J. Leask, Hugh Miller, P. G. Osoo, D. Cowan, M. Gibb, &c. A number of ladies testified their interest in the proceedings by their presence.

At the appointed time the Rev. W. Reid, M.A., Moderator, came forward, and said that on this occasion they were assembled to inaugurate an undertaking of great importance, which was to be a worthy result of many years labours, which took place under less favourable circumstances. For several years the College was carried on in Grovenor-street, in a building formerly the residence of the Earl of Elgin, which, after some alterations, was adapted to the purpose of the College institution. The first building was found to be uncomfortably small, and it was considered that something better was needed, although, unlike a great many things in the present day, old Knox College was much better than it looked. (Laughter.) The subject of the erection of a new building was laid before the Assembly last year, and it was then decided that the necessary steps should be taken for the erection of new buildings. Accordingly the necessary steps were taken, the work was commenced, and subscriptions flowed in through the exertions made by the Principal, Prof. Caven, and the other Professors in various parts of the country. But the canvass was not yet completed, although the result has been highly satisfactory. They had met to-day for the purpose of laying the corner-stone and invoking the blessing of God on the erection of the building. Before proceeding with the more special work, they would unite in singing a few verses of one of the grand old psalms which were sung by their forefathers in the days of old. It was one of the psalms which often animated the hearts of their forefathers when labour and suffering too was demanded of them.

The 46th Psalm was then sung, after which the Moderator read portions of Scripture from Psalms 120-127, and Ephesians iv. Prayer was then offered up.

The Rev. Principal Caven was then called upon to read a statement of the progress of the College, which he did as follows:—

#### HISTORICAL SKETCH OF KNOX COLLEGE, FROM ITS ESTABLISHMENT TO THE PRESENT DATE (MARCH, 1874).

Knox College, although the title was not given till 1846, may be said to have been instituted in 1841, when at the meeting of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, on the 14th of October, it was resolved to appoint a Professor of Divinity, and a Professor of Literature and Science for conducting the studies of young men aiming at the Ministry, the Professors to be for the present stationed at Toronto. The Rev. Andrew King, a deputy from the Free Church of Scotland, interim Professor of Divinity; and Rev. Henry Esson, of Gabriel-street Church, Montreal, was appointed Professor of Literature and Science. During the first session (1841-2), the attendance was in all fourteen, four of whom had been students of Queen's College, Kingston, before the disruption, which took place in July, 1844. The classes were conducted in an apartment of Mr. Esson's house, in James-street, in the City of Toronto. The Synod, at the same meeting, in view of Dr. Robert Burns, of Paisley, who had been called by the newly-organized congregation of Knox Church, in Toronto, coming out, and of his varied qualifications, appointed him as Professor of Theology, the appointment being subject to any contingency arising from the Synod resolving, at a future time, to separate the office of Professor from that of pastor, or such other circumstances as might affect the decision of the Synod as to the permanent institution or the locality of the Theological Seminary of the Church.

The Synod of 1846 confirmed the appointment of Dr. Burns as Professor of Divinity, and that of Mr. Esson as Professor of Literature and Philosophy.

In 1846 the Synod, with the view of placing the institution on a more extensive and efficient basis, appointed a Committee to consider the matter of the incorporation of the College, its name, the number of professors, the erection of suitable buildings and the establishment of an academy for the preliminary training of young men, and a boarding-house for the students. On the report of the Committee it was agreed that the College should be called "Knox College," and that steps should be taken for establishing an Academy or High School. This was done in the course of the year, the Academy being superintended by Rev. A. Gale, M.A., formerly of Hamilton, assisted by Rev. T. Wightman, formerly of Camden. No steps were taken for the erection of buildings, but the College and Academy found suitable accommodation in "Ontario Terrace," in the premises which, after having been enlarged and altered; now form the Queen's Hotel. During the session of 1846-7, able assistance was rendered in the College by Rev. Robert McCorale, of St. Ninians, Scotland; also, by the Rev. W. Rintoul, who conducted the classes in Hebrew and in Biblical Criticism. The Synod of 1847 confirmed the appointment of Mr. Gale as Principal of the Academy, and as professor of Classical Literature in Knox College. The Synod at the same meeting, in consideration of the increased number, nine students, requiring the undivided services of a professor, resolved to separate the professorship of Theology in Knox College from the pastorate of Knox Church, Toronto, and to send Rev. John Bayne, of Galt, to Britain to

Free Church, and secure, if possible, the appointment of a Professor of Theology. This mission was undertaken and fulfilled, and the result was the appointment of the Rev. M. Willis, D.D., who continued to teach theology with distinguished success for the period of 23 years. The Synod, when resolving to separate the professorship of Theology from the office of pastor of Knox Church, expressed their sense of the great obligations under which they were to Dr. Burns for the valuable services he had rendered to the College, his watchfulness over the spiritual interests of the students, and his diligence and zeal in collecting books for the library.

In 1848 the Synod having expressed their great satisfaction at having obtained the valuable services of Dr. Willis, with the view of promoting the efficiency of the College, appointed Rev. William Rintoul as Professor of Hebrew, it being understood that the appointment would be an interim one, its permanence being dependent upon the provision that might be made for oriental literature in what was King's College, now the Toronto University. Mr. Rintoul discharged with great diligence and efficiency the duties of the Chair of Hebrew for several years, when, in consequence of changes in the University, it was considered no longer necessary to maintain a professorship of Hebrew in Knox College. In 1849 and 1850 Rev. William Lyall afterwards connected with the Divinity Hall at Halifax, Nova Scotia, rendered important service to the College and the Church as Professor of Literature and Mental Training. The names of others might be mentioned with honour in connection with important services rendered when necessary to the College from time to time. It would be specially unjust not to mention the name of Rev. Ralph Robb, of Hamilton, who, until prematurely out of office in 1853, was ever ready to give and when called upon to do so.

In the early part of 1853 Professor Esson, who had been connected with the College from the beginning, and had done much to advance its interests, and promote the improvement of the students, was removed by death. He was succeeded by the Reverend George Paxton Young, of Knox Church, Hamilton, who entered upon his duties at the beginning of the session 1853-4 and brought to his work talents of the very highest order, and a zeal and aptitude for teaching which were highly appreciated by the successive classes of students which came under his care.

In 1855 it became necessary to remove from the premises hitherto occupied in Ontario Terrace, Front-street, and the property of "Elmsley Villa," formerly occupied by the Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin, when Governor General of Canada, was purchased, and enlarged so as to afford accommodation for the classes and boarding department.

In 1856 the Synod added to the Staff by appointing Rev. Dr. Burns as an additional Professor; the Department of Church History and Evidences being assigned to him, while the Department of Exegetical Theology was assigned to Professor Young.

In 1858 an "Act of Incorporation" for the College was obtained from the Legislature. From the first establishment of the College it was not intended that permanent provision should be made for instruction in the literary branches. After Professor Gale's retirement and death, which took place in 1854, Rev. John Laing, and subsequently Mr. James Smith, acted as teachers in the preparatory department. After the retirement of the last named gentleman, instruction in the preparatory department has been given by some of the senior students, appointed from year to year by the Senate, with the exception of these years 1868-9, 69-70, 70-71, when Reverend Professor Young, who had resigned his position on the College Staff in 1864, undertook at the request of the Synod, the charge of the literary classes.

Professor Young having resigned his professorship as has been mentioned in 1864, the Rev. W. Caven was in 1866 appointed Professor of Exegetical Theology; assistance having been given during the intervening years by Rev. W. Gregg of Cooke's Church, Toronto, and Rev. W. Caven of St. Mary's as lecturer. In subsequent years valuable assistance was rendered in the College by the following gentlemen, who were appointed by the Supreme Court of the Church to lecture on particular branches, viz.—Rev. Robert Ure of Goderich, Rev. D. Inglis of Hamilton, Rev. Dr. Topp of Toronto, and Rev. Dr. Proudfoot of London, who continues by appointment of Assembly to lecture on Homiletics, and Pastoral Theology.

Dr. Burns having resigned his position as Professor of Church History in 1864, became Emeritus Professor, but continued to give service to the department until his death which took place in 1869.

In 1870 Dr. Willis, to the great regret of many friends, resigned the position which he had so long and so well filled. His resignation was accepted and the very warm expression of the Assembly's sense of his services, was placed on record. In the following year Rev. Dr. Inglis of McNab-street Church, Hamilton, was appointed to the vacant chair. After holding it for one year, Dr. Inglis resigned his professorship in 1862, Rev. W. Gregg, M.A., of Cooke's Church, Toronto, was appointed Professor of Apologetics. To fill up the vacancy occasioned by the Rev. Dr. Inglis, the Rev. W. MacLaren of Knox Church, Ottawa, was appointed in 1873 Professor of Systematic Theology, the classes during the intervening session having been taught by Rev. Dr. Topp of Knox Church Toronto, and Rev. Professor Gregg. It may be interesting to state that from the first establishment of the College to the present time, the number of names entered in the College register is 899. Of these there are, exclusive of probationers and students, and exclusive

also of those who are in other churches, either on this Continent or in the parent countries in the service of the Canada Presbyterian Church, about 170.

At the Union in 1861 the Theological Institution of the United Presbyterian Church became united with that of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, so that both institutions are now represented by Knox College. It is proper, therefore, that in this connection some brief account should be given of the work of Theological education as conducted in the United Presbyterian Church previous to the Union.

The "Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas" representing what afterwards became known as the United Presbyterian Church in Canada, early recognized the importance of providing for a native trained ministry, but no steps were taken in the matter till 1845, when the Presbytery was constituted into a Synod. At this date a scheme for the establishment of a Theological Institution was adopted, and the Rev. Wm. Proudfoot, of London, was appointed first Professor of Theology.

The Institution was located in London. Owing to the position in which King's College, Toronto, then stood, it was found necessary to provide for the literary training of students, as well as for their instruction in the subjects of a theological course. The curriculum adopted embraced classics, mental and moral philosophy, logic and rhetoric as well as systematic theology, church history, and biblical literature; it was made to extend over four sections of eight months' each.

The work of the Institute commenced in the fall of 1845, the first student enrolled being Mr. J. A. Proudfoot, now the Rev. Dr. Proudfoot, of London, son of the eminent man appointed to preside over the Seminary.

The entire work of teaching rested upon Mr. Proudfoot till 1847, when the Rev. Alexander Mackenzie, of Goderich, was appointed to teach Hebrew, which he continued to do till the plan of study in the Institute was re-modelled and the Institute was removed to Toronto. Mr. Mackenzie was an accurate scholar and an earnest and painstaking teacher, and is affectionately remembered by those who had the privilege of waiting upon his instructions.

In 1849 it was carried in the Synod, "That owing to the change now effected in King's College, Toronto, whereby it was made a Provincial Institution, it is no longer necessary that the object of the Institute extend beyond the Teaching of Theology." It was at the same time resolved to transfer the Theological Institute to Toronto. Its next Session was accordingly held in that city, in the Church of the Rev. Dr. Jennings. This was the last session conducted by Mr. Proudfoot, for he became ill immediately on returning from London, at its close, and died on the January following. Mr. Proudfoot was a man of rare abilities and attainments, possessing a mind of uncommon strength and clearness, but finely harmonized in all its intellectual attributes. He was not less distinguished by his high moral qualities and the singleness of purpose with which he consecrated all his powers to his Master's service.

In 1852 the Rev. Dr. John Taylor, of Auchtermuchty, Scotland, who had been chosen successor to Mr. Proudfoot, came to Toronto, and continued to discharge the duties of Theological Professor till 1860, in which year he returned to his native land. The Institute flourished under Dr. Taylor, and sent forth from session to session men who proved valuable additions to the Church's staff of labourers. In 1860, as above said, Dr. Taylor, to the great regret of all, returned to Scotland, and the Church was deprived of the services of one pre-eminently fitted, by his high talents, his accurate scholarship, and his extensive acquaintance with theological learning, to take part in moulding the future ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The union of the Presbyterian Church of Canada and the United Presbyterian Church in Canada was auspiciously consummated in 1861. At this time ten young men were in their theological course in connection with the United Presbyterian Church. These all entered Knox College and completed their curriculum there, and from this date till the establishment of the Presbyterian College in Montreal, the history of Knox College is the history of theological education in the Canada Presbyterian Church. The larger stream and the smaller have now united, and Knox College is now regarded, as is believed, with equal affection by all members of the United Church who take an enlightened interest in the Church's work.

For some time it has been felt that more commodious and suitable buildings were necessary for College purposes. The matter was taken up by the College Board in 1873, and the sanction of the Assembly having been obtained, an appeal was made to the congregations, the Professors taking a leading part in the work. The result has been highly satisfactory, and it is hoped that the building, the corner-stone of which is to be laid to-day, will long remain an ornament to the city, and a credit to the Presbyterian Church, and that from it will go forth many able and faithful ministers of the New Testament.

The staff at present is as follows:—  
Rev. W. Caven—Principal and Professor of Exegetical Theology.

Rev. W. Gregg—Professor of Apologetics and Church History.

Rev. W. MacLaren—Professor of—  
Rev. J. A. Proudfoot, D.D.—Lecturer of Homiletics and Pastoral Theology.

H. H. McPherson, M.A., and P. Strath—Classical Tutors.

Professor Caven said it was not necessary that he should say anything to detain them, but he would take the liberty of expressing the great satisfaction he felt at the state the

work was in at the present moment. He might say that up to the present 76 congregations of the Church had been canvassed with much success, the subscriptions up to the present amounting to \$74,400. But he might state that still more was required. A further sum of \$20,000 was required in order to make the list secure. There were some 180 congregations on the list, but a large number of these were not expected to do much. They wanted the old congregations to do all they could, and he hoped that many of the strong congregations would do as well as those at Hamilton, Toronto, Guelph, and other places. The work was begun in the name of God; and they must not forget the words of the Psalmist, as just now read by the Moderator; "Except the Lord build the house they labour in vain that build it. This was a religious work, and he trusted that the work of the College would continue to be conducted in a religious spirit.

The Moderator then called the Hon. J. McMurrich to lay the foundation stone, which he remarked he had no doubt would be done in a business like and proper manner. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. McMurrich said he felt very much gratified in being called on to take part in this interesting ceremony. Some thirty years ago Knox College commenced in a humble building on James St., and the history of the College was continued to be raised up from that time until now. They commenced with two professors, one of whom had long since gone to his rest and reward. Professor Burns, Rev. Mr. Gale, and the Rev. Mr. Rintoul, had all gone to the rest where they rest neither day nor night. When the College was first started, the accommodation provided was very small; in the following year more extended accommodation was provided, and more respectable too—by the leasing of two houses on Front street, which were united by the breaking through of the dividing walls of the two houses. Ten years' work was carried on in these premises, and in 1855 they removed to other buildings close by, where the good work had been carried on with success for the past nineteen years, making thirty years from the commencement. The work had been carried on with success attending it, although surrounded with inconveniences and difficulties, arising from the fact of the building not having been originally built for the purpose of college work. The time has now come when the Church has become alive to its duty. They have commenced this building, which when erected will be worthy of the Presbyterian Church, and the pride of all the Presbyterian brethren who take an interest in it. This was a step in the history of the college which marks not only the progress to completion of the work, but also from this time the church and college will take their various departures. And when the building is completed and set apart for the purposes for which it is being erected, he trusted there will be found within its walls professors eminent for their piety—men of ability, apt to teach and keep abreast of the times; and that the result of their labours will be to send forth, from year to year, able ministers of the New Testament. With those few remarks, he would proceed in laying the foundation stone in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of His Church. May He crown their labours with abundant success, and to the glory of His name.

The stone, having been properly prepared, was then lowered into position, and Mr. McMurrich declared the stone to be well made and truly laid.

Professor Gregg said, that in the absence of the Rev. Mr. Proudfoot, he was invited to say a few words. Reference had already been made as to the steps taken towards the erection of the present building, the amount of money required to complete it, and the amount of money already subscribed, and therefore he would not again revert to these topics. But he might make a few remarks as to the present state of the College, so far as the students are concerned. They had, at the close of the last session, 85 theological students in the classes, of whom sixteen were graduate students, who probably would receive their licenses during the next few months. Besides these there were the literary classes immediately under their charge, in which there were eighteen students pursuing their studies within the walls of Knox College and the University. In illustration of this he might mention that they had thirty-six students in the University pursuing their studies with a view of entering Knox College. So altogether in Toronto they had in connection with the Church upwards of 90 young men who were to become ministers in the Canada Presbyterian Church. There were also about 40 students pursuing their studies in the Montreal Presbyterian College and McGill University with a view of becoming ministers of the Church. Thus there were 180 students in the literary and theological classes pursuing their studies. He hoped to have another opportunity of saying a few words in the evening, and he would be glad if those present would try to be present at that meeting, which would be held in the school house at Knox Church.

The Rev. Dr. Topp then pronounced the Benediction, and the proceedings closed.

A very learned judge was once asked what he would do if a man owed him ten pounds and refused to pay. His reply was worth remembering by those who are quick to take offence and begin a quarrel. He said: "Rather than bring an action against him, with its costs and uncertainty, I would give him a receipt in full of all demands; yes, and I would send him five pounds over to cover all possible expenses." That was his conclusion after extensive observation on the matter of going to law.