

REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

Nova-Scotia

BAPTIST EDUCATION SOCIETY.

PRESENTED AND READ

AT THE

Annual Meeting of the Society,

AT YARMOUTH,

ON THE 22ND JUNE, 1817.

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## REPORT.

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It once more becomes the duty of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the NOVA SCOTIA BAPTIST EDUCATION SOCIETY to submit their Annual Report.

By no means least among the many important objects that are to occupy the time of the present numerous meeting of the Baptists from all parts of the Province, are the considerations which peculiarly affect the interests of the future generations of Nova Scotia, and which are in truth to decide what position our children shall hereafter hold, and the stand which they shall take in the great Provincial family, in point of efficiency for good or evil. We have not, however, now to make choice of the path we are to pursue, or the direction which shall be given to our efforts. The adherence we profess to the great religious truths contained in God's Word, as it distinctly marks our denominational *character*, gave direction also to our views in constituting the NOVA SCOTIA BAPTIST EDUCATION SOCIETY, and founding our Institutions of Learning in 1828. While the Baptists, at that period a numerous and influential body, possessed a large share of the property of the Country, as well as a fair proportion of its intelligence, and while their churches were rapidly increasing in numbers, under the ministry of a body of men extraordinary for their strength of mind, aptness to teach, and unwearied devotion to the cause of truth—men whom God had long continued to distinguish with unexampled success, in their labours, the interests of the Body at large called for more special efforts for mental improvement, both for the ministry and the people. Numbers from all quarters called for something decisive to be done in this respect, as naturally unwilling to be left behind by others in the race of intellectual advancement. They properly enquired, why should their children be left without mental culture, while others were urg-

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ing on this great object with the most strenuous determination? The truth was too plain to be denied, that according as Education prospered, in such ratio would a good or evil influence be the result. The united Denomination, and especially the ministers of the Gospel, at once perceived that not a moment was to be lost; and with a unanimity almost unexampled, we believe in any similar case, determined on setting their shoulder to the wheel,

At a period when a new and general impulse appeared to be given to various bodies in the same direction, but most of whom were in possession of resources from abroad, which the Baptists did not enjoy, a way was opened in the Providence of God for commencing the Institutions at Horton. It was eagerly embraced, and without a dissentient voice a numerous delegation of the most influential and intelligent members of the Baptist Churches throughout Nova Scotia, resolved on no longer lying under the reproach of indifference or inertness in the education of their offspring.

It is delightful to reflect with what zeal and earnestness such men as Ausley, Chipman, Munro, and Dimock, now departed to their rest, as well as those of the Fathers of the Baptist ministry who yet linger on earth, united in a movement of such importance to the future interests of the Country. It is also a source of encouragement which should not be forgotten, that under its greatest difficulties and most adverse circumstances, every one of these venerated men have remained stedfast, and abounded in their prayers, their counsels, their labours and sacrifices, for the increase and prosperity of these Institutions. While they remained on earth, no occasion was ever lost of shewing their regard or sympathy to the Teachers and Professors, or those on whom the burden of their management peculiarly fell,—and as they ever connected their prosperity with that of the cause of God, whatever shaft was aimed by malice or self-interest at their Seminaries of Learning, or against those brethren who were called more immediately to engage in their support, they deemed as directed against their own dearest rights. They have many of them, one after another, departed to their rest; but surely we may believe that if the spirits of the just are permitted to know what is still passing in this world of trial, theirs cannot be indifferent to the progress of an undertaking which engaged so large a share of their affections on earth. The unabated interest with which our aged brethren, as well as every other minister of the Gospel among us has continued, for nearly twenty years past, to regard the efforts

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of the Baptist Education Society, and the progress of its Institutions, is a striking testimony of the singleness of view, and integrity of purpose, with which they were commenced and have been carried forward, and an unanswerable refutation of the charges that have from time to time been levelled against them by their enemies.

Those Institutions have during the period we have mentioned, gone on like every other human enterprize, under various circumstances of prosperity or adversity. At times they have been beset with difficulties and dangers. At others they have been favoured with more cheering prospects. Their means of supplying the educational wants of the country have been enlarged, as those wants appeared to press with increasing weight, and as their probable resources seemed to warrant their advancement. An undying spirit has been manifested in the Denomination to sustain them, which, whatever may have been at times the amount of temporary depression, affords the most satisfactory earnest of their final success. Agencies at different times, both at home and abroad, have been undertaken by the friends of the Society, chiefly ministerial, who at the most serious sacrifices have gathered large amounts to relieve its debts, erect needful buildings, or enlarge its operations, while the contributions from among ourselves have never yet failed to shew how closely our churches and people in general consider the labours of the Education Society connected with their dearest interests. If there has existed lukewarmness or want of liberality in any quarter, it is evident it has only arisen from want of better information as to the sacrifices and objects of the friends of the cause.

It is difficult fully to estimate the advantages that have been produced by such an undertaking as our own, for the short period of less than twenty years, during which it has been in operation. We think, however, the most careless or unobservant cannot but see with a little reflection, that incalculable benefits have already resulted to the community at large from our labours. It is but necessary to contrast the present with the former state of the country as regards Education, and couple what has been effected within the brief period of our existence as a Society with all that was previously done from the earliest period of our history in the Province as a Denomination. A large number of our Youth have proceeded from our Collegiate Institutions, having acquired in various degrees a highly respectable amount of mental improvement, and are now

occupying stations of more or less importance in different professional departments, among which that of teaching the Schools of the country is not the least. Others are engaged in agricultural or mercantile life, with such a share of general information as must greatly contribute to give increased usefulness and respectability to those pursuits.

But more than this; a general thirst for knowledge is becoming daily more manifest, and even among those who have never entered the doors of our Seminaries, a love for study and the acquirement of learning has been awakened which must go on and increase. As respects the future, those benefits may in some measure be estimated by the supposition that our efforts should suddenly cease, and that the influence we now exercise, direct and indirect, upon the mental improvement of the population, should be wholly withdrawn. Who can contemplate unmoved the result of such a deprivation!—Who that possesses the least regard for the real interests—the temporal or spiritual prosperity of his country, but must view such an event as one of the heaviest misfortunes that could befall, not the Baptist Denomination alone, but the community at large? At a moment when our holiest hopes, our most sacred privileges, and our dearest interests, both civil and religious, are not without danger of being undermined and corrupted, may we not ask whether the incalculable influence to be derived from the blessings of an enlightened education, could be neglected or trifled with, without the most imminent peril! But one response can be given in every breast to such an enquiry, and that implies the urgent need of tenfold zeal, activity and sacrifice, in the cause of our Educational Institutions.

It may here possibly occur to some who are liable to be easily discouraged, that partial failures have at times taken place in carrying out certain measures connected with our plans. Suppose it to be so; is it anything more than is incident to every human enterprise? Resolution and perseverance are ever found necessary to repair the mistakes and miscalculations of men, and in the present, as in every other case, “Patient continuance in well doing” is a chief and indispensable duty. It is more than a sufficient answer to all such objections to say, that we have already reaped fruits of untold value to the present and future welfare of our country.

The debt of the Society is still large, and difficulties are yet to be surmounted. The amount of liabilities has, however, been gradually and materially lessened, and the same spirit and energy that

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originated and has sustained our objects, will, with the blessing of Heaven so often already experienced, carry us forward to final success.

We have referred to the sacrifices and exertions of those on whom has more immediately rested the weight of our operations. These have been heavy and unremitted. Our Agents, and Professors, and others have been often severely taxed to sustain our interests under the pressure of circumstances. But the innate vigour of our purposes have overcome the difficulties. Individuals have on such occasions nobly come forward to contribute, far beyond what could reasonably have been expected. In return, we have at last the satisfaction of being able to point to a College Edifice worthy of the Denomination that have reared it, and adequate to the wants of the country for many years to come. Both in the College and Academical Department, ample accommodation can now be given to a large number of students and pupils, and having passed through the most trying part of the ordeal, we may now devote our exclusive attention to the extinction of our debt, and affording our best energies to carry forward the great business of instruction.

Since the last annual meeting of this Board, in pursuance of arrangements made by the Committee, Professor Pryor has been appointed to take the oversight of the whole of the College and School Departments, as President of the Institution—and there is every reason to hope that much efficiency will be given under his watchful care and superintendance to the more thorough working of both.

In consequence of the pressure of our pecuniary circumstances, it was determined by the Committee that Professor Chipman should be requested for a time to relinquish his Collegiate duties, and, aided by some of the ministers of the churches, should devote his time and energies towards raising funds for sustaining the annual current expenses of the Institutions. Mr. Chipman having consented to the arrangement, has for some time past, with his accustomed zeal and energy, assisted by the Rev. Messrs. Dickie, Stevens, and Vidito, whose valuable services have been successively secured for the purpose, been actively and laboriously engaged in visiting the Churches and districts in the Western and Southern Counties, organizing Union Societies for the various objects for which they are intended, and obtaining annual subscriptions in aid of the Education Society. One great object of this extensive agency is to ensure permanent funds for the yearly support of the College, upon a scale that shall

be strictly adhered to, in confining the expenses of the Institution within its Income, whatever that may be.

In order to make the large and substantial College Edifice which has been erected, available, as far as possible, for the purposes intended, the Committee have, within the past year, been obliged to have seven rooms finished in the northern wing of the Building, one of which is now appropriated to the Library and Musæum. Altho' in effecting this they have been necessarily subjected to a farther outlay, they considered such expense indispensable to the present wants of the Institution, in order to afford sufficient accommodation for students and pupils.

Professor Chipman, in the execution of the duty he has assumed, as the General Agent of the Society, has met with much encouragement as respects its interests, and expects shortly to complete his labours. As the results of his agency will form an essential part of the pecuniary concerns of the Society, the necessary accounts will be published with the Report immediately after its completion.

The usual courses of Collegiate and Academical Studies have been conducted by the respective Professors and Teachers during the past year, with efficiency and success. There have been during that period thirteen Students in the College and Theological Classes, and fifty Scholars in the Academy. The numbers here stated, as compared with former years, shews some diminution—but the very general depression that has existed during the year, throughout Great Britain and her American Colonies, from the universal failure of Crops, has been, and still is, felt severely in Nova Scotia, and has affected deeply the progress of every undertaking of whatever kind.

Shortly after the last Report was made, Mr. Page, the Steward of the College, was compelled, in consequence of the ill health of his family, to relinquish the situation, which has however been supplied, to the entire satisfaction of the Committee, by Mr. Reed, who had previously occupied the office; and the Executive Committee are enabled with the utmost confidence, whether as it regards the various departments of Instruction in the College and Academy, or that of providing comfortable and respectable Board for the Youth who may resort to it, to recommend the Institution to the public as amply adapted to answer every reasonable expectation or requirement.

In closing their Report, the Executive Committee would crave leave to add a word of encouragement to the friends of the Institu-

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tion and the Denomination at large. The main object has at length been effected, for the accomplishment of which the Nova Scotia Baptist Education Society commenced its labours in the year 1828, in providing Institutions for the instruction of the rising youth of the Province, in order to meet the growing wants of our rapidly advancing population. The important apparatus is at length, after no ordinary obstacles being surmounted, now in operation; and as we trust, fully sufficient to meet any demands that can be made upon it for years to come. The present difficulties which may appear to retard our progress, are in themselves only temporary, and will with the rising spirit and energy of the people, shortly pass away and be forgotten; while the great and substantial benefits constantly resulting from the advantages afforded by our labours, will be permanent and ever growing in value.

We would therefore earnestly call on all, who in any degree, estimate those blessings as they deserve—on all who feel concerned for the intellectual, the moral, or the religious prosperity of Nova Scotia, or who would oppose the advance of errors, tending to enthral the conscience, or undermine the enjoyment of national liberty, to esteem it a sacred duty, as well as an invaluable privilege, to sustain to their utmost ability, the objects and interests of the Institutions of the Society.

The Report was read by the Rev. Mr. Pryor, in the absence of Mr. Nutting, the Secretary of the Society, when very animated addresses were made by numerous speakers, among whom were the Hon. the Attorney General, the Rev. Mr. Spurden, Principal of the Seminary at Fredericton, N. B., Deacon Robbins, Rev. Mr. Harding, and others, and the following resolutions were adopted:—

1. That the Report now read, be received and published.
2. That this Society rejoices at the present opportunity to greet their friends in this part of the country, who are now assembled to take an interest and to aid in their important undertaking; and are forcibly reminded by the fertility, inherent wealth, and increasing population of this beautiful township, of the urgent duty to provide the people with those means of mental improvement which are essential to the full developement of their other advantages.
3. That the Society are likewise desirous of improving the present occasion as a means of removing misapprehensions often entertained with regard to objects, by an explicit declaration that the ultimate and highly cherished purpose and aim of the Society, is the most enlarged mental improvement of the entire population, not only by placing within their reach the means of higher education—by furnishing the Common Schools throughout the country with well instructed teachers, as has been already to a considerable extent done—and by arousing a general interest and zeal in the cause of mental cultivation.
4. That the Society are more and more impressed every day with the utter feebleness of their endeavours, except so far as they are aided by the hearty and continued concurrence and help of the people themselves—and of the necessity, in order to obtain such aid, of spreading to the widest possible extent, information on the subject of their own views and the general importance and need of a good system of education—and they now call earnestly on all their friends, and especially those who possess influence, to aid them in their endeavours to remove misapprehension, and to bring about a healthy tone of public feeling on so vital a subject.
5. That although the appointment held by the Rev. Dr. Crawley is not now within the limits of this Society's labours, yet inasmuch as it bears so directly on a most important branch of the education of the country, this Society cannot refrain from expressing their

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deep regret at his removal from the field of usefulness to which he was so recently appointed; while they at the same time entertain the fullest confidence in the tried wisdom and judgment of the respected Board of the Missionary Society, and have every assurance that they will take such immediate measures to obtain a successor for the important department of Theology, as will with the blessing of God ensure an early and satisfactory appointment.

6. That this Society have especial pleasure in confirming the appointment received by their Committee, which places the Rev. Mr. Pryor at the head of their Institution at Horton, as President of Acadia College, and which has now received the sanction of the Governors of the College, with full power to enforce such regulations as may secure the correct management and satisfactory direction of every department of the Institutions; and with the intimate knowledge they possess of President Pryor's fitness for this high and responsible office, and especially his former experience and success as head of the Academical Department, they have every confidence in recommending their Institutions at Horton, now under his direction, as well worthy of public favor and support.

The meeting of the Society was numerously attended, and was one of the highest interest, and an unabated determination was evinced by the whole body present, to persevere in carrying forward to their full accomplishment the great purposes of the Union.

## APPENDIX.

The foregoing Report with an account of the last meeting of the Education Society, was struck off immediately after the session of the last Association at Yarmouth, in order that no time might be lost in giving the Report of the business of the Society to the public, in accordance with the Resolution passed at the meeting. The great importance, however, of appending to the report a full and particular statement of pecuniary matters, with particular lists of all amounts received, and the general accounts of the Society up to the meeting of the Association, caused the completion of the Report to be delayed from time to time. The reasons of the delay in preparing the accounts of the Society, have already been so fully stated in the last printed Minutes and other published statements, that it is unnecessary here to add. It was finally determined at the meeting of the Executive Committee at Wolfville, in January last, that it would be most advisable to wait for a full report of the results of the Deputation until the meeting of the Association in June next, at which time the gentlemen to whom the Financial Affairs of the Denomination had been committed, would be prepared to lay before the Association a full Report of their proceedings for the last year.

Feb'y 1, 1848.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
**Nova-Scotia Baptist Education Society.**  
INCORPORATED BY ACT OF ASSEMBLY, 1839.

<b>Reverend EDWARD MANNING, <i>President.</i></b>	
" <b>CHARLES TUPPER,</b>	} <i>Vice Presidents.</i>
<b>J. W. NUTTING, Esquire,</b>	
<b>Rev. Ingram E. Bill,</b> " <b>Samuel Bancroft,</b> " <b>William Burton,</b> <b>C. R. Bill,</b> <b>Rev. Joseph Crandall,</b> " <b>William Chipman,</b> " <b>E. A. Crawley,</b> " <b>Joshua B. Cogswell,</b> " <b>John E. Cogswell;</b> <b>Zech. Chipman,</b> <b>Major Chipman,</b> <b>Stephen Chipman,</b> <b>Samuel Chipman,</b> <b>Rev. George Dimock,</b> " <b>A. V. Dimock,</b> " <b>Thomas C. Delong,</b> <b>Simon Fitch,</b> <b>John Ferguson,</b> <b>Rev. T. S. Harding,</b> " <b>Harris Harding,</b> " <b>David Harris,</b> " <b>Hezekiah Hull,</b>	<b>Dr. E. F. Harding,</b> <b>J. D. Harris,</b> <b>Rev. Wellington Jackson,</b> <b>Dr. Lewis Johnston,</b> <b>J. W. Johnston,</b> <b>William Johnston,</b> <b>W. B. Kinnear,</b> <b>Rev. James Lent,</b> <b>James R. Lovett;</b> <b>Dr. D. B. Lynds,</b> <b>Gaius Lewis,</b> <b>Rev. Samuel McCully,</b> " <b>Richard McLearn,</b> " <b>John Pryor,</b> " <b>T. H. Porter,</b> " <b>Israel Potter, Jun'r,</b> " <b>Maynard Parker,</b> " <b>S. T. Rand,</b> " <b>Charles Randall,</b> " <b>John Shaw,</b> " <b>Ebenezer Stronach,</b> " <b>Nathaniel Vidito.</b>
<b>J. W. NUTTING, <i>Secretary.</i></b>	
<b>Treasurer.</b>	

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

<b>J. W. Johnston,</b> <b>J. W. Nutting,</b> <b>W. Johnson,</b> <b>E. A. Crawley,</b> <b>Simon Fitch,</b> <b>William Chipman,</b>	<b>John Pryor,</b> <b>Charles Tupper,</b> <b>Ingram E. Bill,</b> <b>William Burton,</b> <b>Caleb R. Bill,</b> <b>Isaac Chipman.</b>
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ACADIA COLLEGE.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

The Executive Committee of the Baptist Education Society, together with the following gentlemen, appointed by his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and the different branches of the Legislature, are Governors of Acadia College, under the Act of Incorporation:—

Hon. Charles R. Prescott,  
T. A. S. Dewolfe, Esq.  
Hon. E. M. Dodd,

Samuel Chipman, Esq.  
Herbert Huntington, Esq. M.P.P.  
Chas. W. H. Harris, Esq. A. M.

FACULTY OF THE COLLEGE.

Reverend JOHN PRYOR, A. M., Professor of Greek and Latin Classics.

ISAAC CHIPMAN, Esquire, A. M., Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.

A. P. S. STEWART, Esq. Professor of Moral Philosophy, Rhetoric, and Belles Lettres.

COLLEGIATE ACADEMY.

CHARLES D. RANDALL, Esquire, Principal,  
Mr. William Archibald, Assistant.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

John Pryor  
Charles Tupper  
Isaac R. Hill  
William Brewster  
Charles R. Hill  
Isaac Chipman

J. W. Johnston  
J. W. Manning  
W. Johnson  
E. A. Crawley  
Simon Fitch  
Isaac Chipman