



REV. PRESIDENT FORREST, D. D., F. S. Sc., (Lond.)

The University of Dalhousie College has of late been developing with extraordinary rapidity. Wealthy friends have been pouring in money, founding chairs and scholarships. The Faculty of Arts has added to it those of Law and Medicine. And, last of all, the new building has been formally opened, though not yet entirely completed, on Convocation Day, April 26th, by an "at home," where, from 8 to 11 p. m., about 1,700 of the *elite* of Halifax and the Province were present. This acceleration in the heretofore steady growth of the Provincial University of Nova Scotia is contemporaneous with the governorship and presidency of a man of extraordinary energy and business capacity. John Forrest, the subject of our brief sketch, was born in the County of Pictou, Nova Scotia, November 25th, 1842. He thus forms one of a notable Pictovian trio of Canadian University Presidents—Sir William Dawson, of McGill, Dr. Geo. M. Grant of Queens, and Dr. Forrest, of Dalhousie. In 1856 he entered the Free Church Academy in Halifax. In 1858 and 1859 he prosecuted his studies in the Presbyterian College at Truro. In 1861, at the early age of 19 years, he was appointed to a position in the Free Church Academy, and his energy did much to win for this institution its well merited reputation. In 1866 he was ordained a minister of St. John's Presbyterian Church, and from that time forward he was in the head and front of every philanthropic movement and effort in Halifax. In 1877 he was appointed a governor of the University. And

some time later he made a personal and extensive study of the appliances and methods of work in the leading universities of the United States, with a special view to the future of Dalhousie. These studies were co-ordinated with the experience of the other Professors of the Faculty in the leading universities of Great Britain and Germany, in arriving at present results. In 1880 he was appointed "George Munro" Professor of History and Political Economy; and in 1885 he was unanimously elected President of the University. In 1886 he received the degree of D. D. from the University of Queens, and was elected a fellow of the Society of Science, Letters and Art, of London. As a lecturer his fluency and vigor of expression give him special power in the treatment of historical and political subjects. And the enthusiasm which characterizes him in all his work passes as an inspiration of energy into the minds of his students, in each of whom he appears to have time enough to manifest a personal interest. Under a genius so well fitted to push the interests of the University, and with a *Senatus academicus* containing some of the ablest scholars, in their special departments, of which Canada can boast, and with a building so thoroughly adapted to the requirements of modern demands, the University of Dalhousie promises to give the city of Halifax, both at home and abroad, a reputation and prestige which all its other great natural advantages have never, and could never obtain for it.

THE National Education Association of the United States, will meet this year in San Francisco on the 17th July—the same day on which the Interprovincial Association meets in St. John—and continue in session until the 20th July. For the sake of comparison we give the topics that will engage the attention of our fellow-workers across the border:

1. Literature in the reading courses of public schools.
2. How can our schools best prepare law-reverencing and law-abiding citizens?
3. Current criticism of our school system and what answer?
4. Practical education.
5. The relation of the state to school books and appliances.
6. What is needed in our educational system to secure respect for common labor or way-working.
7. Spelling reform.

We have received circulars in connection with this Convention of the National Educational Association of the United States, to be held in San Francisco in July next. From 7,000 to 10,000 teachers are expected to be in attendance. Great preparations are being made by the whole State for the great event. Last year the Convention was held in Chicago, which appropriated \$25,000 for the purpose, and the States of Illinois and Iowa respectively \$2,500 and \$5,000. New Brunswick and the City of Saint John are interested in a proportional degree in the Interprovincial Convention to be held about the same time.