

some pleasant ditty, when, all of a sudden, an arm reaching out of the darkness, smites him on the cerebellum, so that he stumbleth a pace, but straightway recovereth himself. Now, doth it happen, in such a case, that the traveller turneth round to his visitor and telleth him how greatly he feeleth surprised? I trow not. If he be not a Quaker, he instantly taketh the measure of his enemy and addresseth himself to his pate, with might and main "there and then." Then, having drawn breath and proceeded home, he telleth his friends how greatly he had been surprised. The parable being interpreted, signifieth this: when surprised by a MORAL danger, we act as we would do when we are surprised by a PHYSICAL danger. We do not, at the critical moment, analyze our feelings, and make a speech about them, but instinctively grapple with the object which disturbs them. We disregard the wound that we may parry the blows; and afterwards, when we have leisure to reflect on the danger of the situation, we may act the part of mental philosophers, and meditate on that state of mind which constrained us into instant and vigorous activity. I have treated the things that this gentleman has written on the subject of "surprise," rather as a matter of amusement than of serious import. It is impossible to deal in any other manner with a person who adopts such a style of reasoning as he has done. It is to be regretted, however, that he has chosen such an indirect way to accomplish his ends. It argues a desperate cause when the only way a man can hope to destroy the statements and arguments of another, is by destroying that other himself.

Furthermore, I find, it is written: "Yea, far from there being any general ignorance of the proposed Hall, did not Mr. James Thomson state in Synod that as far as he knew, every subscriber to our endowment fund had understood that the Church would not halt with its work half done, but that it would establish a Divinity Curriculum whenever the country had a satisfactory faculty of arts, and that if this were not done NOW, many of the subscribers would consider it a *breach of faith*?" Whether the people knew that it was arranged, by certain parties, that a Hall was to be instituted in Halifax next summer in connection with the Kirk, is a question which I shall leave the people to answer for themselves. My own impression is, that *not one in a thousand* who reads these words ever dreamed of any such thing—ever dreamed of incurring such enormous and needless expense, so long as a supply of ministers could be obtained according to a cheaper and a better system—the system which has hitherto been pursued. I fear the people WILL be apt to consider, if the present scheme should go on, that a "breach of faith" has really been committed, and that they have been greatly imposed on. The gentleman who penned the words I have quoted, came to Truro, when

Dalhousie was newly instituted, and explained the purposes of that institution, and the greater part of the people connected with my congregation were induced to subscribe liberally, but they received no hint from him of any such undertaking as the present so soon to follow. I do not deny that the day may arrive when it will be expedient, and desirable and possible, nay, when it will be necessary, to institute a Theological Hall in this country, but that day seems to me to be very far distant. A day will come, no doubt, when it will be expedient for us to manufacture our broad cloths and our fine linen, but that day is far off; were we to attempt to do so *now*, we should act very foolishly. We would produce a far inferior and much *costlier* article than that which we have. It is premature to speak of "accepting the fruits of Dalhousie College." The tree has not had time even to fix its roots in the ground, and would you immediately plant another and (in relation to us) a bigger tree by its side, to rob it of the sap by which it must live? We have very great difficulty in fulfilling our obligations in relation to Dalhousie, in which we have only one professorship. If we create three chairs in addition, for the maintenance of which we shall be responsible, in what way will the *fourfold* burden be discharged? If the vessel is already laden to the water's edge, a little more weight must suffice to sink her. One reason why I look with alarm on the present scheme is the danger which it menaces to Dalhousie College. Should we fail to fulfil our obligations in connection with Dalhousie, the integrity and character of that institution must certainly suffer, and, in that event, its ruin will speedily follow. To reap the benefits of Dalhousie College, in the way my Respondent proposes, would be to cut down the tree to get at the fruit! If a faculty of medicine and a faculty of law could be attached to the College, this would, in my opinion, greatly contribute to create a general interest in the institution, and to elevate it into the position of a Provincial University. To establish it on a firm foundation, and render it as catholic in its uses as possible, ought surely to be the *first* object of our ambition. Thereafter, when its roots have struck deeply in the soil, and its strong branches are crowned with blossom, we, too, may find repose beneath its shadow. It will be seen now what I meant by the danger of "Ecclesiastics" spoiling it.

I stated, in my former letter, that, in my opinion, a Professor of Divinity could not live in Halifax on less than £300 a year; and, therefore, as two of the three Professors who would be required, would have to be supported by the people, the people would have to contribute out of their purses £600 per annum. By the people, I meant, of course, the people in these Provinces connected with the Kirk. From what we know of the resources of the Church in New Brunswick, it is quite certain that the