

ent time, with its fine buildings, rich endowments and able professors, it occupies a foremost rank among the colleges of the country as an institution for the training of students in Theology, in Arts, in Medicine, and in Law.

As already mentioned, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada (or Free Church) was organized in 1844. The Synod at once took steps towards establishing a theological seminary and succeeded before the end of the year in having a college opened for the training of students in the city of Toronto, which then contained a population of 18,500, the one seventh or one-eighth part of its present population. The number of students in attendance during the first session was fourteen. The place of meeting was a room in the residence of Professor Esson in James Street, near where Shaftesbury Hall now stands. Mr. Esson, formerly minister of St. Gabriel Street Church, Montreal, had been appointed by the Synod Professor of Literature and Science. In these departments he conducted the classes with great ability and with such warm enthusiasm as stimulated the energies of the students. Theology was taught with equal zeal and ability by the Rev. Andrew King, a Free Church deputy, who afterwards became Professor of Divinity in the Free Church Presbyterian College, Nova Scotia.

During the second session—that of 1845-6—the number of students in attendance was twenty-two, of whom half were in the theological and half in the literary classes. Divinity was taught this session by Dr. Michael Willis, who, like Mr. King, had come as a deputy from the Free Church of Scotland, and who had attained to high distinction as a learned, acute, and profound theologian. Lectures on Church History and Pastoral Theology were given by Dr. Robert

Burns, who had visited this country as a Free Church deputy in 1844, and who, in the following year, had accepted the pastoral charge of Knox Church, Toronto, as well as the position of Professor in the theological college. His extensive knowledge of ecclesiastical history and long experience as a pastor fitted him for the work he now undertook. Biblical Criticism and Hebrew were taught by the Rev. William Rintoul, then minister of Streetsville, who was well versed in Oriental literature. During this session the college met in Adelaide Street, and was furnished with a library of more than 2,000 volumes, which Dr. Burns, with characteristic energy, had collected in Scotland.

During the third session of the college the number of students in attendance was thirty-seven, of whom twenty-one were in the theological classes. Science and Philosophy, Church History and Pastoral Theology, Hebrew and Biblical Criticism were taught by Professor Esson, Dr. Burns and Mr. Rintoul. Systematic Divinity was taught by the Rev. Robert McCorkle, who, like Mr. King and Dr. Willis, had come as a Free Church deputy, and who discharged his duty as *interim* professor with singular ability and unwearied zeal. During this session classes in Latin and Greek were taught by the Rev. Alexander Gale, Principal of the Toronto Academy, which had been established as a preparatory school for the instruction especially of young men intending to study with a view to entering the theological college. Mr. Gale had been minister of Knox Church, Hamilton, and both before and after the Disruption was one of the most prominent leaders and wisest councillors of the Presbyterian Church. The college met this session in the building in Front Street, afterwards known as Sword's Hotel, and now as Queen's Hotel.