

*Presbyterians or Presbyterianism*, on the contrary it says, it is "for the purpose of founding establishing and maintaining an *Academy* in the district of Pictou," and expressly declares "that no Byelaw, Rule, or Regulation, shall be made by the said Trustees, by which any Religious distinctions shall be set up." The *Presbyterianism* was all imposed in the Account quoted by Mr. Ross, against the strongest opposition of the promoters of the Academy, and when it was urged by the present Master of the Roll's as a main cause of his opposition. Mr. Archibald replied "it was quite sufficient that the supporters of this Institution should be libelled out of doors, without their wishes or intention being misrepresented in that house; it was well known that the objectionable restrictions had been forced upon them by the Council? Judge Haliburton a favourite authority with Mr. Ross and his friends, on the same debate says, "when the original bill was sent up to the Council, it came down trammelled with every test, which gentlemen complain gave to it a sectarian cast." Mr. Ross ought not to require me to tell him, that year after year, the Trustees petitioned for the removal of the obnoxious restriction—the drafts of the petition are now in my possession and are all in the handwriting of the late Dr. McCulloch? From the first one, I make the following extract. "But your memorialists would respectfully represent, that by the unnecessary tests to which they are subjected, the Pictou Academy labours under disadvantages, which impede its success, and counteract the very ends for which it was established."

In 1825 the proceedings of the Trustees of the Academy at their annual meeting were published by the authority of the Board; from the original minutes, which are in the handwriting of the late Mr. Jotham Blanchard, then Secretary of the Board, I copy as follows, Dr. McCulloch said. "There was another very powerful inducement when he had for making a total separation of the Congregation in which he laboured and the Academy—there were other Congregations springing up in the district not connected with the Synod to which he belonged. The persons composing these, identified the Academy with him; and him with the Church of which he was a member, and in manifesting their dislike to that Church, the unthinking or evil inclined part of them, did not make such distinctions as reason would have dictated. For these reasons he had considered it his duty to surrender up to the Presbytery his ministerial charge, and he now wished it to be perfectly understood by the meeting, and by the community generally, that the Pictou Academy was a *Provincial Institution* connected with no particular principles of Religion. It was equally free to all classes and denominations of Christians, and they could all derive equal advantages from it if they chose."

One more quotation on this point I shall make for the special benefit of the Rev. James Ross. Again there was an annual meeting of the Trustees in the Academy at Pictou on the 1st Jan'y. 1827 an account of this meeting was drawn up by Dr. McCulloch and was published in the *Acadian Recorder* of 27th Jan'y. The Speeches were reported to the same paper by Mr. Blanchard on the 24th Feb'y. the printed papers and the original manuscripts are now before me. The following Resolution as moved by the Revd. Duncan Ross, is in the handwriting of Dr. McCulloch.

"1. That as the Pictou Academy was not intended to be a *Sectarian Seminary*, and as contrary to the wish of its Trustees, several denominations of Christians in the Province, have been by the Act of incorporation excluded from the office of Trustee or Teacher, the Trustees consider its present constitution as calculated to disaffect its friends, and injure its interests, and therefore they will at the ensuing meeting of the Legislature, renew their application to be relieved from restrictions, which by an infringement of natural rights, attach degradation to any deserving class of Her Majesty's subjects."

The effect of this resolution was enhanced by the mover, who spoke thus:—"That the Pictou Academy, originated among men of the most liberal sentiment and whose strongest opinion was that knowledge should be free as the light of Heaven. The unjust and monopolizing spirit of the laws of King's College had first produced the idea that a Seminary for all denominations of Nova Scotians might be established with honor to the enlightened views and judicious conduct of the government, and also with immense utility to the general interests of the province. Unfortunately the scheme in its progress did not accord with the original plan. There were introduced into the charter, in opposition to the wish of the friends of the institution, restrictive clauses which have not only drawn an unmerited odium upon them but have proved highly injurious to its interests. The clause to which he alluded were those which excluded any but Episcopalians or Presbyterians from the office of trustee or teacher. He had been questioned at Pictou and blushed to acknowledge the fact."

Fortunately he had it in his power to palliate the injustice and illiberality of those clauses by stating that the friends of the institution were altogether averse from their introduction and that no religious peculiarity was ever introduced into the course of instruction. A Catholic or Methodist, Episcopalian or Baptist had equal access to all the knowledge which could be obtained at the institution, and might pass through its classes without any enquiry respecting his religious tenets. He hoped soon to see an equal degree of liberality in the admission to offices in the institution.

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