

in founding the Pictou Academy of university grade, his students able to pass the M. A. degree of Glasgow University in Scotland.

He was nobly assisted by his great contemporary, Rev. Dr. MacGregor, the first of a distinguished line, a young scion of which, as a member of our Provincial Government, is responsible for a very substantial stimulus to this celebration.

He had time to utilize the press; and he did it effectively even into controversial literature. He taught all subjects when necessary — the ancient languages, logic, mental philosophy, and what was then known as natural philosophy. Chemistry and physics were expounded with a finer equipment of apparatus than is yet shown in some of our universities. Splendidly mounted collections of minerals, plants and birds were made under his own direction, excelling some in our colleges today. In fact, the great French ornithologist Audubon who then visited America found the Pictou collection the best in America. None of his successors even with more aid could do what he had done; and of his contemporaries none had either the genius or the working energy.

He could not, however, prevail over sectarian prejudice; and the Pictou Academy never became the desired undenominational university of Nova Scotia. Finally he was transplanted into the then uncongenial climate of Halifax, where he passed away, leaving behind in Dalhousie College the living roots which have since developed into the great Provincial University of today.

But his spirit was also at work in those living around the old Pictou Academy. Jotham Blanchard was a pioneer in representative and responsible government. The Mechanic Institute developed in the generation following him men like Sir John William Dawson, Rev. Dr. G. M. Grant, Rev. Principal Gordon.

Public lectures in science used to be given by laymen in the generation following, illustrated more brilliantly by experiments than most of the university extension courses of today. J. D. B. Fraser in Chemistry, Hepburn in hydraulics and acoustics, Dickson, Fogo, Ross, Primrose and Johnstone, are names I used to hear mentioned in literature, law, economics and science. In no part of the Province then or since has so learned a body of professional and laymen enjoyed such studies and their exposition to the public. Later Costley and Jack were succeeded by Bayne and

MacKenzie in the Academy, when it took a new lease of life as one of the County Academies of the Province.

When Herbert Bayne received leave of absence to complete his graduate course at Dalhousie, and Aubrey Lippincott, one of the youngest looking graduates of the University held sway, in May of 1867, I entered the Academy for a short term. When a teacher in one of the lower departments fell ill, it was the custom to ask one of the teachers from the country to take charge of the room for the day. My turn came in a room upstairs, where the highly strained discipline at last broke in my rush for a demonstrative back seat boy, who promptly evaded me by throwing up the window and dropping out two storeys to the ground. I had no desire to murder any one, and my anxiety was great until his classmates reflected from their countenances his successful accomplishment of a formerly practised stunt.

All the same I got the impression that a town school was a rather tough proposition for a gentle country teacher; so that when in 1873, as a young Dalhousie graduate in charge of the well broken-in County Academy of Annapolis Royal, I was really afraid to assume the responsibility of managing the Pictou Academy when approached.

Principal Bayne and his colleague J. J. MacKenzie, after bringing the Academy up to a high state of efficiency, had just resigned to pursue post-graduate scientific studies abroad. With the late Rev. F. W. George, M. A., we had the usual difficult task of following a popular and brilliant administration. By 1876, associated with the present venerable principal of the institution, two departments grew into three and then into four, the new Academy being built in 1880 on the present site. My colleague of 1876 remained constantly with me until in 1883 he was promoted to the Inspectorship of the County, from which position he took the principalship in 1889.

During these years I not only enjoyed the fellowship of these but of other colleagues, Sutherland, Fraser, MacInnes, Mellish, Gammell, Langille, Soloan, Shaw; men with whom association was my education, whose genius for their work was the ground of our common success, and whose influence moulded the Pictou Academy as it has and is still moulding the wider world around us.

And our students — what a fortune we had in them, in being able to start them for a few short