

HISTORICAL SKETCH AND STATISTICS OF THE FREE CHURCH COLLEGE, HALIFAX.

Experience has abundantly proved that the true and effectual way of upholding and propagating divine ordinances in any country is through a native ministry. The Synod of the "Presbyterian Church in Nova Scotia adhering to the Westminster Standards" was alive to this fact, and as early as 1845 some movement was made in the Synod towards the establishment of a College. It was in 1847 that the Synod determined to set agoing a Theological Institute in Halifax, with two preparatory Academies of a high order, the one in St. John, N. B., and the other in this city. These Academies were intended as *feeders* to the College. The Halifax Academy was established accordingly, but we are not aware that any attempt was made in St. John.

The College and Academy at Halifax commenced operations on a small scale in the spring of 1848. The College was that spring temporarily superintended by the Rev. Dr. Forrester, then a Deputy from the Free Church of Scotland; and the Academy was in charge of Rev. Alexander Romans, then of Dartmouth.

But it was not till the 2nd of November, 1848, that the College was fairly commenced or formally inaugurated. Professors KING and McKENZIE arrived here in October, and on the day above mentioned Professor King delivered the Inaugural Address. The Colonial Committee of the Free Church, with great liberality, engaged to pay the salaries of the two Professors for four years—till the Synod here should have raised a sufficient endowment. The committee issued the following advertisement in October preceding the inauguration of the College:

"THEOLOGY: REV. ANDREW KING. MENTAL AND NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, WITH GENERAL AND CLASSICAL LITERATURE: REV. JOHN C. McKENZIE. The Rev. ALEXANDER FORRESTER has agreed to give a course of Lectures on Natural Science, in connexion with Natural Theology and the Evidences of Revealed Religion. Classes for Hebrew and Oriental Literature will be formed under Rev. DAVID HONEYMAN."

Fifteen students were enrolled for the first session. The first student who finished his studies here and was licensed by permission of the Free Synod, was the Rev. W. G. Forbes, the late Moderator. He finished his curriculum in 1851. We give a complete list of all the students who completed their course under Professor King:—

1852: Messrs G. Sutherland and J. A. Ross.

1854:—Messrs Hector McKay, William Murray, George Munro, Alex. Ross, T. G. Johnston, Alex. Smith, A. Campbell, G. N. Gordon.

1855:—Messrs K. McKenzie, A. W. McKay, N. McKay, James Fowler, Abraham McIntosh.

1856:—Mr H. D. Steele.

1857:—Messrs. C. L. Ross, Robert Murray, D. Sutherland, D. McNeill, S. F. Johnston, James A. Murray.

1859:—Mr A. G. Forbes.

1860:—Messrs. D. Morrison, Duncan McKinnon, H. McMillan.

The following students died before completing their course, some of them not having been more than one or two sessions in attendance, Messrs Robert McDonald, D. McHardy, Daniel Sutherland, Alex. McKay, John McDonald, and ——— McDonald.

During the Session of 1850 the College met a severe stroke in the death of Professor McKenzie who was greatly beloved and respected not only by