

REPORT

OF THE

NOVA SCOTIA BAPTIST

EDUCATION SOCIETY,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE,

1837.

Addressed to the Society, met at Yarmouth.

TOGETHER WITH

A STATEMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS

OF

THE COMMITTEE.

HALIFAX, N. S. PRINTED AT "THE NOVASCOTIAN OFFICE."

1837.

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REPORT.

A very minute and particular statement of the affairs of your Society having been published agreeably to your direction at the last Anniversary, the labour of your Committee in completing a view of their proceedings to the present time is considerably lightened. They have the satisfaction to announce the continued prosperity of the rising Institution at Horton. This Seminary enjoys a very respectable share of public patronage. Since the commencement of the current Academical year the number of scholars has gradually increased, notwithstanding the recent revival of the neighbouring Academy at Windsor, and the diminution of the scale of its expenses, to a level which approaches much nearer that at Horton than formerly; and notwithstanding, also, some most ungenerous and dishonest attempts to slander the reputation of Horton Academy in the public prints. There are now at the Boarding House twenty six Boarders, with nearly the same number residing or boarding in the neighbourhood, who attend the Academy. In proof of the high and just estimation in which the Institution is held, your Committee are happy to refer to the testimony given by gentlemen of all parties in the House of Assembly, during its last Session ; to the unanimous assent of his Majesty's Council to the annual vote of £300; and to the prompt and generous subscription, towards the liquidation of the debt, made by many of the most respectable gentlemen in Halifax, headed by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with a munificent donation of £20, as also by the Chief Justice, and other officers of Government in proportion.

At your last Anniversary the debt then subsisting against the Academy, (not deducting the grant of £300 for 1836, which was reserved to meet current expenses,) amounted

to about £1700; since then the accounts have been made up to the 31st of December, 1836, balancing all debts and credits so far as the same had appeared, by which the debt was reduced nearly to £1433; to which reduction of the balance, however, it should be remembered that a proportion of the subscription now on foot has contributed, to the amount of about £70. Some allowance ought also to be made in respect of outstanding accounts against the Society, of which it is possible there may yet be some not transmitted to the Secretary; and it should likewise be remembered that another year's interest is rapidly advancing, all which circumstances ought to be taken into consideration in estimating the amount of debt actually due at the present date. The vote of £300 is about adequate to cover the salaries of the teachers--the current tuition money and rent will, of course, stand on the credit side in this estimate; making all these allowances, your Committee_judge that the sum of £1600 may safely be taken as the limit to which the proposed subscription for the liquidation of the debt is required to be raised.

Your Committee have great satisfaction in stating that the advantages of this Institution are beginning to be more extensively appreciated by young men who feel themselves called to the work of the ministry. The munificent offer of the American Education Society to support five beneficiaries at Horton Academy has been thankfully accepted ; and your Committee, from a number of applications, have selected four young persons, who, they trust, will do credit to their choice, and hereafter prove a signal blessing to the Church of Jesus Christ. Two of these are sons of Baptist ministers connected with this Association. One of the five endowments is yet reserved in case any pressing instance should arise. There are, besides, several other young men seeking their education at the Horton Academy, on their private responsibility, with a view to future labour in the cause of God, making in all ten or twelve, besides some others who, it is hoped, will shortly commence the same course.

Your Committee, in thus presenting the very promising aspect of the Seminary, feel themselves strongly called on to offer their sincere testimony in favour of the untiring zeal with which your respected agent, the Rev. Mr. Mc-

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ising alled iring McLearn, has laboured for the interests of this Institution, in conjunction with other active and zealous friends of the Society. They feel persuaded that whatever may yet be deficient in the whole sum demanded for the entire liquidation of the debts on the Seminary, will be promptly advanced before this anniversary closes; and when they remember the heavy pressure which they suffered not more than a year ago, and the still greater burthen and difficulties they had previously been called to undergo, and compare these with the present happy promise of speedy relief, they cannot but adore that gracious Providence of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ that has raised up friends so efficient, and crowned their labours with so much success.

At the same time, they are called on to remind the friends who have kindly subscribed to the important object of wiping off the debts on the Horton Academy, of the great necessity of speedy and prompt payment of the sums subscribed. A great portion of the debt due is now bearing interest to the amount nearly of £80 per annum; and it is obvious, therefore, that until the debt is sunk, this, with other contingencies, must make a constantly accumulating incumbrance, which it is not easy to throw off. They would, therefore, respectfully urge on this Society to form, before the close of this anniversary, some plan, by means of which the monies promised may be speedily collected, without the further expense and trouble of again sending round agents to receive them.

In adverting to the cheering success with which their labours have been favoured, your Committee have also great satisfaction in stating the hearty co-operation which they have ever received from the respected Principal of the Academy, the Rev. Mr. Pryor, who, to his own able management and instruction, has during the last year, with the sanction of your Committee, added the acceptable services of Mr. Charles Randall, an alumnus of the Academy, and a native of this Province, as assistant teacher.

While, however, your Committee have so much to encourage them in every point of view, they cannot fail to perceive that the Society is still loudly called to increased exertion. In its rapid advance, the Academy has not es-

caped the hostility of open or concealed enemies; these have sometimes succeeded in defeating the applications of your Committee for Provincial assistance; and, as already hinted, some such are busily at work in endeavouring to undermine the reputation of the Institution. The wisdom of your Society, and the security of the Academy, will obviously be found to consist in continuing to advance it to such a pitch of prosperity and efficiency, as must unequivocally silence all slander. Besides, your Committee are well aware that this Society is now only at the commencement of its undertaking; it is a pleasant dawn, but it is no more than the dawn, as they trust, of a yet brighter day.

The education of this Country is at this moment in a singular condition. Windsor Academy is only beginning to revive from a long period of depression; Pictou Academy, by the unfortunate dissentions which have long agitated it, is said, even by its friends, to be hastening to decay. The College at Windsor is acknowledged to be too sectarian to allow dissenters with any confidence to seek its advantages for their sons, and still suffers that depression which its contracted system inevitably involved; all efforts to open Dalhousie College have hitherto failed ; there is therefore at once a loud call and an open field for all who feel the importance of a liberal education, to engage in the important work of forming and animating an enlarged system of instruction such as the country urgently needs, and is sought in vain within its borders. We, as a denomination, willing however to unite with all others in co-operation, and to admit them to the advantages we seek, seem to be called upon by the Providence of God to make the attempt. There is no liberal College in Nova-Scotia : ought not Horton Academy to be made such? If so, we must continue year by year the exertions we have already commenced.

Several important objects are requisite, however, to render the institution such as even our own pressing exigencies require at this moment. Last year, your Committee pressed strongly the necessity of an associate professor, united with the Principal of the Institution, who should be competent to give to the mathematical and scientific branches the same efficiency which Mr. Pryor

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gives to the classics. They also noticed the urgent need of a library and Philosophical apparatus. In the assurance of the support of this Society, your Committee are now engaged in correspondence for the purpose of ascertaining where a suitable professor can be procured : but if they succeed in this, and his services should be engaged, it is obvious that his labours must to a great extent be neutralized, unless provided with the needful apparatus for illustrating physical science, which would constitute a considerable portion of his department. And on the importance of a good library to every literary institution it is needless to enlarge. But there is another department still more nearly connected with our peculiar interests as a denomination. It is quite apparent that the Lord is directing our pious youth to Horton as the means by which they will in future ordinarily seek an enlarged qualification for ministerial labour; their numbers are already considerable, and will doubtless increase; soon they will need the guidance of an instructor peculiarly devoted to them; nay even now some of them begin to feel this deficiency. They must require a knowledge of the Hebrew language ; a critical acquaintance with the correct interpretation of the Bible ; enlarged information on ecclesiastical history, on Jewish antiquities and oriental customs; and on the philosophy of the human mind and heart; all this is work enough and more than enough for one man. To this department it would be unadvisable to devote any portion of the Provincial allowance, and to this therefore we as Baptists are especially called to contribute. We ought to bear in mind that unless the same means are provided for mental cultivation in these departments which may be obtained elsewhere at no great expense, it will be impossible for us to retain amongst us our own native youth. It is very easy for those who are ignorant of such subjects to say all this time and labour is unnecessary-we need nothing but the Bible and ability to read it, our youth as they become cultivated, will know better; they will be able to compare the advantages afforded by the Institution at Horton with those of the College at Windsor, or the Pictou Academy; and, unless held by very strong denominational attachment, will be resorting thither to complete their education ; or they

may compare the facilities presented in Nova-Scotia with those in Maine, in Massachusetts, in Rhode Island, and elsewhere-and if we maintain not an equal standing or nearly so with the institutions abroad, such of them as possess the means will leave us, (and very little means are sufficient to enable them to do this); and once engaged on the wide arena presented in other countries, small indeed is the probability of their return; and thus our churches and missionary fields may in the end be rendered more than ever destitute of ministerial labour. Your Committee must remind the Society, that from the present instructors, especially from their respected Principal, the Academy receives every attention that can in reason be required from them, and even more than this, they are indefatigable and pains taking beyond their strength, and a just regard to health ; but all persons acquainted with Education, know that an enlarged scheme of liberal instruction demands an increase in the number of teachers as well as other means, and at this moment there is at Horton a class of young men thirsting for knowledge, and justly appreciating its value, who ought at once to enter the department of a biblical Instructor, and to whom no one man on earth could give adequate attention in addition to the arduous duties of a literary Academy. It would be a severe blow to our hopes if these young men should be driven from Nova-Scotia to seek elsewhere the aid which their native country is too slow to furnish. This consideration is one of urgent importance, and one, which your Committee are assured can only be met by an immediate advance in the standing of Horton Academy as a Seminary both of Biblical and literary instruction.

There are some, perhaps, who, while we thus speak, can hardly believe it possible that all this can be needed and still less realized. To such we must beg leave with perfect kindness but with candour to say, that they must be confining their minds to a very narrow circle of information. Men who have gone far before any of us in labours and in successes in the cause of Christ, know that such things are absolutely necessary to the enlarged progress of His Kingdom, so long as the Lord condescends to work by means. And if any persons are still indis-

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posed to receive the testimony of others more competent to judge, we would ask them-what is it that we have done ? Did we, or such as we, bring about the glorious Reformation of the fifteenth century ? Did we, or could we, with our present facilities, translate the Scriptures as they are now translated ? Are we the men, like Luther, to stand up in public contest with the learned and subtle advocates of a perverted Christianity ? Are we the sort of persons who have formed and maintained the Bible, Tract and Missionary Societies, which are filling the heathen world with the light of the Gospel. That heathen world now cries to us. " Ethiopia stretches forth her hands." Macedonia again cries, " Come over and help us." India, China, Burmah, Africa, the Islands of the sea, with millions on millions of perishing immortals, turn their fainting eyes on us, the Baptists of Nova-Scotia, and ask have you not cared for our souls ? And in return we ask, where are our men who are qualified to go and thus mingle with those people of the "Saints of the most High," unto whom the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven have been given.

And if we look to our own borders, shall we not furnish ourselves with every weapon needful to a thorough defence of the word of God amongst us ? Shall we abandon to other Denominations, and even to the enemies of the Truth, those weapons which alone possess the temper which is needed in many spiritual conflicts ? Shall we abandon to them the influence which learning confessedly obtains in Society, together with all its religious all its civil advantages ? If we rejoice to carry the Gospel to the cottages of the poor, shall we not also rejoice to humble the proud man to the foot of the cross; to advance its influence upwards and onwards until "the tall cedars of Lebanon" shall be humbled; until "every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is the Lord, to the Glory of God the Father ?" If we would do all this, or only a small part of it, we must be ready to follow the leading of Divine Providence, in the use of those means which he ordinarily employs in effecting these glorious designs; we must not only not despise learning, but must resolve that Satan shall not

have the sole use of it, but that it shall be consecrated as a fair and available offering on the altar of Christ.

Many may be startled at the idea of the large expenditure which would be necessary to effect the objects suggested in this report ; but such persons are not, perhaps, sufficiently impressed with the fact, that "the Earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof." Perhaps they do not lay to heart that in the beginning the disciples of Christ had " all things common ;" to impress apparently on all future ages the unreserved extent of Christ's claim to the property as well as persons of His people. He gave them a large patrimony, when it could be said of them with truth, that " all was their's ;" and it set his claim in a convincing and affecting light, when the Apostle added, " and ye are Christ's, and Christ is God's." Nor have such objectors, possibly, calculated either the amount that we do give, or that we might give to the cause of the Redeemer. One may fasten his eye on such an object as Horton Academy, and numbering over the monies expended on it in the course of nine years, tell over the amount of £2 or £3000, as an immense sum to have been given by the Baptists of Nova Scotia; and may think that man mad who shall come to him with a request for more, after thousands have been already contributed. But is this the true way to treat the matter? rather let each one of us put to himself the question, "What have I given ?" "Am I, individually, impoverished or straightened in the least by my contributions to this or any other benevolent or religious object? It were well if I were, for then I should have the honour of suffering for Christ's sake." But, in fact, your Committee allege, very little after all is done by us for the promotion of that cause, for which the Saviour paid the price of his own precious blood. As for the monies expended on Horton, these are small, compared with the objects already attained-an excellent Academy, second to none in the Province ; together with a good property, and commodious buildings for the purpose, shortly, we trust, to be freed from all debt: but beyond this what do we, that we should so soon plead poverty? What is the amount of our contributions to the Bible cause ? not £300 a year from every denomination in the whole of Nova-Scotia. How much is

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expended in tracts? it is too small and too uncertain to be calculated. What do we devote to the maintenance of Judson and his band of self-sacrificing brethren ? Not a sum equal to half the maintenance of one of them. Nor is the amount of our contributions for the spiritual benefit of ignorant and benighted souls in our own province greater. How much is supplied by the whole of our £6000 Baptists in Nova-Scotia for our home missions ? Not much more than £100 per annum; and surely it is not that the number, spaciousness, or convenience of our places of worship, or the lavish maintenance of our ministers, has exhausted the pockets of the people; there is much room for improvement in all these respects ; such improvement might be made, and still the denomination take the lead in the Education of the country to which it is now invited. It may be fairly calculated that, the Provincial Grant of £300 per annum continuing, one hundred and fifty pounds from the tuition monies, which would probably be increased to that amount by the new arrangement, and one hundred more from the denomination, would enable your Committee to sustain an associate Professor; two hundred and fifty pounds more would sustain a third Professor, which even at this moment would be required to place the Academy upon an efficient footing. And what would £350 per annum be, to be contributed by a denomination comprising a population of 30,000 soulsfor so important an object as maintaining a respectable College, for such would then be the real standing of the Institution ; for providing the country with the means of Education, which the supineness, or the party spirit, of others has lost; and furnishing our own denomination, or any others that might chuse to enjoy the advantage, with adequate instruction for young men called to the ministry of the Gospel. Try the extent of this, considered as a direct tax upon any given portion of the community :---Here, where this Society is at the present moment assembled, we are surrounded by a Baptist communion of 500 The amount which they would be called upon to souls. contribute in support of such objects, in proportion with other Baptists in the Province, would be £29 3s. 4d. per annum from the whole of this extensive and populous district ; that is, 14d. from each of the 500 Baptists who

compose this church : or, supposing as many more of the congregation not members, to contribute equally, then 7d. from each person in the year. Are there any so poor in this flourishing township who might not contribute this amount, and at the same time have enough to spare for their own Academy, and newspaper ; for libraries and. philosophical apparatus ; for Tracts, Bibles and Missions, both Home and Foreign ? It is astonishing how lavish men, even professedly christian men, are on their own persons, their luxuries and extravagances, and with what miserly rigidness they draw close the purse strings when the Saviour demands something to advance his cause.

Your Committee are not, however, ignorant that in sustaining some of the above mentioned objects the Baptists of Nova Scotia are not behind other denominations; in other cases, are perhaps before them; and yet when they reflect on the extreme importance of these duties to the general religious and social prosperity of the province, and the advancement of the cause of Christ, they cannot avoid expressing their earnest hope that we may all awake to a just sense of the true mode of measuring our performances; and learning to contrast them with the ample munificence of " the unspeakable gift of God," be thus led to see that we have as yet done nothing for the promotion of the Redeemer's Kingdom, compared either with our obligations or our ability.

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Rev John Simon Fite Rev T SI Charles Ra James Bro Daniel De John Bars Frederick William H Miss John Miss S Gr William J. Mrs Hiel Miss Laird John John John Arm Col. S Bis Elijah Eld Miss Cath Miss E Jo Mrs Lucy Miss Lydia " AFi

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