

## PREFACE.

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On a moderate computation, it appears, that there are 65,000 professed adherents of the Free Church in the Lower Provinces, with several thousands more who would gladly receive Religious Ordinances at her hand.

To give any thing like an adequate supply of Ordinances to this number, spread over such a widely extended territory, would require at the very least 65 Ministers, while the actual number does not exceed 20, with a few Missionaries and Catechists.

The Free Church in these Colonies, feeling that it was altogether unreasonable to expect that the Parent Church could meet such a deficiency by sending out Ministers or Missionaries, and well aware that the true and effectual way of upholding and propagating Divine Ordinances in any country is through a native agency, resolved, at a meeting of Synod held in 1847, to set agoing a Theological Institute, with two preparatory Academies of a high order, the one at St. John, N. B., and the other at Halifax.

The Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, with noble liberality, agreed to provide and support the Professors of the College for four years; and it is earnestly hoped that during the course of that time such a fund shall be raised by the friends of the cause in the Lower Provinces, as shall yield an amount sufficient for the endowment of two or three Professors.

The College and the Academy at Halifax, commenced their operations last winter, the former being temporarily superintended by the Rev. ALEXANDER FORRESTER, Free Church Deputy; and the latter by the Rev. ALEXANDER ROMANS, of Dartmouth.

In October last, the Rev. ANDREW KING, Professor of Divinity, and the Rev. JOHN C. MACKENZIE, Professor of Mental and Natural Philosophy, with General and Classical Literature, regularly appointed by the Colonial Committee, arrived; and in November the College was formally opened, and 17 Students were enrolled, of whom those subsequently named are at present in attendance.