

ministers educated and intelligent, and generally regarded a college education as essential to the right discharge of the duties of the office. Indeed the work in their circumstances was surrounded with such difficulties, that only men of the strongest faith and the most dauntless courage would ever have attempted to surmount them. These difficulties can scarcely be appreciated at the present time. Let me only mention that so far as I have been able to find, there was, previous to the year 1811, no legislative action taken for the establishment or the support of schools of any kind through the country, except "the public school" in Halifax and the Collegiate School at Windsor. Previous to that year, with these exceptions, the schools throughout the country were private ventures. Either a few individuals in a community hired a man to teach their children on terms agreed upon, or a man "set up school," as it was called, charging so much per month or quarter for each pupil, the rate usually varying according to the branches taught. When we add that a large part of the immigrant population could neither read nor write, we may judge of the state of education in the country at the time. We may see also the difficulties in this respect alone in the way of establishing an institution for giving the higher education deemed necessary for young men intended for the ministry. But these were only a few, and perhaps not the most formidable that had to be encountered.

Dr. Currie has given an account of the establishment and early history of the Pictou Academy, and I have been requested to supplement his paper with an account of the early history of our Theological Hall. Our fathers, in founding an institution, naturally took the institutions of Scotland for their model. Deeming a liberal education necessary, they first labored to provide instruction in the usual branches of a collegiate course, but open to all who might choose to avail themselves of it, and suited to promote their respectability in whatever profession they might adopt. As soon as this was provided, they next looked to the establishment of a Theological Hall. And as the Halls in Scotland were connected with the Universities, they naturally adopted the idea of establishing a Divinity Class in connection with the Academy, only requiring that it should be more directly under the control of the Church.