

riculum of studies, and volunteered certain general observations, commanding them to the earnest consideration of the Board of Directors. Instead of the article appearing in its entirety, Mr. Burton, acting Editor, at the time, thought it wise simply to specify the heads of the paper. By presenting the *bald* heading about the College I was made to say what was never intended to be said, without the accompanying suggestions and observations.

I am in hearty accord with the sentiment expressed in Dr. Wilkes' letter, viz., "That the College is confessedly so important to us as an institution that we must not let false delicacy, or any other consideration, stand in the way of making it the best possible in our circumstances."

What we want is a fearless discussion of the merits or demerits of all our institutions. Let THE INDEPENDENT be made even more lively by frank and open discussion of questions that lie at the very foundation of our denominational prosperity.

*August 18th, 1880.* DUNCAN MCGREGOR.

[We have thought it best to print that portion of Mr. McGregor's article which referred to the College, as his views are there fully stated.—ED. C. I.]

We want more interest to be taken in our College. There is no use concealing the fact that there exists a widespread dissatisfaction with its present condition. The College constituency is professedly the whole of British North America, its real constituency is much more limited. Why does it not command a wider and more generous practical endorsement? It has filled a most important place in the history of Canadian Congregationalism in the past. It should occupy even a more commanding position in the present day. Does it not lie at the very foundation of our Denominational prosperity? It may be putting it too strongly to say, "No College—no Denominational place or power;" but it is not too much to say, "a weak College—a weak Denomination." True, there is hope of an improved condition of things, by the completion of the College Endowment Fund. Should not the normal state of affairs be, for the College to supply pastors for all our churches? The truth now is that it fails to do this. It may be considered *ultra vires* for the College to assume any such work. Doubtless, any church may call its pastor from any part of the world, but would it not be an inducement for men to enter our own College, providing they were permitted to indulge in the hope that they would be invited to the pastorate of any of our vacant churches, whether in city, town, or country? Is it the fact now that there is such a discrimination made in favour of our own men? If this be an evil, and a reason why many young men refuse to enter our College, seeing that "promotion cometh neither from the east nor from the west" but seldom, then is there any way of remedying matters? Looking in this direction let me here suggest for the serious consideration of our College Board of Directors, that, in view of the urgent demand of the times for a thoroughly equipped Christian ministry, they change the present "five years' course," when so needed, into one of six years. This will enable a student to undertake the work specified with more satisfaction to himself and finish his course with greater credit to the College. Let me further suggest that the present "three years' course" be changed into one of four years. In this course let there be no choice, let it represent the minimum requirements of any student entering College. This last will be a "short" enough course for anyone. By such extension of courses a wider range of studies will be compassed, and the dread of failure on the part of the student minimised. Churches might then, according to their requirements, be supplied with pastors after their own heart.

The advantages of such a change as I have just indicated will be duly appreciated and endorsed by our churches. The College will then be well able to supply the demand for men made throughout its entire constituency. The immediate need of our Denomination is not *despatch* in the production of College men, but its crying need is for the *right men in the right places*. Men with a sanctified common sense, and called of God to the work of the ministry, while largely innocent of the learning of the schools, will ever be in demand, and will do a work for God and man which College men cannot do, or at least are unwilling to do. What our College wants at present is the utmost confidence of our churches, possessing which, its pecuniary needs, I am bold to assert, will be abundantly supplied.

REV. MR. MACKAY.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

DEAR SIR—I am "off on a holiday," so says the Kingston "Church Miscellany." Yes, brethren, yes, it has been a glorious holiday to me so far. Since I left Kingston, on the 1st of July, I have preached twenty-seven times, and addressed eight meetings, besides making a number of visits to the sick and the dying. I guess this would be regarded by some as pretty hard work even though they were not upon a holiday as I am. In passing through Montreal I saw

Dr. Wilkes and Professor Fenwick, both of whom wished me Godspeed on my journey. I had a pleasant run to Halifax by the Intercolonial railway, a distance of over 1,000 miles, and occupying from Thursday night till Saturday at noon. In Halifax I was kindly entertained by Captain Mylins, a noble man of God, who has studied his Bible well, and is looking and waiting for the coming of our blessed Lord Jesus Christ. Having to remain in Halifax over Sunday, I had an opportunity of preaching in Poplar Grove Presbyterian Church, to a large and respectable congregation. In the evening I addressed a meeting in connection with the city mission. Mr. Logan, the missionary, is doing a good work among the non-church-going classes, of whom there are many in the city.

On Monday I visited the Sailors' Institute, an institution which is well managed and helpful to many seamen.

Through the kindness of my host I was taken to see his own steamer, and afterwards the "Northampton," one of the most powerful ships in the Royal Navy. This was an enjoyable sight; the only thing I wished was that all the boys and girls in our Sunday schools could have the same opportunity.

On Tuesday we left Halifax by the steamship "Nova Scotian" for St. John's, Newfoundland, where we arrived on Thursday evening. The passage was a pleasant one, notwithstanding that we had fog most of the time, and a sharp lookout had to be kept for icebergs and craft. On nearing the coast of Newfoundland we passed a large iceberg, and, upon getting still nearer, we saw, in the distance, other five large bergs. Among our fellow-passengers, were nineteen engineers from Canada, on their way to survey for a railway from St. John's to Harbour Grace, etc. These engineers have caused a terrible commotion in Newfoundland, as many of the people are opposed to a railway. A few days ago, in a place called Fox Trap, about twenty miles from here, they had a regular battle. The women, to the number of 300, turned out, armed with pitchforks, pokers, tongs, etc., etc., and opposed the advance of the invading army of engineers, the latter were defeated, and had to send for reinforcements from St. John's. A number of policemen, accompanied by Judge Prowse, proceeded with all haste to the scene of action. At one critical moment, were it not that the allied army gave way, the Amazons would have had it their own way and there would have been bloodshed certainly. A portion of the Press in St. John's which designate the engineers as "Canadian cormorants," are stirring up the worst passions of these ignorant people. This is only a political move by those who are in opposition to the present Government.

In passing through the narrows all on board were greatly interested with the wild grandeur of the scenery. The rocks on the north side, called Signal Hill, attain an elevation of 520 feet, the south side hill is 700 feet above the level of the sea. The harbour is a splendid one, and perfectly safe during all seasons of the year.

Mrs. Hall, the good and kind wife of Bishop Hall, accompanied by Archdeacon Cruickshank, was at the wharf meeting me; I need not say that I received a cordial reception, and have been treated in a right royal manner by Mrs. Hall ever since. St. John's is an interesting, old-fashioned place, reminding me very much of some of the old country towns in Scotland.

The Congregational chapel, a substantial stone building, seated for 800 people, was erected about thirty years ago, the church was organized over one hundred years ago, and is the oldest in any of the British colonies. Rev. Thomas Hall, the pastor, was from home during the first fortnight of my stay, he has been at home, however, during the past two weeks, and we have laboured together. He has done, and is still doing, a most blessed work here, and if he leaves, his place will not be easily filled. He is supported by a warm-hearted Christian people. The Church Missionary Society and Ladies' Auxiliary are in a flourishing condition. Three missionaries and several teachers are sustained in connection with the mission.

I have been authorized to secure a missionary in Scotland to labour in Fortune Bay. The majority of people who think of this country at all, think of it only as a land of fog and cod-fish; there is no denying that there is plenty of both, but at this season of the year, especially, it would be difficult to find a more pleasant dwelling place. Last week the thermometer reached 86° in the shade; the previous week, for three days, it averaged 85°. The growth of cereals, and vegetation in general, has been most rapid: Six weeks ago the trees were only beginning to bud, now the farmers are hay-making; the crop of hay would do credit to Ontario. The land is not like Manitoba, but I am convinced, from what I have seen, that there is a great deal of productive land here, and when the country is opened up by railways, many will be found who will be willing to settle, and devote their attention to farming and especially to stock raising.

The educational system is very defective; the schools are all denominational, there is no hope of giving children a liberal education without sending them out of the country at a very large expense, and the majority of the people cannot afford to do this.

I had my closing services last night. Another—Mr. Thomson, missionary—will give you an account of my labours here. To-day I leave via Liverpool for Scotland by the steamship "Caspian."

R. MACKAY.

*St. John's, Newfoundland, 5th Aug., 1880.*

## News of the Churches.

GUELPH.—The Rev. Wm. Manchee preached on Sabbath last in Zion Chapel, Guelph, to large and appreciative audiences. The morning subject was "Divine gentleness operating to make men truly great." The evening subject was just the complement of the morning one, "The power received through faith in Christ to make men the true sons of God." Mr. Manchee is expected to preach in the same place next Sabbath.

J. H.

OWEN SOUND.—The town council has ordered the erection of a bridge over the Sydenham River, opposite the Congregational church. This will bring the church in close proximity with the business centre of the town, and supply a want long felt. A prejudice against the locality will now be removed. The church is still without a pastor, and closed. An excellent opportunity is here offered to a young minister who has the ability, and desires to do a good work for the Master.

TORONTO.—DON MOUNT.—On Sunday, August 15th the anniversary services of the Mount Zion Mission were held, Mr. Adams of the Baptist Church preaching in the morning, and Mr. Currie in the evening. After the sermon Mr. Currie gave a brief account of the year's work, in the course of which he referred feelingly to the many friends in the city who have helped us by all means in their power. We have two Sunday schools in connection with this mission, one at a quarter past nine a.m., with an average attendance for the year of 109, and for the last six months of 120; and one at three p.m. with an average of 71, also shewing an increase for the last six months. We have two public services on the Sabbath day, at eleven a.m. and seven p.m. The attendance at these services is very encouraging, as it is also at the cottage meeting on Tuesday and the prayer meeting on Thursday evenings. Special services were held from March 12th to the 29th. The total receipts for the year were \$318.90; expenditure, \$294.26; balance, \$24.64. Four persons have been joined to us on profession of faith during the last six months, making a membership of twenty. The devil has a strong hold in Don Mount, and prayer and work, work and prayer, must go hand in hand without ceasing. Will the brethren pray for us that our faith fail not, and that we may be strong to sow and to reap to the glory of our risen Saviour Jesus Christ.

G. G.

THE state of matters seems to be becoming continually worse in Ireland, and open rebellion appears more and more likely in the not far off future.