

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

NO town in the Province has an educational history more interesting and far reaching in its results than has Pictou. Here was conceived and cradled the institution known as Pictou Academy which in spite of its struggling and checkered career, not only gave a solid classical and scientific education to aspiring young men of the County and Province, but because of the controversy which waged around it, as to its rights and wrongs, also gave a great impetus to the movement which some years later won responsible government for Nova Scotia.

If, as Emerson says, "every great institution is the lengthened shadow of one man," then Pictou Academy, from 1816 to 1832, was indeed the visible incarnation of the genius of Dr. Thomas McCulloch, a Scottish Presbyterian clergyman, who on his way to Prince Edward Island, on account of the lateness of the season, was persuaded to remain during the winter of 1803-4 in Pictou, a resolve which was fraught with far-reaching consequences on the intellectual life of the Province. No sooner had he become pastor of the Harbour (now Prince Street) congregation in 1804, than he recognized the need of well educated Presbyterian clergymen, and then and there he conceived the idea, which twelve years later flowered as the Pictou Academy. He began the organization of a society to found an institution of learning offering a college education, with a view of preparing young men for the Presbyterian ministry. The project

not materializing at that time, he opened a grammar school on his own account, and following the passage of the grammar school act he received the Government Grant of one hundred pounds allotted to the Pictou County District. His school attracted students, not only from all sections of the Province, but also from the West Indies, whom he tutored with the idea of matriculating in the future college which his genius had planned, and which he hoped to see established in the not distant future.

Eleven years later his dream was realized with the incorporation of "Pictou" Academy, on March 26th, 1816. In deference to the friends of King's College, which had been founded in 1790, and which received not only a permanent Provincial grant of \$2000.00 but also a British Government grant of \$5000.00 yearly, its promoters did not ask to have it called a college, with the privilege of conferring degrees, altho it was intended from the first to impart to its students a collegiate training. Moreover, the charter required, on the insistence of the Government, that while open to everybody in general and to dissenters in particular, its teachers were to be Presbyterians, and its Board of Trustees were to be composed of only Presbyterians or Anglicans.

These conditions greatly hindered its growth and usefulness. It naturally could not ask support from anybody except members of its own faith, and as the Presbyterians numbered only about twenty congregations in the Province,