

appointed by the "Canada Baptist Home Missionary Society." (A society which was founded in connection with Mr. Gilmour's mission to England). It was not intended at that time to fix the location of the Baptist College at Montreal. They began there simply because they must begin somewhere. Mr. Gilmour's preference was to have made Brockville the location of the College.

It may here be remarked that the plan of the College was drawn after the English model, viz., a simply theological school—where a principal and a tutor do all the teaching which young ministers require. However well this plan may work in old countries like England where there are greater facilities for early education, it has always been found defective in new countries, where the facilities are so unequally divided and so sparsely distributed.

The Montreal committee, some time after commencing the work of instruction, purchased a large stone house, two stories high, with dormer windows in the roof, (a real French Canadian structure) to which there was a considerable piece of land attached.

At that time this property seemed very far out of the city—among the green fields and farms—now it is in the heart of the city. The house they fitted up for the temporary home of the College, and the land they cut up into building lots, which at the proper time, they intended to sell for the benefit of the school. As the Baptists were then few in number, and as a very large majority of them distrusted the soundness (on the common question) of the chief managers of the College, but few students entered at first. Indeed there never was a large attendance of students at the Montreal College, and some of them were not the best kind of material out of which to make ministers. Some excellent men were indeed trained, and the benefit of whose labors the whole denomination feels this day. I need only name Dr. Davidson, W. K. Anderson, J. Dempsey, A. Slaght, and others, to suggest to my readers some of the services rendered by that College to the Baptists of Canada. In 1843, Dr. Davies was called to the presidency of Stepney College (now Regent's Park College), and our Canadian school which could not yet walk alone, was left without a head. The Rev. Frederick Bosworth, M. A., now of Exeter, England, was Dr. Davies' assistant. In their utter inability to think of any other, the committee turned to me—then having just completed my first year's settlement over a little church I had formed, in the village of Perth. I was first informally asked to take permanent charge of the College. This I refused to do, for two reasons. One was because I doubted my special qualifications for such work, and another was because the Committee could easily find an educated man to come to Canada to be head of a College, when they could not secure such a man to go to a village, or the backwoods, and preach the gospel. I was then formally asked to take charge of the College, till the Committee should procure a suitable successor to Dr. Davies. I made a greater sacrifice of feeling and comfort in meeting the wishes of the Committee than they, or any one else, in those days, gave me credit for. From the autumn of 1843 till the autumn of 1844 I did my best for Montreal College, as its principal. Dr. Cramp came to be the

new head and guide of the school in 1844. During the five years of its existence, up to this time, considerable progress had been made in collecting together many excellent books as the foundation of a College library, as well as other facilities of instruction. Still the school languished. What could be done to rise above the obstacles that stood in the way of its success?

It was situated four hundred miles east of where the largest body of the Baptists were; and these did not then care very much for an educated ministry; and least of all, for a ministry educated under the auspices of sympathizers with open communion! The facilities for reaching Montreal were nothing to what they are now. We had no railroads. Then, in and around Montreal for a great distance, there were scarcely any opportunities for the students to preach. These obstacles, taken together, seem to be, and really were, insurmountable. Never did a body of men labor more faithfully, or struggle harder to succeed. I know that we have no men now among the Baptists—and we never had any—who would work harder, or give as liberally as the Montreal Committee did, according to their means, to make the school succeed. But they were striving to make water run up hill. When Dr. Cramp came it was felt that something must be done to give new life and impulse to the educational work.

It was decided to build a new home for the students, which would settle the question of location, and would perhaps be a pledge and indication of progress. The Committee resolved to build in Montreal, because there was no one place, aside from Montreal, at which there were a sufficient number of business men who were Baptists and interested in the work, who would act as a committee to take care of the school. At that time *necessity* seemed to be laid upon the Montreal brethren. They could not help themselves. Hence the College building was erected in Montreal.

The Montreal Committee of the "Canada Baptist Missionary Society," erected a fine cut stone building, upon a beautiful site, which they had reserved from the land they had bought. It was a beacon which could be seen from a great distance, and brilliantly proclaimed the enterprise of the Baptists. For some time the enterprise seemed to feel the onward and upward impulse of this "new departure." The attendance of students was considerably increased, and a number of those who had not the ministry in view were received into the School.

#### Financial Embarrassment.

After a time, however, financial embarrassments began to be felt. The Canada Baptist Missionary Society, under which the whole educational and missionary work of Canada was carried on, had taken under its patronage the *Grand Ligne* Mission also. It is well known that this Society, like most others, has always been able to use more money than it could raise; and the obligation to provide for this Society drew heavily upon the general organization. This, taken with the fact that they had incurred a very heavy debt in erecting the College building, taxed the Committee heavily. They hoped to be aided, from England, to the extent of at least \$10,000 toward the building, but

were utterly disappointed. In addition to all this, the great body of the Baptists in the West, never warmed up toward the Montreal College, and consequently neither contributed men or money toward it. Then the hard times of '48-'50 came on, and utterly prostrated the few who had struggled so hard for ten or eleven years. The Grand Ligne had to be thrown mainly upon its own resources, "The Canada Baptist Missionary Society," was disbanded, and the College property was sold to pay its debts, so far as possible! The Library which had made a very fine beginning, was sold, and scattered all over Canada. To this day, we, from time to time, come across books which belonged to that Library. We have probably over a hundred volumes in the Institute Library, bearing the marks of the Montreal collection of books.

#### A Good Work Accomplished.

This Eastern enterprise of which I am writing, has often been severely criticised, and its managers have been greatly blamed; but, from my experience for the last twenty years, I can no longer join in this. A more liberal and larger hearted body of men in proportion to their means, I never expect to see. It is well known that I never agreed with the views of most of them in regard to Communion and Church Order, nor with the idea of locating the College at Montreal. But aside from these it is nothing but just that we should recognize the important services which they rendered, and their self denying exertions to accomplish their work. No intelligent Baptist can look back forty years, and ignore the great impulse imparted to the Baptist cause, by the Montreal Society. Of the men educated at the Montreal College, we have one in England and six in Canada, still engaged in preaching the gospel. There are besides seven in Canada, who are not engaged in the ministry. I can recall, four others who are in the United States, and several who have finished their course and gone home. Besides, there were a number of ministers who were induced to come to Canada by the Montreal Society, who rendered good service to the cause of the Master. From my heart I gratefully thank God for the good work done by the Montreal Society!

When I closed my work in Montreal College, I settled as pastor of March Street Church, Toronto, in 1844. A few of the many Western Baptists who would not co-operate with the Montreal College had felt that they ought to do something to raise a College for the West. In the following year (1845) I attended an education meeting held at a point about twelve miles west of where I am now writing. But it was utterly impossible, for the illy informed and conflicting elements which composed that meeting, to take even one step toward getting up a theological school. The idea was given up for that time.

#### MACLAY COLLEGE.

After the Montreal College was closed the question was, what is to be done to provide an educated ministry for our churches? The leading Baptists in the West began to feel that they must bestir themselves in this work. In proof of this, an agitation was commenced in 1852, to establish a Theological College in