

The contents of this Pamphlet first appeared in the form of Letters in the Secular and Religious Newspapers.

THE ACTION OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF ACADIA COLLEGE CRITICISED.

BY J. W. BARSS, ESQ.

A great deal has been written of late on matters connected with the above institution. The many writers who have spoken on the action of the trustees, governors and fellows of Acadia College in creating a chair of didactics and filling it with a professor, have, I consider, only expressed the general feeling of the Baptist body of the lower Provinces in relation of the whole matter. I do not intend going over the ground taken by others, as sufficient has been written to throw full light on the appointment, though it was sought to be done in a dark corner. I write to say I fully endorse, with the exception of some little personalities, all that I have seen written by those who disapprove of the act of the governors and their associates in the action referred to.

Six weeks have elapsed since the chair of didactics was founded, during which time the governors of Acadia have had ample time to reconsider their act, and knowing its unpopularity, to cancel the appointment; but it seems that no action is being taken looking in this direction.

Then we are given to understand that half a dozen men appointed by the Convention as governors to carry out its understood wishes, feel determined to override, overrule and set at naught the opinion and wishes of that large and influential body to whom they are responsible.

It is industriously circulated that the opposition to the measure referred to is local and limited. I deny this. It is almost universal throughout the length and breadth of the lower Provinces. As an evidence, not a minister of the 340 churches connected with the Baptist Convention has written a line commending the measure. 'Tis true that two of the governors—both of the legal profession—have put forth feeble excuses for the acts of the board. They were certainly very weak but probably the best pleas they had to offer; no one outside of the board has ventured come to their rescue.

I believe the action taken has already resulted in injury to our beloved institution, no doubt but more serious detriments will be felt hereafter. Acadia College, the boast of the Baptist

denomination, has been made a laughing-stock and this in consequence of a few men in secret plotting to carry out the whims and fancies of a few interested parties.

But we must not forget to honour the four governors who manfully resisted the creation of the chair. They were the oldest and most experienced of the eleven who gathered at Wolfville, and did their duty nobly but ineffectually, as a majority of three carried the day; some may consider that three governors have a right and power to enforce upon the denomination anything they may choose and think proper to enact in connection with educational matters. They may have power, but in exercising it they not only make a great mistake but commit an unheard of blunder.

Having been intimately connected with the Baptist denomination for fifty years; having taken great interest in the welfare of Acadia College for the last thirty-three years; having given many years of my business life in financing as its treasurer, and having contributed towards its funds more than any other person that I am aware of, is the excuse I have for recording my protest to the whole action of the governors referred to in his article.

THE DEFENSE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ACADIA COLLEGE.

BY DR. SAUNDERS.

The statements in Mr. Barss' letter are largely inaccurate. It is not a fact, as I shall be able to show, that any business connected with the founding and filling of the chair in question was "done in a dark corner." Nothing is known in the Baptist denomination of a half "a dozen men appointed by the convention as Governors." There are 19 governors and six fellows. They together are the corporate body by which the institution is governed. Mr. Barss is in error when he states as a fact "that a few men secretly plotted to carry out the whims and fancies of a few interested parties." Neither is it correct that "four governors manfully resisted the creation of the chair." It is equally incorrect that a "majority of three carried the day." The voting was all unanimous. Doubtless Mr. Barss and others have heard incorrect reports and assum-