

year 1835, several ministers of the United Synod joined the Synod of Canada. And, in the year 1836, the Toronto Presbytery resolved to overture the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, praying for the establishment of a Theological College. At the Synod held in August, 1838, the Presbyteries of Hamilton and Toronto overtured the Synod on the same subject; and the Synod resolved that it was their duty forthwith to originate such an institution, and appointed a committee to prepare a scheme for this object.

The United Presbyterian Church in this country at an early period engaged in the work of training up young men for the ministry. This work was first carried on by the Rev. W. Proudfoot, of London, and afterwards by Dr. John Taylor, of Toronto, both good scholars and able theologians. Perhaps some brother may give reminiscences of the origin and progress of the United Presbyterian Hall.

The Commission of Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in 1839, published an address. (See it in "The Christian Examiner and Presbyterian Magazine," 1839, p. 302), recommending that immediate steps be taken to raise \$80,000 or \$100,000 for the endowment of a Literary and Theological College; and stating that it would be easy to do so, as the Presbyterian population was computed at 100,000. If it was then considered easy to raise \$100,000, how much easier should it not be now, when the adherents of the Canada Presbyterian Church were computed at 220,000 in 1861, and their wealth has also greatly increased since 1839; being, probably, SEVERAL TIMES as much as it was then. The object of the proposed college was twofold: to furnish education to the rising youth of our people, on scriptural principles, and to rear native ministers to supply our spiritual destitution; the latter being the chief object in view. They say that the Church of Scotland has always been distinguished for the scholarship of her ministers; and so have most of the churches that have sprung from her in Europe and America. In the year 1840, the United Synod was incorporated with the Synod of Presbyterian Church in Canada. There were then 76 ministers on the roll of that Synod. At the Synod held in Toronto, July, 1840, instructions were given to Presbyteries to take steps to collect funds for the endowment of Queen's College, Kingston; and a formula was prepared to be signed by the professors when appointed. One of those who laboured most faithfully and successfully in raising the endowment for Queen's College, was the late Rev. Alexander Gale, then of Hamilton, C.W.

Meantime, several young men, brought up in Canada, had devoted themselves to the service of the Lord, in the work of the Gospel Ministry, before any college was provided for their instruction. Mr. Angus McColl, now of Chatham, C.W., began his education for the ministry about the beginning of the year 1835, with Dr. John Rae, Head Master of the Hamilton Grammar School; a teacher eminent for scholarship, and ability in imparting instruction. In February, 1838, he was joined by Mr. Robert Wallace, now of Drummondville, C.W.; and, in September, by Mr. John McKinnon, late of Carlton Place, C.W., who had spent the year 1837 at the Oneida Institute, N.Y. Then followed Messrs. Balmer and Durno,* George Bell (now of Clifton), and Lachlan McPherson (Williams).

The students were placed by the Synod under the supervision of the Hamilton Presbytery, who occasionally examined them, and took a general oversight of their progress and welfare. Towards the end of Febru-

* Messrs. Balmer and Durno died at Hamilton.