

[FOR THE BEE.]

To the Gentlemen who have received a Classical Education at the Pictou Academy.

GENTLEMEN—The embarrassed and depressed condition of our *Alma Mater* induces me to address you in this public manner. When the Seminary from which we have emanated was established, it was under auspicious circumstances, and the country at large appeared to be gratified. Then a new era had its commencement in Pictou, and then it was supposed, that the advantages of the Institution would not only be widely disseminated, but also permanently enjoyed. It was not expected that merely for the sake of gratifying bigotry, malevolence, and faction, its constitution would be changed, its means would be curtailed, nor that its efficiency would be impaired. The necessity of such an Institution, the liberal principles on which it was founded, and the advantages which it conferred in a new country, might be supposed to have secured for it the fostering care of the Provincial Legislature, and the continued approbation and support of the community. But it appears that when its utility and excellence were fully perceived, that the Legislature have combined to crush its energies, and that the community have looked on with comparative indifference. We and others can attest, that this seminary was once in a vigorous and flourishing state. But now it is overshadowed by a dark cloud: it is in a languid state, and is approaching very fast to the last stage of decline, by the withering influence that has been exerted against it.

There is at present no expectation that the Legislature will restore the Academy to its former efficiency, nor that they will relieve it from the undeniable embarrassment into which they have brought it. On this subject they appear to be callous indeed. Were they the real friends of their country, were they the patrons of learning and science, were they envious for the fame of Nova Scotians, they would never allow any Seminary like the Pictou Academy to languish and die. They can lavishly vote the public money for objects of minor importance. But when in the present emergency money is demanded for the diffusion of Academic knowledge, they can either sneer at the applicants, or swell into rage. They appear to have wished it rum from the commencement, and to be determined that it shall not any longer benefit the country.

As it regards the community in general, they have had ample opportunity since the re-modelling of the Seminary, to judge of the folly of the measure, and to express their loud and firm disapprobation of the Legislative enactment. If they could not effect any change in the Law by which the Institution is now governed, they might at least contribute the paltry sum which would supply the deficiency. What will other countries think of a Legislature who for the sum of £100 annually, would deliberately destroy an excellent Academy in this young country? What will the people in other parts of the Province think of the inhabitants of Pictou and Colchester especially, who can spend thousands on various superfluities, and yet who are reluctant to support an Institution which is so closely identified with their own interests. If this illiberal spirit continue to pervade the country, some of the youth who will arise in every section of the Province, may have reason to regret that they were not born in other lands.

But Gentlemen, are we who have been immediately benefited by this Seminary, to show the same apathy towards it which others evince? Are we to show no affection to the parent that gave us birth? Certainly, we have not forgotten our obligations to the Pictou Academy. Surely, we will not decline to support it in the day of need. Shall we now mingle in the scenes of life, shall each of us follow his profession or pursue his occupation, without enquiring into the health, the pecuniary circumstances, and the prosperity of our *Alma Mater*? I flatter myself that many of the alumni of our Academy will respond in the negative. I trust that many of us have the feelings, the consideration and the gratitude of men. We are all obligated to the Institution for the education which we have received, and many of us are particularly indebted to it for the situations which we occupy in the community. If now by the providence of God we are enabled to render it any assistance, shall we decline to give it our aid? I admit that our pecuniary circumstances are very different. This has happened as it has pleased God. But there are none who are settled in life among us, that cannot afford to give material assistance to the Seminary which is associated with so many of our sweet and endearing recollections.

In the month of November last, the state of the Academy was taken into consideration by the Rev. Angus McGillivray, the Rev. James Ross and myself. We deemed it to be our immediate duty to open a subscription in aid of the Institution, to apply to as many of the old Students in Pictou as we could there

find, and to pay in the amount collected to William Matheson, Esq. From all the Gentlemen in the town of Pictou to whom we applied, we cordially obtained their subscriptions. A meeting was held in the course of the day, when it was unanimously agreed, that a general meeting should take place in the first week of January last: that your humble servant should act as Secretary *pro tempore*, and that he by letters should apply to other Gentlemen residing in different parts of the Province. When about to proceed on the discharge of the duties which thus devolved on me, I met with a serious accident, which in the mean time disabled me from the performance of the duties of my station, and which more or less impaired my vigour and strength during the winter. It is to this cause that the delay which has occurred on my part is to be attributed. I very much regret that I was not able to attend to my appointment at the time, and I trust that none of the Gentlemen whom I am addressing will charge me with neglect toward the Academy, nor with indifference to their appointment.

As I have now all the convalescence which I ever expect to have, I wish to resume the functions of my appointment without any further delay. I therefore respectfully request your attention to the subjoined Notice.

Gentlemen, we have great reason to deplore the gloom and the depression which have overtaken our *Alma Mater*. The Legislature have manifested toward it a temporising and a tortuous policy. The people whom it was designed to subserve, have left it to languish without adequate support. The friends of the Institution have permitted its enemies to destroy it, and to triumph in their success. Shall we then express no indignation while Church and State have arrayed themselves against this Academy? Shall we stand aloof while the hand of spoliation is about to seize it? Shall we stand in the rear while the enemy has invested it on every side, while he is assailing the citadel, breaking down the ramparts, and about to scatter its materials to the winds? From what has recently transpired in the House of Assembly, we may be assured, that the alumni of Windsor College will resist the spoliation of their *Alma Mater*. They will defend her by their eloquence, and support her in the time of need. Our Academy cannot be less sacred to us, than their college is to them. It has been publicly said that Windsor College has produced scholars and Gentlemen. Will its avowed enemies presume to say that the Pictou Academy has not done the same? The merits of our Seminary have been tested, by Governors, by Councillors, by Judges, by Clergymen, and by others who were competent to judge. These repeatedly have expressed their satisfaction with the system which is taught, and with the proficiency of the Students. Will we then allow our Academy to go down without resistance? Will we yield to the enemy without a struggle? Shall the walls of science be closed? Shall the fountain of knowledge be now sealed? Shall its streams either be dried up at their source, or diverted from their channels? Shall the partisans of bigotry and of faction who have brought ruin on the Academy be allowed to glory in their success? Shall the Rev. Doctor who has spent a laborious life for the good of Nova Scotia, be obliged in the evening of his days either to return to his native land, or to go and dwell among strangers? Shall the youth who are to succeed us on the stage of life be left without a Seminary which will expand their intellects, promote their usefulness, and elevate their character in the world? I trust that these things will not be so, that better days will dawn on our Academy, and that it will continue to be a blessing to millions that are yet unborn.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HUGH ROSS.

Tatamagouche, April 16th, 1836.

SUBJOINED NOTICE.

THE Gentlemen who have finished their Education at the Pictou Academy, and who are now settled in the community, are respectfully requested to meet at the Grammar School house in the Town of Pictou, on Tuesday, the 3d day of May next, at 12 o'clock noon. The intention of the meeting being, to consider the present depressed and inefficient state of the Seminary, to procure aid toward its immediate support, and to dispose of the amount that may be obtained in such way, as the Meeting shall deem to be necessary, and advantageous to the Institution. Those gentlemen who reside at a distance, and who perhaps cannot be expected to attend the ensuing meeting, will subserve the interests of their *Alma Mater*, by remitting their quota to WILLIAM MATHESON, Esq.

HUGH ROSS, Sec'y, *pro tem*.

Tatamagouche, April 15th, 1835.

GREAT BRITAIN.

BRITISH & AMERICAN LINE OF STEAM PACKETS.

The New York Commercial has the following paragraphs in relation to the Steam Navigation of the Atlantic so often adverted to of late both in English and American papers. It would appear that a line of steam packets has been established between the North American continent and Great Britain.

"A company has been formed by the appointment of patrons and directors—the number of the first being eleven and of the latter nineteen, with power to increase. The capital is two millions of pounds sterling, in shares of fifty pounds each. The first patron is Lord Mulgrave—lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and the Marquess of Lansdown is another. The other nine are noblemen. The banks are the Bank of Ireland, the Provincial Bank of Ireland, Ladbroke & Co of London, the Northern and central Bank of England, and Messrs. A'wood of Birmingham. A charter has been obtained from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and has been transmitted to London for his Majesty's sign Manual, which will be affixed as soon as the subscription shall have been, to a reasonable extent, filled up.

The most eligible port on the west coast of Ireland has been selected for a steam-packet station, viz: Biturbuy Bay in the county of Galway, from whence it is proposed to carry a rail road in a direct line through Athlone to Dublin. The distance is only 110 miles, and the line of country presents unusual facilities for the formation of a rail road, the country being level and containing abundance of materials necessary for the construction of the work. The average inclination throughout the whole line is 1 in 672, and is obtained without great embankments or deep cuttings, and will be entirely free from tunnels and viaducts.

The directors announce that they have an offer of as much land as will suffice for twenty miles of the railroad, the ground requisite for wharves, docks and stores, 100 acres of building ground on the margin of Biturbuy Bay, for ever, at a pepper-corn a year rent, and likewise the unanimous approval of the land owners along the line.

Prospectuses of the plans of the undertaking may be obtained of John Davis, No. 2 Rumford place, Liverpool, by whom, also, applications for shares will be received, under seal, and endorsed "British and American Inter-course Company."

SIR ROBERT PEEL is now, as he has been since the death of Mr. Canning, the leader of the Tory party in the House of Commons. He is a remarkably good-looking man, rather above the usual size, and finely proportioned. He is of a clear complexion, full round face, and red haired. His usual dress is a surtout, a light waistcoat, and dark trousers. He generally displays a watch chain on his breast, with a bunch of gold seals of unusually large dimensions and great splendour. He can scarcely be called a dandy, and yet he sacrifices a good deal to the graces. I hardly know a public man who dresses in better taste.—*Random Recollections.*

The ladies throughout the British Dominions, especially those of the court, among whom are duchesses, countesses and ladies of all ranks are teasing Daniel O'Connell for his autograph, which his gallantry never permits him to refuse to the fair sex, so that he frequently writes his name over a hundred times a day.

The ministers are carrying every thing before them in England, and O'Connell continues to enjoy more favor and popularity than ever. He may be said to be the only great man in the British dominions in the present day.—*American vaper.*