

marked contrast between the more recently founded institutions of the United States and Canada, and those of the mother country. For the inception of some of the foundations in England, enthusiasts would fain carry us back to the second and third centuries before the Christian era. Certain it is that some of them can boast of a very ancient ancestry. The College that can claim precedence of all others in this respect has, other things being equal, the greatest attractions, and her students refer with pardonable pride to those primeval days when the first stone of their Alma Mater was laid. The thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries witnessed the rise of many of the English foundations. But to return. Acadia has a history, and what ought to be particularly dwelt upon now is that that history has all along been and is inseparable from the life and history of the Baptists of the three provinces. It was a remarkably wise foresight that laid the foundations of Acadia. The principle then, as now, was clearly recognized and believably applied; let there be a tide of life and influence constantly pouring through Acadia by means of a thorough, sound and religious training. To this end many a noble offering has been presented, many a sacrifice made. Though the College has been in dire straits, and at one time a patch of blue was all that could be seen in the dark sky, yet to-day we see the cheering results produced by the joint efforts of a now glad and willing people, and we plead now for the perpetuation of the history of Acadia.

But some may say: why all this "hue and cry," why appeal to Alumni—to the denomination for energy, sympathy and money, why talk of perpetuating the history of our "Child of Providence," when the day for petty denominational colleges is past, and the time fully come for the establishment on a grand scale of a great Provincial University? We are no longer children. Assume and perform the functions of men. We do not feel willing to waive our opinion on this point, but do say most emphatically that Acadia, as at present worked and controlled, with necessary and increased means and appliances such as the denomination may, if it is willing, give, can fully meet the demands of her supporters as well as of the age; and further that in many respects she can do this better than a university. Many remember the

discussion that took place some time ago in the Wolfville Baptist Church, pending the consideration of the University question, when Dr. Sawyer so ably defended what were styled the "Small Denominational Colleges." Many that were present that evening, although unconvinced by the Dr.'s arguments have since embraced his views. Several scholars express their convictions very frankly and clearly on this matter. They say that Universities do not give the kind of training that the great majority of our young men who are matriculated need. Young men while studying at said Universities have expressed the same.

That many supplement the course at our smaller Colleges is what may naturally be expected. When we look at the multitude of studies which occupy the time of the undergraduate, we need not wonder if he thinks three or even four years too little to secure thoroughness. That many enter upon a course of study elsewhere after graduation may be rather regarded as a favorable indication than otherwise, nor do such students despise the ladder by which they first rose to the pure air of intelligence and culture. Just here we take our stand. We say that the College has met and still meets the pressing want of our youth. What we want now, and indeed must have, is the increase of means, giving us more instructors to work up more thoroughly the different departments of study. Thus only will we continue to meet any and all the demands made upon us.

And here it may be well to bear in mind that even in the English Universities a student is very largely what the discipline of the particular College to which he attaches himself makes him—of course hard study on his own part is taken for granted. True the day for catechetical morning lectures and weekly written-exercises without any supplementary instruction is past, and each college provides generously for the wants of its students. But until quite recently no attempt at combination was made. And here the object of combination should be stated lest it be misunderstood. It is that each lecturer may be able to give himself wholly to some special branch of study. This arrangement, you see, is for the benefit both of Instructors and Student, and is what may be effected by a single College handsomely endowed and equipped.