

Toronto. The late Rev. Dr. MacLay was employed to canvass the country for an endowment. He was a great collector, and with some local aid from Dr. Boyd and others he secured pledges for over \$26,000 towards an endowment. The subscriptions were in the form of bonds, bearing interest till paid.

The subscribers met in January 1853. They organized, drew up, and then adopted a constitution, and made other important and necessary preparations to commence work.

But the Baptists of those days were far from being homogeneous in their views and sympathies, and this state of things made itself felt in everything which required harmony and co-operation. It made itself fatally felt in the organization and management of MacLay College. Different sections or divisions of the office-bearers seemed to lack perfect confidence in each other, and consequently did not work toward the same end. The result was that one subscriber after another became disgusted and withdrew their bonds, which represented their subscriptions, and the whole enterprise began to crumble into dust. The constitution which was framed, as I suppose, to avoid the evils of the then divided state of the denomination, was made really unworkable, and this hastened the winding up of the enterprise. In order to arrest the process of disintegration which had commenced, a president of the College was appointed. But this had no good result, for the president did not seem to meet the views of any party. It would be very unbecoming in me to cast reflections upon any person, for his course in connection with MacLay College. I am touching as lightly as I am able upon the mere facts which rose to the surface of this movement. The new president only occupied his position for about four months, and there never was a student in MacLay College.

The first meeting which I attended in behalf of education, after I returned from the States to Canada in 1855, was one called to raise means, if possible, with which to pay off the debts incurred in connection with MacLay College, whose president was then a member of my church. Money was raised, his salary was paid,—at least for a portion of his time,—and he left the country. This was the closing up of MacLay college! A large number of our best men had freely and promptly pledged their means for its support, and the hopes of all were high. Its failure therefore was undoubtedly a heavy blow and sore discouragement. Many of the brethren in the country, (some of whom seem to fancy that the organization and management of a College ought to be a very easy and simple affair) laid the chief blame upon Toronto, and have scarcely yet forgiven her. In spite of the great depression occasioned by the failure of the MacLay movement, one clear benefit remained. Their ability to raise so much, in a short time towards an endowment clearly showed to the denomination what they could do when they pleased. This lesson was a clear gain any way. But under the effect of the loss of confidence, and disgust produced by the failure, how can the denomination be again aroused to do what it is well able to do? Who can inspire them with the needed confidence?

#### THE CANADIAN LITERARY INSTITUTE.

When we began agitating once more about ministerial education in 1856, I found but two or three men who had any confidence that the Canadian Baptists could be again induced to lay hold of this work. I had no confidence—and never had—in being able to raise and conduct in Canada a really satisfactory theological school by itself. The Grammar schools in Canada, twenty-two years ago, were of little value, and fully five-sevenths of all who should attend them, would have to leave home to do so. I was in favor of a literary department in our theological school, where we could exercise some oversight over the pupils. This department if thrown open for pupils not having the ministry in view, would interest a larger number of the Baptists, and help us to enlist their co-operation. This idea of the school commended itself to the brethren, and was finally adopted, as I shall more fully state in my next.

#### The Plan Proposed.

In the autumn of 1856 two or three ministers, with myself, held a meeting in my study, to consider "the situation" in regard to ministerial education. After long consideration a plan for a new movement, (to be submitted to a public meeting which was proposed to be called) was drawn up. The main features of the plan were as follows:

1. We will aim at organizing a School with two departments, a Literary and a Theological. We need a literary department, because as yet, the Grammar schools are generally very inferior; and chiefly because were they all first rate, over five-tenths of all our young men would have to leave home to attend them. And then no provision has been made to provide for their suitable boarding places, and proper oversight; and having to attend fifty different schools, no two of them would have the same kind or degree of preparation for the study of theology. Whereas if our students should attend a preparatory school of our own, they would have not only the same curriculum, but the same incidental training and discipline.

No person who has not had experience as a teacher can tell how much, how very much, this incidental training and discipline amounts to. It gives the students a thorough acquaintance with each other, a unity and compactness, which must tell largely upon their life work. At the drawing up of our plan for a new departure, it was deemed essential therefore that we should have a preparatory department for our Theological School; and I may add now, after nearly twenty years' experience,—notwithstanding the very great improvements in our Grammar Schools and Collegiate Institutes,—the necessity for a preparatory department seems more clear and imperative than ever.

2. It was decided to admit ladies also into the preparatory department. We had no place in which to educate our young women. Many of them were going to American schools. And the co-education of the sexes was receiving more and more consideration, and increasing numbers were favoring the practice. Indeed, very great and rapid advances, both in England and the United States, have been made during the last ten years in favor of the admission of the ladies to the same institutions of learning as the men. We certainly could not then have

raised two schools, one for the gentlemen and another for the ladies, so we put them together: and for the overwhelming majority of our people in Canada we find we have been doing the very kind of work which they required to have done.

3. As to the location of the School it was resolved, that it should not be placed west of London, nor east of St. Catharines; that its location should be on some great thoroughfare and thus be accessible; that the place should be healthy; and should have a good Baptist church, out of which an executive committee could be chosen. These conditions being premised, then the place, which would furnish a site, and the largest amount of money toward the building, should have the School located in it. In drawing up this scheme, we felt that it would be an object especially for smaller towns to have such a School located in it. Since the founding of the School, there have been spent in Woodstock, by the School, and its pupils, not far from \$40,000. The whole expenditure is now fully \$30,000 per annum. We therefore justly expected that there would be some competition between the various localities, to secure the location of the Institute.

#### Meeting in Brantford.

This document of which the foregoing were the chief provisions, was laid down before a meeting of Baptists, convened at Brantford. After full and careful discussion, the plan in substance as above sketched, was adopted by the Brantford meeting. A committee consisting of the late Rev. H. Lloyd and the writer, was appointed to publish the scheme, call for competition, and locate the School according to the conditions laid down by the meeting. The committee attended to their duty, and announced that they would meet at Paris, Ont., on such a day, to examine the tenders and give their decision.

#### Choice of Location.

Unfortunately the Brantford meeting had not instructed their locating Committee, as to the form of the money pledges or bonds, which they should exact from the place where they decided to place the School. The Committee had therefore to be guided simply by their own judgment. Three places desired to have the Institute with them viz., Fonthill, Brantford, and Woodstock. When the documents sent by these places to the Committee were opened at Paris, it was found that Fonthill promised, in the form of a legal guarantee \$18,000; Brantford offered about \$6,000, in the form of a list of *bona fide* subscribers; and Woodstock \$16,000, in the form of a guarantee from responsible parties. Fonthill was rejected for several reasons; chiefly because it was so difficult of access. The choice then lay between Brantford and Woodstock. The Committee considering a legal bond or guarantee, more easily managed, and better than a list of subscribers, even where the amounts were equal, gave the preference to Woodstock, which guaranteed that \$16,000 should be raised, and that more than half of that sum should be raised in Oxford county. This decided the question of location. And we were taught afterward that God's hand directed this decision. If ever a Committee pled for guidance, Mr. Lloyd and I did, and I think we were answered. Soon after the decision Mr. Zim-