
Historical Sketch of Knox College

From 1844 to 1912

In 1844, at the Disruption of the Church in Canada, I. ITS ORIGIN Queen's University, with its professors, remained with the Presbyterian Church in connection with the Church of Scotland, although most of the Students went out with the Free Church.

The Synod of the Free Church appointed a Commission of Synod to take the matter of Theological Education in hand. The Clerk of the Commission was instructed to ask Presbyteries to seek out young men for the ministry, to write to the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, seeking their aid towards furthering the studies of the Divinity Students. Presbyteries were asked to report their views to the Synod on the practicability of having one seminary for liberal education, with a boarding establishment founded within the bounds of each Presbytery, and one or more Theological Professorships within the bounds of the Synod.

In response to the appeal of the Commission, Dr. Burns of the Free Church, Paisley, who had been a deputy of the Free Church to visit Canada, offered under certain conditions to devote himself to the work of preparing men for the ministry.

In that same year the Synod ordained:—

1. That Rev. Andrew King, a deputy from the Free Church of Scotland, be appointed interim Professor of Divinity for the ensuing Session.

2. That Rev. Henry Esson be appointed a Professor of Literature and Science.

3. That the Professors for the present be stationed at Toronto.