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OUR COLLEGE:—ITS HISTORY, ITS PRESENT POSITION, AND ITS PROSPECTS.

I.—THE PICTOU AND WEST RIVER PERIOD.
1817-1858.

BY REV. JAMES MACLEAN, GREAT VILLAGE, N. S.

THE year 1817 was a memorable year in the history of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces. It gave birth to new ideas, which have been energizing the Church ever since with the spirit of unity, of co-operation, and of determination to maintain a Theological College, in which to educate a native ministry.

In that year the two Presbyterian bodies—the Burghers and Anti-burghers united, and formed the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia. This was the first of the Presbyterian Unions in British America, and it paved the way for the great union of 1875, when the Presbyterian Church in Canada was constituted.

In that year 1817, the Pictou Academy was opened. The late Dr. Thomas MacCulloch was at first its only Professor. He taught his pupils in the Classics, in Mathematics, and in Natural and Moral Philosophy.