

influential class in the Province. In Pictou the inhabitants were practically all Dissenters. They set to work determinedly to secure their rights. The struggle lasted for years and was fought out with great bitterness, and finally the reformers won. In 1816 an act of incorporation was granted and henceforth Pictou Academy, which has done so much for the industrial, business and professional life of Nova Scotia, secured the legal right to exist. But the Dissenters at first did not have the control. In the original charter no one was eligible to act as a trustee unless he was a member of the Church of England.

"I, A. B. appointed one of the Trustees of the Pictou Academy, do declare that I do profess the Christian religion according to the principles and forms of the Church of England."

This was amended in 1819 when the oath of office was made to read as follows:—

"I A. B. appointed one of the Trustees of the Pictou Academy, do declare that I do profess the Christian religion according to the principles and forms of the Church of Scotland." This was one step in advance, others came later.

In 1817 the Academy which had been previously carried on for some time as a Grammar School was reorganized and started under the able management of the Rev. Thomas McCulloch, but the agitation in regard to it in the legislature and in the country continued for years. The Episcopalians controlled the Council and vetoed any bill that in their judgment made too great concessions to the Dissenters. The second Bishop Inglis was an astute politician as well as an ardent churchman and he kept a watchful eye on these pestilent Presbyterians in Pictou. He was an ex-officio member of the Council and had the ear of the Governor. In his opinion these dissenters were little better than rebels. It was unsafe to entrust them with