

## DR. THOMAS McCULLOCH.

[For the Maritime.

The late "At Home" at Dalhousie College would recall the name of the revered Dr. Thomas McCulloch, who, in the early history of the institution, was at its head and stood up boldly in its defence.

Whilst a Professor in the College he also made use of his pen in defence of our religious rights and liberties. And whilst a keen controversialist yet his discussions were always carried on in good spirit.

During the session of 1864 the late Hon. Joseph Howe gave a few lectures to the students of Dalhousie College on the early history of Nova Scotia. He related the following anecdote concerning a controversy carried on between Dr. McCulloch and the Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Church, Halifax, as illustrating how good naturedly it was conducted.

Several articles were written by Bishop Burke in defence of Roman Catholicism, and Dr. McCulloch replied in defence of Protestantism. After writing for some time the letters were published in pamphlet form and sold in the book stores.

One day the Bishop was looking out his window and saw Dr. McCulloch pass when he tapped at the window and the Dr. came in. "Well," said Bishop Burke, "we have now fought long enough, take a glass of wine." In the course of conversation the Bishop said, "How did your book sell." "On," said Dr. McCulloch, "I did not sell many for my people are very poor." "Mine sold well," says the Bishop, "which shows its superiority over yours. When I published mine I went down to the altar and told my people, 'Tom McCulloch, the heretic, has published a book and I have written a reply, go down to the book store and purchase a copy.' In a short time the whole edition was gone."

Heroically Dr. McCulloch struggled in behalf of Dalhousie College and at the same time stood up boldly for the truth. -- D.

## SHUBENACADIE AND LOWER STEWIAKKE.

An historical sketch of the Shubenacadie and Lower Stewiacke congregation has just been published in pamphlet form by the pastor. The following conclusion will give our readers some idea of the growth of this congregation.

More than a century has gone since the missionary labours of Rev. James Murdoch commenced in this congregation; and over eighty years since its organization as a part of Douglas congregation under the Rev. Alexander Dick.

During these four score years there has been an increase from one to six congregations, from one to seventeen churches, from (not known) to over 1200 communicants, from perhaps four hundred, to over eight thousand dollars a year for religious and benevolent purposes.

Shubenacadie and Lower Stewiacke congregation is fifteen years old. In that time it has about doubled its membership and increased its contributions to the schemes of the church five fold.

During the pastorate of Rev. M. G. Henry (10 years) there have been added to the communion roll in Shubenacadie and North Salem 57 by certificate and 75 by profession, in Lower Stewiacke 38 by certificate and 76 by profession, a total of 240. During the same period there were 149 removals.

The contributions to the schemes of the church have increased from \$138 to \$508.

The Sabbath School attendance has increased from 200 to about 300.

How much growth there has been in spirituality and vital godliness we cannot tell so easily nor indicate by figures, but we trust that in that also there is progress. Each individual must examine himself on that point. Let us continue to pray "O Lord revive thy work." -- Com.

## STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU FOR 1887.

In submitting their report your Committee regret to be obliged to confess that there was considerable delay in receiving reports from a number of congregations. They are all in now and we invite the attention of Presbytery to the facts about to be presented.

These figures are well worthy of our study. They come to us from 18 pastoral charges and 3 Mission Stations. They tell of self-denying efforts on the part of pastors, elders and members of the church. It is not perhaps the province of this report to speak of the spiritual life of our congregations, yet where true religion is flourishing, our membership is increased, our prayer meetings and Sabbath-schools