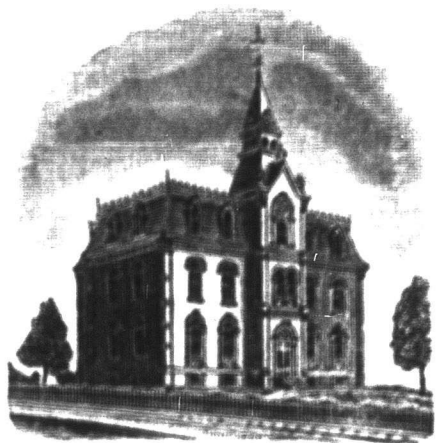


[For the Review.]

**Pictou Academy.**

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WELL KNOWN INSTITUTION.



Every one interested in education must have heard with deep regret of the destruction by lightning, on the morning of October 26th, of Pictou's handsome county academy.

This institution, so well and favorably known over the whole dominion, was one of the oldest educational institutions in the province, its history dating back to the year 1805, and one of the first promoters was Thomas McCulloch, father of the late Dr. McCulloch, whose death occurred in Tiuro a few months ago.

At that period the only institution for higher learning in the province was Kings College, Windsor, but the cost of living within the college was very great, and there were such stipulations in reference to students that the staunch Presbyterians of Eastern Nova Scotia determined to have an institution free from the restrictions of the Established Church of England.

At this period the people of Pictou subscribed about £1,000 for the scheme, and application was made to the legislature for assistance, but the scheme fell through,—it is said through the influence of Governor Wentworth.

In 1816 application was made for a charter of incorporation, which was granted, and Revs. Thomas McCulloch, Duncan Ross, Wm. Patrick, James McGregor, Archibald Gray and James Robson, and Messrs. Edward Mortimer, S. G. W. Archibald and Thomas Dacult were the trustees.

The legislature was then petitioned for a grant, and gave £400 a year for a number of years. During the early period of its history the institution taught only the higher branches, and students entering were required to be able to translate "Sallust and Virgil, and similar books not of the highest order in point of difficulty;" but in 1832 £100 of the grant given by the legislature was to be specially devoted to instruction in the lower branches. In 1838 one-half the grant was transferred to Dalhousie College, and in 1840 government assistance ceased—and the institution was closed for a time. It was, however, opened again in 1845,

and received an annual grant of £250. In later years, under the Nova Scotia school law, the academy received the usual grant to county academies.

During the history of the academy it has had many of the best teachers of the day on its staff, and has turned out many students who have attained to high positions, but in no period of its history had it done better work or its students been more successful than in later years.

The present Superintendent of Education, A. H. MacKay, was principal for a number of years, commencing in 1873, and during that period of his incumbency the academy made rapid strides, and students were gathered in from all over the Maritime Provinces. Under the present principal, Robert Maclellan, who took charge in 1889, the good work still goes on, and at the present time the students number about two hundred.



[This cut, borrowed from the *Advocate*, shows the old academy in which were educated Sir Wm. Dawson, Sir Wm. Ritchie, Sir Hugh Hoyle, Rev. G. M. Grant and other distinguished men.]

During the last four years the students have been fitted to matriculate for the second year of Dalhousie, and all of those who were sent up were successful in entering that year, and each year as the examinations for the Munro bursaries and exhibitions come up, Pictou academy stands well to the front, and a fair share of the honors are taken by her students. R. C.

Pictou, November 7th, 1895.

Of the insignificant portion of my education which depended on schools, there need almost no notice be taken. My schoolmaster, a down-bent, broken-hearted, under-foot martyr, as others of the guild are, did little for me, except discover that he could do little. So will it ever be till the hodman is discharged or reduced to hod bearing, and an architect is hired, and on all hands fitly encouraged, till communities and individuals discover, not without surprise, that fashioning the souls of a generation by knowledge can rank on a level with blowing their bodies to pieces by gunpowder; that with generals and field marshals for killing, there should be world-honored dignitaries, and were it possible, true, God-ordained priests for teaching.—*Sartor Resartus*.