

II. THE BELLEVILLE SEMINARY.

On May 18th, 1855, [page 125 of this Volume,] a Bill was introduced into the Legislative Council to incorporate the Belleville "Seminary," (then so named,) as "Belleville College." The Bill passed the Council, and was sent down to the House of Assembly on the 22nd of May; [page 118] but, on the 28th of that Month, [page 120,] the Bill was not proceeded with, as "no petition had been presented to the House, praying for its passage." Two grants, one of £350, and the other of £150, were, however, made to the College by the Legislature.

On application to the Authorities of the College I was unable to procure a copy of the Bill of Incorporation, as it passed the Legislative Council, and am, therefore, unable to insert it in this Volume.

The following Sketch was prepared for me some years ago, when the Institution was first established and was known as the "Belleville Seminary." The Sketch since furnished to me relates to the later history of the Institution, (as Albert College), and, as such, will be inserted in a subsequent Volume.

This Institution of Learning, (now Albert College, Belleville,) owned and controlled by the Episcopal Methodist Church in Canada, (until its union with the other Methodist Churches in Canada some years since). It was founded in the summer of 1854, and was opened for Students in the summer of 1857.

As the Faculty was composed of both Ladies and Gentlemen, facilities were afforded in the School for the education of both sexes. Boys were trained in the various branches of study taught in Grammar Schools and Colleges, besides having access to many Common School advantages in the Primary Department; while Girls prosecuted any appropriate studies throughout the same range, and in addition were instructed in Music, Painting and other accomplishments that go make up a polite and ornamental education.

The Sketch then goes on to state, that, the Seminary Building occupies a pleasant and very healthful site on the Northern limit of the town of Belleville, commanding a good view of the beautiful Bay of Quinte, on which the Town is situated. It is of brick, and is four stories in height. The frontage is one hundred and thirty two feet, with a depth in the main body of forty four feet, and in the wings of fifty two feet, having a court in the rear between the wings of seventy six feet.

There are within the Building a Chapel, a Laboratory, a Reception Room, a Dining Hall, eight Class rooms, three Family Residences and forty five Rooms for Students, thus furnishing accommodations for about three hundred Students of whom one hundred may live in the Building.

The very first year, (1848), that the Conference of the Episcopal Methodist Church in Canada was organized, it took measures to secure an Academy for the education of its own youth and the youth of the Province. The present Provincial School System, (practically founded under the School Act of 1850,) was not then in operation, so that the necessity of such Institution was the more severely felt. So far as the Belleville Seminary was concerned, the first official action looking toward its erection, was taken in 1848, in which year a Committee of the Bay of Quinte Annual Conference of the Church met at Napanee and opened a subscription to erect Buildings for a School under the direction of the Conference. This work was not however then prosecuted. In 1850 the General Conference of the Church ordered,—

"That the Preachers generally endeavour to ascertain what support will be given by our people to assist in erecting Buildings for an Institution of Learning, and that a Committee of three be appointed to co-operate with any Committee which either of the Annual Conferences may appoint, or both of them, on the subject of education, and to do what shall be by them found practicable to promote education in our Church generally and toward the establishment of an Institution of Learning, to be under the control of our Church."

The Bay of Quinte Annual Conference appointed a Committee of three to correspond with the General Conference Committee in 1850, and renewed the appointment in 1851. The following are extracts from their Report, adopted at the Session of 1852;—

"That the Episcopal Methodist Church, occupying as she does or may, an important position in the Province is most solemnly bound to provide for the mental as well as the moral training of the ten