

and to have her designated "The Catholic Reformed Church." This, however, is said to have failed.

THE THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE LOWER PROVINCES.—The College at Truro opened with about 40 students, while some were still expected. The classes at Halifax, it is supposed, will be at least equal to those of last year. Professor Lynam delivered the introductory lecture at Truro. Professor McKnight gave the opening address at Halifax.

Obituary.

REV. ALEXANDER RITCHIE, AYR, C. W.

The Rev. Alexander Ritchie, of Ayr, died at his residence on the 27th Sept. He was born in the Town of Perth, Scotland, in the year 1795. His parents belonged to the humbler walks of life, but they were ever characterised in the Antiburgher Congregation of Perth, to which they belonged, by their Christian intelligence and devoted piety, and consequently their children were the children of many prayers. The eldest son was the Rev. William Ritchie, who was for some years pastor of the United Secession Congregation of West Linton, Scotland. He ultimately demitted his charge and went to Australia, where he died some years ago. Their youngest son, John, is still alive, and has long been a highly respectable and efficient elder in the North United Presbyterian congregation of Perth.

The subject of our notice was educated and brought up under the pastoral care of Rev. Dr. Pringle and Rev. R. Black, joint pastors of the congregation, until the union of the two branches of the Secession Church in 1820, when Mr. Black, having become one of the protesters against the union, left the congregation and was succeeded by the late Dr. Young, one whose high and sanctified intellect would have made him a man of renown in any church. Mr. Ritchie was strongly attached to all his pastors, and he often spoke of them in terms of high approbation and affection.

Like many others who have been raised up and honoured to fill the sacred office, the circumstances of Mr. Ritchie's parents required that he should work his own way to the object of his ambition, the being a minister of the Gospel. He acquired the elements of his classical education by attending evening schools in his native town, and he taught school himself, as not a few of our most worthy ministers have done, while preparing for and passing through the required curriculum for the ministry in the United Secession Church. He entered the University of St. Andrew's in the autumn of 1820, and prosecuted his studies with such unwearied assiduity as to prove, in the opinion of many of his fellow students, prejudicial to his health. In August, 1824, he entered the Divinity Hall, then ably presided over by the Rev. Dr. Dick, one of the best divines whom Scotland has produced, and after attending the accustomed period of five sessions he was licensed to preach the gospel by the United Secession Presbytery of Perth in the winter of 1829. In 1834 he was ordained by the Presbytery of Dumfries to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Dalry. In the following year he was united in marriage to one who, amid all his multiplied bodily afflictions, was preëminently a faithful and affectionate help meet, and who still survives him to mourn her loss, and, looking to the widow's God, rests with unwavering confidence in the promise of Jehovah, "Thy Maker is thy husband, the Lord of hosts is His name."

Mr. Ritchie demitted his pastoral charge of the congregation of Dalry in the summer of 1841, and offered himself to and was accepted by the Mission Committee of the United Secession Church as a missionary for Canada. In September of the same year he, together with Mrs. Ritchie, and accompanied by