

# The Educational Policy of the Baptists of Ontario and Quebec

## I. ITS HISTORY.

The history of the educational policy of the Baptists of the Convention of Ontario and Quebec divides itself into three periods: The first period, 1836-1854, was marked by attempts to furnish educational facilities, chiefly theological, to men for the ministry. The second period, 1855-1888, introduced a wider educational policy of extending educational privileges in Christian residential secondary schools to young men and women as well as providing more advanced training in Theology to prospective pastors. The third period, from 1888 to the present time, marks a further extension of education under Christian influence by affording a complete Arts course, thus filling the gap which had been hitherto left between secondary educational curricula and theological courses.

### 1. *The First Period, 1836-1854.*

The principal achievement of the first period was the founding of the Canada Baptist College at Montreal. The Ottawa Association through Rev. John Gilmour interested English Baptists in the enterprise by means of the formation of the Canadian Baptist Missionary Society in London. The English Society, whose object was to do missionary work on the needy fields in Canada, agreed to support the new college. When the Baptist Convention of Upper Canada proposed to establish a college of their own and approached the English Baptists for support, they were advised to join their brethren in Montreal.

The Canada Baptist College tried to indoctrinate raw students from pioneer homes in the Oriental and Classical Literatures, Natural Philosophy, Theology, Philosophy and Ecclesiastical History. Two professors were engaged for this work. In the later forties attempts were made to widen the curricula. An advertisement in the *Montreal Register* states, "In compliance with numerous requests an Academic Department has been opened for the instruction of young gentlemen who are not of sufficient age to enter on the collegiate course, or whose parents wish them to be prepared for mercantile pursuits." The minimum age was placed at eight years. In addition to the two professors in Theology an English teacher and a French teacher were announced. With the close of the forties the college ceased operations