

of religion and morality to an extent but little apprehended in general, and which can never be fully estimated until the great day of account shall reveal the fruits of their labours in all their consequences and connexions.

After some further remarks, the Attorney General proceeded to observe that there was then no talk of Colleges or Academies among the class of the population of whom he was speaking—they would have been unsuited to their circumstances. But as time advanced the scene changed. The country became more cultivated, and smiling fields took the place of the forest—the population increased—knowledge abroad had extended and was diffusing its quickening influences more generally through society in other parts of the world; and in Nova-Scotia the children whose parents had been precluded the means of mental culture, grew up with better opportunities for advancing the intellectual improvement of their offspring and of society, than those enjoyed upon whom had fallen the laborious and self-denying cares belonging to the early settlers of a new country. But with those improved opportunities and increased privileges, came enlarged obligations, for it was the duty of every member of society, and especially of every christian, to promote moral, religious, and mental improvement, to his utmost ability.

To meet this changing condition, more and different agents were required, and the Baptist denomination did not adequately provide them—their previous circumstances precluded.

At this period several individuals in Halifax were led by a train of circumstances very peculiar and unpremeditated, to leave the Church of England and associate themselves with the Baptists there, who were at the time as a religious body hardly known out of their own community, and with a not large exception, were composed of the colored people of Preston and Hammond's Plains—but they were blessed with a most worthy pastor. He never could, said the Attorney General, call to mind this devoted servant of God without emotions of liveliest affection and deep veneration, nor allow the occasion of meeting here to pass without a tribute to his memory, although he perhaps had been unknown to many present; for never had he known more fervent and active piety,

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