

and remembered as the West River Seminary was projected and established in 1848. Mr. Ross was appointed to take charge of a number of young men, who were anxious to devote themselves to the ministry, and to impart to them such preparatory instruction as one man might give, with a view to their entering the Hall. Mr. Ross still retained for several years the charge of his congregation, but he was relieved from his work as professor of Biblical Literature, to which chair, Rev. (afterwards Dr.) Smith, was appointed by the Synod.

For a season Mr. Ross carried on the whole work of the Seminary, unaided. Soon, however, Mr. Thomas McCulloch came to his assistance, being elected as his co-adjutor by the Synod of 1850. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Ross was relieved of the charge of West River congregation. The classes had met for several years, first in what was then known as the Temperance Hall, an upper room over the School house, hard by the old church, which was burned down two or three years ago; and afterwards in the parlor of Mr. Ross' late dwelling house. Students came in encouraging numbers. Notwithstanding coldness in some quarters, and opposition from others the enterprise grew steadily in public favor, and was soon fairly established. Especially when from it, and from the Theological Hall, under Drs. Keir and Smith, there began to come forth a steady, although still inadequate, supply of licentiates, who became acceptable and efficient ministers of long waiting congregations, the Seminary was generally recognized as essential to the prosperity and even to the continued existence of the church.

Necessarily the question of appropriate buildings, came now to the front. This brought up the other question of site, or location. Here some difficulty arose. West River did not want to lose the institution which they had come to regard as in a peculiar sense, theirs. All the more were they unwilling to part with it, because parting with it, involved parting with their old minister to whom they were still ardently attached. Then New Glasgow wanted the Seminary, and was prepared to deal liberally with it—liberally in any case—but very liberally indeed if it should be established among them. Truro thought most naturally that the central position of this town pointed it out unmistakably as the right place. There was a deep and

general interest in the question—not to say excitement over it. Some thought there was really no very great difference between the places, and that therefore the institution might as well remain where it was, inasmuch as all the worldly substance of one of the professors lay there. The most, however, felt that West River was too purely a rural district, and so the choice came to be between New Glasgow and Truro. Here the vote was a very close one—the question being decided in favor of Truro by the casting vote of the Moderator. Here then a site was chosen, and a respectable building erected, in which Messrs. Ross and McCulloch labored and taught with increased comfort and increasing success.

When negotiations for Union between the Free Church and the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, were brought to happy issue in 1860, the sister branch of N. B. coming in later, the Seminary was further strengthened by the accession of Dr. Lyall to the teaching staff, and thenceforth with its three professors, and the number of students largely increased, it was regarded as fairly well equipped for its purpose—at any rate it was thought to be fully equal to any institution of the kind in the Province. The school of Divinity remained in Halifax under charge of Drs. King and McKnight. About the same time Dr. Keir, described in Robertson's history of Missions to Nova Scotia, as "a man of singularly apostolic character," was taken to his reward, and Dr. Smith was transferred to Gerrish St.

What followed belongs rather to the recent, than to the "early history of Ministerial Education." We can hardly, however, close this imperfect sketch without some reference to the movement that led to the merging (for it amounted to that) of our Seminary at Truro, into Dalhousie College. The late Wm. Matheson, Esq., had bequeathed to the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, what was for those days a large amount of money for educational purposes, with a view to prepare young men for the ministry. The Governors of Dalhousie College made overtures to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces to unite this legacy with the funds of the College, and so start it anew. A sort of partnership was proposed, into the particulars of which we need not enter, further than to note that, as what was aimed at was the