

Record of August last. Whether this is true, they themselves will be able to judge. It is manifest, therefore, that the overture anent the Hall was NOT brought before Synod in the same manner as that which had reference to Dalhousie College. The latter was introduced in an open and deliberate manner, and was the natural result of opinion previously formed, and, for this reason, it was not suddenly nipped in the bud, but took root in the ground, and promises to bring forth good fruit. The former sprung up mysteriously, like Jonah's gourd, IN THE NIGHT, so that when the first beam of day struck it (because it was a thing of darkness) it was already withering and dying. Now, this false policy might, in some small degree, have been corrected by the projectors, had they given early notice to the members of Synod, on their arrival in Halifax, that a measure of such grave importance was to be proposed and considered. Had they really desired a free and full discussion of the subject, they would have placed the overture in the van of all the other business, so that those who had come to Court (not to speak of the public at large) might have still a brief space to think over the project and to canvass it leisurely. Instead of doing this, however, the projectors rigidly kept their secret until the eleventh hour; and, on the forenoon of the last day of the session but one, and when several members had left for their homes, and others were on the point of departing, they suddenly broke silence. Instead of being occupied the whole of Saturday, as this writer alleges, with the consideration of the subject, the Synod, I repeat, was not so occupied *above the space of three hours*. We met at 9 o'clock for devotional exercises. Before these were over, and books turned out, and parties had dropped in, it would probably be 10 o'clock. The Synod closed its sitting at 1, and did not meet again that day, as it is not usual for such a Court to have a second session on Saturdays. But "consideration of the overture was resumed on Monday." The fact is, that the discussion of the overture, *on its merits*, was concluded on Saturday; and when all parties had risen to depart, and when some had their hats in their hands, a member suggested some trifling verbal alteration in the terms of the finding to be inserted in the minutes. It was thereupon agreed (because we were on our feet to depart) that this piece of formality should be performed on Monday. The expression, "resumed consideration on Monday," may possibly be inserted in the Minutes, but this expression, like the point to which it refers, is, of course, quite formal. In short, the question as to the adoption of the overture was decided on Saturday. The story of this strange brief life is soon told. It cracked the shell about 10 o'clock. About 12, it was on its legs and looking pretty vigorous, and at 1 it was full-fledged and soaring in the Empyrean.

"Above the smoke and stir of this dim spot
Which men call earth."

Several sharp shots were fired at it, but it was too swift of wing. There were good marksmen on the ground, but, being taken unawares, they were unprovided with ammunition. Some weeks afterwards, however, a vigilant keeper of the King's Preserves, in the region of Salt Springs, having caught sight of the strange intruder (which had received a wound), levelled a sure aim and brought it straight to the ground. I have been told since that the creature is dead.

"Again," says my Respondent, "who supported the project when it was being discussed? Every Elder, and almost every Minister present, including all the seniors and those who had been longest in the country." The inaccuracy of this statement must strike every individual who was present at the Synod, at the meeting of Saturday. "Every Elder" sounds strong, but the writer forgets to mention how many Elders were actually present. Most of them had left for their homes, and, as far as I recollect, only Mr. Thomson and Mr. Holmes remained. "Almost every Minister, including all the seniors and those who had been longest in the country." Why, instead of using the vague term, "almost every," did not the writer specify the exact number? There were three ministers (Mr. McMillan, Earl town, Mr. McDonald, Barney's River, and myself,) who expressed a decided opinion against the scheme. There were others who, as they were not prepared to discuss it, allowed it to pass without active opposition; and, so far from the scheme being supported by the seniors, and those who had been longest in the country, the *reverse* seems to be the case. The Rev. Mr. McKay, of Salt Springs, is one of the oldest and most experienced of our clergymen; and last month's *Record* would show very clearly what his opinions are. It is true, circumstances prevented his attendance at Synod, but that does not weaken the weight of his judgment. The Rev. Mr. McLean, of Belfast, is also one of the older and more experienced of the ministers of our Church; but the Respondent cannot rank that gentleman among the number of the supporters of the project. I cannot understand why my Respondent should assert that "I was the only member of Synod who took decided ground against it." The Rev. Mr. McMillan, of Earl town, was the first person who spoke against it, and he gave forth no uncertain sound. He expressed his opinion with great clearness and decision. A number of delegates were appointed to appear before the Synod of New Brunswick, which met soon afterwards, on the subject of the proposed Hall. Among these was Mr. McMillan; but his tongue had not forgot its function when he arrived there; and, in his place in that Synod, with characteristic courage and integrity, he spake against the