

the friends of the measure scarce believed for joy, others looked upon it as too contemptible to deserve serious notice. Indeed we believe, that if there had been any idea at head quarters of what the institution would have attained to, it would not have received its charter.

When the first class at the institution had completed its course, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, requested Dr. McCulloch to take the oversight of the studies in Theology of those, who might wish to prepare for the work of the ministry.

The class was opened by a lecture from Dr. McCulloch which was afterward published in Edinburgh, and is well worthy of perusal even at this present day.

Of this first class in Theology, Mr. Patterson was a member. It consisted, so far as we can learn, of himself, John L. Murdoch, John McLean, Angus McGillivray, Hugh Ross, Hugh Dunbar, Duncan McDonald, David Fraser, Michael McCulloch, James McGregor, and John McDonald. Of these the first six became ministers of the Presbyterian Church, Duncan McDonald was licensed but never ordained, David Fraser died before licensure and the others turned to other employments. The advantages for prosecuting theological studies were limited enough. There was yet no theological library. Dr. McCulloch was not only the sole professor of Theology, but had in addition the charge of a congregation, and taught besides in the Arts course, what in a properly equipped College would employ three or four professors. Mr. P. thus described their course.

"The time during which he studied Theology was four years. We were all engaged in teaching schools. We attended the Hall on Saturdays as far as I can recollect once a month during the whole four years (besides the regular session of three or four weeks during the vacation of our schools). The most that we received in the way of lectures was in the form of remarks on the Confession of Faith. For our knowledge of Theology we had to depend on a good measure on subjects prescribed to us by the Professor. These were criticised by him and his criticisms were particularly valuable. Although we were obliged to write all our discourses, yet we were not permitted to read them. This was a kindness to us, as we did not think of reading, when we entered upon the work of preaching. I have never yet read a sermon during life either in the hall or since I left it."

LICENSURE AND SETTLEMENT.

Having completed his course, he was on the 8th June, 1824, licensed by the Presbytery of Pictou along with Messrs. McGillivray, Murdoch, and McLean. This was the first band of preachers educated in the Presbyterian Church in these colonies, and the occasion was one of deep interest. The experiment—for experiment it was—of training native preachers was eagerly watched by friendly and unfriendly eyes. By those engaged in the movement, the appearance of these young men in public was looked forward to with many hopes and some fears, while by others they were ridiculed and condemned in advance. The idea of fitting young men in this country for the ministry was treated with the utmost scorn and the institution from which they had come was pronounced not fit even to qualify the young men of the country to be schoolmasters.

But the young men stood the test and proved acceptable preachers. Mr. McGillivray was the first ordained, having been settled over the Upper Settlement of the East River, then separated from Dr. McGregor's charge. But the other three, encouraged by their Professor proceeded to Britain. Their first object was their farther improvement, but we have no doubt, that he desired that they should appear in the old country churches, as a proof of the success of the attempt to train ministers in the colonies, and thus enlist the sympathies of Christians in the mother country on behalf of the measure. In Britain they met with a cordial welcome from ministers and people. They preached with much acceptance in various dissenting churches. Their case was presented before the authorities of Glasgow University, who agreed to admit them to an examination for the degree of A. M. This examination was conducted by Professors Walker, Sandford, Jardine, Miller, Mylne & Meikleham and they all passed it creditably and on the 15th Feb. 1825, they all received the degree of A. M., from that venerated Institution. At the session of the Legislature the same year, a committee of the House of Assembly reported in favour of giving the Pictou Institution the power to confer degrees, and in the present day it will seem strange, that an institution, which could give men an education qualifying them to take degrees in so venerated an Institution as Glasgow University, should not be allowed to mark their attainments by the usual Academic honors, but its projectors did