

Thus brought into contact with the world he felt keenly that his limited education was a serious barrier to his usefulness, and he determined to come to Nova Scotia with the view of attending the Horton Academy, his attention having been turned to that Institution by kind Baptist friends in Prince Edward Island. He came to this Province in a small coasting vessel which, night after night during the tedious and boisterous passage, sought the shelter of one and another of the convenient harbours of our Eastern shores. At all these harbours Mr. Gordon landed and busied himself with distributing bibles and tracts, and addressing on the subject of religion such people as he could gather around him. Early in November 1851 he landed in this city, a total stranger, intending to remain two or three days and then proceed to Horton.

MR. GORDON AT COLLEGE.

Happily, in the Boarding House where he went to lodge, he met several of the Free Church Students, who represented to him the advantages of remaining in the city and prosecuting his studies in the Free Church College. He at once resolved to remain and give Halifax a fair trial. He now seemed eager to be qualified for preaching the gospel, that he might do what lay in his power to save the multitudes that he saw perishing all around him. He commenced the study of the English and the Latin Grammar at the same time, and was in particular haste to get at the Greek New Testament. Theology also he would plunge into, without an hour's delay. Besides the literary and philosophical classes under Professor Lyall, he attended Professor King's lectures and was greatly delighted with them—they threw light on so many passages of Scripture and cleared away all his difficulties relating to the Evidences of Christianity. Often, even after reaching Erromanga, he expressed his deep sense of gratitude for the manner in which the doctrines of the Bible were unfolded to his mind in his College days in this city. Though his early education was extremely limited, so diligently did he labour, and so great was his aptitude for learning, that in the space of five years he was not only a good English scholar, but had made very respectable progress in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, and in every other department of a liberal education. When he entered the Free Church College, his attainments were scarcely above the average of farmers or mechanics; in five years he was in the most important branches not much behind the foremost ranks of our students.

He was always exemplary and very faithful in dealing with his fellow students, and at the same time affectionate and gentle; and he grew in gentleness and courtesy with his growth in knowledge. We all loved and revered him, and from the first recognized him as no common man. His prayers at all times, but especially at the Students' meetings, had a rare freshness, sweetness, power and sublimity which reminded us more of the inspired outbursts of prophetic and apostolic times than the cold supplications of ordinary Christians. Passages of those prayers, and the very tones of his voice, still linger in our memory; we cannot think of them without the deepest emotion—so humble, so trustful, so earnest were they, the effectual and fervent prayers of a righteous man, eloquent of Heaven and accepted there.

It was his custom to give much time to fasting and prayer, especially when in trouble or when seeking light on any subject of importance. He was mighty in the Scriptures, and frequently rose before the dawn that he might have time for reading, meditation and prayer.

He obtained a portion of his theological education in the Seminary of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia; but he always regarded the Halifax College as his *alma mater*. He was an earnest advocate for the union of the