

the night." The question of training a native ministry became mixed with sectarian disputes, and the opposition to the whole system, instead of being subdued by the success of these young men was actually embittered by it. The result was a long strife which ended in the Pictou Academy being closed, and the Presbyterian cause left in an almost wrecked condition.* The Hall, however, was never closed in Dr. McCulloch's lifetime. It was sometimes in a very low condition. I believe there was one session at which there was only one student in attendance. But each year he regularly conducted his classes till his death in 1843. And some account of the institution during that period may be of interest.

That our readers, therefore, may have an idea of what the advocates of the education of a native ministry had to contend with, I give an extract from an article in a public newspaper as late as the year 1831 :

"If we have only gullibility enough to admit as fact that two professors in the course of four years, two terms in each year, and each term occupying four months, can bestow a competent education, . . . then, and not till then, the public will believe that Pictou students are qualified to be schoolmasters. If H. M. council can be made to believe this, they will soon pass their share of a law for a grant double the amount looked for."

This was written six years after the University of Glasgow had deemed three of these students worthy to receive the degree of A. M., and after they had been ministering successfully for the same period. In a Scotch paper about the same time, in reply to a memorial of the trustees of the Pictou Academy, appeared an article copied into a paper here, ridiculing the teaching of such branches as were taught in it, as was said "to the children of settlers who, for a long period yet to come, must in some measure continue to be mere hewers of wood and drawers of water."

During that time Dr. McCulloch was sole professor, but Dr. Fraser who attended the Arts Course at the Academy (1825-29), informed me that Mr. Michael McCulloch employed part of his

* The most of the present generation knew nothing of the strife of that period, and perhaps it is well that they should not. I would be sorry to revive old controversies. But these things are now matters of history, which can scarcely be ignored.