

For the Christian Messenger.

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE. MISREPRESENTATIONS EXPOSED.

DEAR SIR,—

The editor of the *Halifax Citizen* has undertaken the championship of Dalhousie College, in the discharge of which duty he exhibits much boldness, but little discretion. I do not complain of the latter, however, because, albeit unwittingly, he has made concessions which sorely damage his case, and fully justify the course adopted by those who are now seeking an amendment of the Act of last Session.

It is not my object to reply to the numerous allegations, the incorrectness of which invites attention; nor shall I think it worth while to administer a rebuke to the Editor for his sneering allusion to non-Presbyterian Colleges, and especially to Acadia. Unfriendly insinuations and slanderous statements may be to his taste. He may indulge it *ad libitum*. An intelligent public will judge impartially in the matter.

There are two or three points on which I think it desirable to offer some remarks, for the purpose of correcting misrepresentations.

The *Citizen* says—"We are informed that petitions are being presented to the Legislature, asking that the funds of the Institution be divided amongst the various religious denominations." It is a pity that the Editor, if so informed, did not make further inquiry, as it would have saved him the trouble of writing so wearisomely on the danger to which all property, public and private, would be exposed should the Legislature grant the request of the petitioners. But he very well knows that their prayer is not that "the funds of the Institution" may be so divided. All that is asked (so far as money is concerned) is that the Governors of Dalhousie College may be required to pay the debt they owe the province, and that that money, or the interest thereof, may be appropriated "to the furtherance of education in connection with the Collegiate Institutions of the several religious denominations in the province."

But the most flagrant misrepresentation is contained in the following paragraph:—

"What would become of any of our public institutions, say educational, as Acadia or Kings College, or benevolent, as the Deaf and Dumb Institution, or for public improvement, as the Horticultural Society, if the Legislature had a right at any time to count up the grants made through a series of years, and demand either that they be all repaid with interest, or all the property of the institution or society given over to the Legislature, to be disposed of at its pleasure? Yet this is what some persons have actually proposed with regard to Dalhousie, with the view of claiming a share in the plunder."

This is really too bad. True, the Editor italicises the word "some," as though the monstrous proposition he alludes to were entertained by none but a few individuals, not worthy to be named or distinctly described; but it is evident enough that the design is to represent the petitioners as presenting that demand. I can only say that it is a scandalous libel. The petitioners distinguish between grants and loans. The Assembly gave £3000 towards the Dalhousie College building: no one has dreamed of demanding that money;—it was an absolute grant. The Assembly lent the Governors of the College £5000, and took particular care to make it appear that it was only a loan "for five years," the funds of the College being answerable for the repayment, and, if they should be insufficient, a lien being recorded on the building. Nothing can be clearer than the language of the Act. It is as follows:—

"And be it also enacted, That the monies in the British Funds, belonging to the same College, being £8289 9s. 6d. sterling, of three per Cent Consolidated Annuities, shall be and stand pledged to the Province as security for the repayment of the said sum of £5000; and that the same shall be paid into the Treasury of the Province whenever, after the said five years, the same shall be required, as hereinafter directed; and in order that the said Governors of the Dalhousie College may be enabled fully to carry into effect the provisions of this Act, they are hereby authorised to adopt such measures as may be necessary to enable the Trustees, in whose names the said sum of £8289 9s. 6d. sterling is invested in the three per Cent Consolidated Annuities, to dispose of so much of the said sum of money as shall be sufficient to repay to the Province the sum of £5000, lent to the Governors of the said College:—provided, the same shall be required by a resolution of the House of Assembly of this Province, after the expiration of the said five years.

"And be it further enacted, That the said building, called Dalhousie College, with the ground pertaining to the same, be, and the same are hereby pledged, to the Province, as an additional security, for the re-payment of the said sum of £5000, and are hereby made liable for the re-payment of the said sum of £5000, or such part thereof as shall be due after the expiration of the said five years: provided, the said sum of money, in the said three per Cent Consolidated Annuities shall be insufficient to discharge the same."

The enforcement of the claim cannot occasion any inconvenience to the Governors, for the College was out of operation so long that there must be a large accumulation of funds. It might be expedient for some member of the House to call for a return of the accounts of the College, from the beginning, in order that it may be seen how the money has been used, and by what authority the investment was transferred from the English funds to Provincial Debentures.

The *Citizen* gives an account of the steps taken by the Presbyterian bodies to resuscitate Dalhousie College. After certain "private conferences" (between whom, it is not stated—but of course there was nothing political in the movement!), the two Presbyterian Synods met at New Glasgow in 1862. It was reported to them that there was a "favourable opportunity" of securing Dalhousie. A joint committee was appointed; a conference was held with the Governors of the College, and an agreement entered into, which was reported to the Synods at their meeting at Charlottetown last year, and ratified. Meanwhile, and doubtless in pursuance of that agreement, the Act of last Session had been passed.

In all this, the *Citizen* would have us believe, the object was to establish a provincial, not a denominational College: that is, that all denominations should unite in founding a Provincial Institution. Verily, there is such a thing as "gulling the simple," (to adopt the *Citizen's* own elegant phrase), and this is the nearest approach to it that I have seen for a long time. Now I would ask, if that was really the purpose, how was it that no communications were made to the other denominations? How was it that no negotiations were opened with the Wesleyan Conference, the Episcopal Synod, or the Baptist Convention? How was it that the whole business was so sagaciously manoeuvred that as soon as the Act was passed and the Synods had given their decisions, the Presbyterian Professors were prepared to take possession, and that no overture has been made, to this day, to any other religious body? Is it possible that those who took the lead in the affair could so far deceive themselves as to imagine that their measures would be acceptable to the people of this Province?

All asseverations to the contrary, notwithstanding, the petitioners (including ministers and members of all denominations) maintain that Dalhousie College is now a Presbyterian Institution, though wearing a Provincial face. They affirm that the system of denominational Colleges is established in this country, and that as long as these Colleges exist, a really Provincial Institution is out of the question. They have good reason to believe that the present state of affairs is the result of a bargain made with the Presbyterian bodies nearly two years ago, the terms of which have been faithfully kept on both sides. They hold that if one denomination gets hold of a public Institution, secures the Professors' chairs, and an overwhelming majority of the governing body, and then coolly asks the other denominations to suppress their own Colleges, and become junior partners in the concern, it looks very like an attempt to "gull the simple," however honorable and impartial that denomination's proceedings in general may be. They require, therefore, that justice be done to all parties.

The case may be stated in another way. Our Presbyterian friends are avowedly in favor of one Provincial University for Nova Scotia, and their wish is that Dalhousie College may be constituted and regarded as such University. Whether they would be of the same opinion if three Baptist Professors, appointed by the Baptist Convention, were now in possession of chairs, one of them being the Principal of the College, and they, with other denominations, were told that they might found and sustain other Professorships, I will not stop to enquire. But here are the facts:—the Presbyterians desire a Provincial University—the other denominations prefer their own Colleges. Were it even to be allowed that the Presbyterians are theoretically right, their views cannot be carried into effect unless the other denominations give way, which they are not disposed to do. Lord Dalhousie's intentions unquestionably were to establish a Provincial Institution; but his intentions cannot now be realized, because the people of Nova Scotia have determined to educate their sons in another way. What, then, is to be done? The English Court of Chancery is accustomed to direct, in such cases, that a scheme be devised, whereby the funds of the Charity, be it what it may, may be employed for the accomplishment of some object, which is regarded as the nearest approximation to the wishes of the donor or testator. The application is easy.

Whatever plan may be thought of in reference to Dalhousie College, the absorption of it by any denomination must be stoutly resisted. It would be contrary to the design

of the noble founder and unfair to all other denominations. As things are at present, it is so absorbed. Dalhousie and the Presbyterian bodies have entered into partnership, for the special benefit of the latter. The petitioners ask that the partnership may be dissolved, and that the property, which belongs as much to them as to the Presbyterians, may be employed, not for sectarian, but for public purposes.

We are told that three gentlemen, not Presbyterians, have been appointed Governors of Dalhousie College, and that this gives it an unsectarian character. Three other gentlemen, all of them Presbyterians, have also been recently appointed. But the last three were nominated by the Presbyterians, and represent them; the first three were not nominated by the denominations to which they belong. Each is there in his individual capacity. The Hon. Dr. Tupper was not nominated by the Baptist Convention; the Hon. S. L. Shannon was not nominated by the Wesleyan Conference; J. W. Ritchie, Esq., was not nominated by the Episcopal Synod. Those religious bodies are not represented in the Board of Governors. They have no connection with the College.

But we have all been mistaken, it seems! The *Citizen* says that "instead of the funds being handed over to the Presbyterians, they actually contribute £900 a year to the Institution." Well:—there are two ways of stating a case; the plaintiff has one way; the defendant, another. The facts are these:—the Governors of Dalhousie College have £900 a year; the Presbyterian bodies promise to find £900 more, to be paid to the Professors whom they have themselves appointed. Meanwhile, all other denominations stand aloof, being determined to retain their own Colleges. Under these circumstances, can Dalhousie College possibly be a Provincial Institution? Ought not the Act of last Session to be amended?

Yours truly,

J. M. CRAMP.

Acadia College, March 5, 1864.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 9, 1864.

THE "HALIFAX CITIZEN" AGAIN.

The young man who is attempting to write up the Dalhousie cause in the *Halifax Citizen* has been trying what he could do to make the existing Colleges of the Province—Kings, Acadia, &c., &c.—very small affairs. He asserts that "the friends of higher education had sighed over the deplorable condition of the Province with five or six things called Colleges in country villages." Where, we ask, were these friends of higher education? It is implied that the supporters of "Kings," "Acadia," "Sackville," &c., were not amongst the number. Who, then, we ask again, were they?

In his No. IV. he appears somewhat conscious of the impudence displayed in his previous articles, and changes the tenor of his remarks a little, admitting that "The greater part of the young men of Nova Scotia who have received anything of a liberal education, have received it at these institutions." But he fails to hide his real sentiments, although he makes an attempt to do so. He affects to have lived in the past, and formed opinions on the acts of long-ago, notwithstanding he has but just come on the stage. Hear him: he says "We always disapproved of the view advocated by a portion of the advocates of a Provincial College in the House of Assembly some years ago of destroying these institutions first, before commencing to build up others." What does "others" mean here? Will he please inform us? Who advocated "destroying these institutions"? Please name them, Mr. *Citizen*. Can you get any one to acknowledge the corn? We trow not. He might probably improve himself by going to school with some of the pupils in the lesser institutions than these "things," and thus save himself from writing nonsense.

This solon delivers himself of the following grave opinion, respecting the denominational colleges: "Nor do we believe that it would have been advisable to have suppressed them." Only think of it—suppressed them! What an idea to come from a writer who has attained the mature age of three months! He pronounces, too, that "the right plan" to provide for the three additional professorships for Dalhousie College would have been "for the Legislature to have provided the means. There would then be no need to go to any of the denominations to seek for aid." Surely he here reverses the order of things: Governments do not, or at least should not go, to the denominations to seek for aid, and yet he implies that they have done so. Who were the men? Please inform us.

His zeal in behalf of Dalhousie betrays him into a reference to our Legislators not very complimentary to them. "Why," he says, "our Legislators have given, this winter, over £500 to report their own dreary speeches, and surely they could have afforded a sum but a little larger for so important an object." The Representatives of the people, we doubt not, will appreciate the compliment here paid them. They may, perhaps, have manliness enough to reprove such a piece of impertinence. No one can truthfully say that the present House of Assembly have indulged in "dreary speeches." Thus far the session has been remarkable for its disposition to work rather than talk. We advise our assembled wisdom to guard against this young fledgling and his pet College, so called, or the Legislature may hereafter find that it will make further demands on the public purse which they dare not refuse.

The Sixth Annual Report of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, is just received. Its contents are full of interest whether we consider the efficiency of the institution or the necessity for its extension, and a wider application of its blessing to this afflicted portion of our fellow creatures. Whilst it has afforded accommodation to 42 during the year, it appears from the census of 1861 that there are in this province 160 males and 135 females, making a total of 295 Deaf mutes. The Institution deserves kind consideration from the Legislature and the benevolent generally.

THE DAY SPRING.—By the last Steamer we learn that this mission vessel had arrived at the Cape of Good Hope on the 3rd of January—55 days from her leaving Halifax. She was found a first-rate sailing vessel making nine miles an hour close on the wind. The crew and passengers were all well, and had been since the first few weeks of sea-sickness.

MICMAC MISSION.—We understand that the Annual Meeting of the Micmac Missionary Society, will be held on Monday evening next, at the Granville Street Chapel. The Rev. Mr. Rand and several other speakers may be expected on the occasion.

The *Presbyterian Witness* thinks that sectarian feeling is decreasing because "Baptists now give very largely to the 'American and Foreign Bible Society,'" and adds "This is a healthy sign of the times." What will he say when he learns that the "American and Foreign Bible Society" is a Baptist organization, whilst the Bible Union, which is getting out the Revised Version, is composed of various denominations of christians.

ELECTIONEERING.—We spent a few minutes the other day in listening to the investigation before the committee on the charge of bribery preferred against A. G. Archibald. The impression one would receive from the evidence then produced, would be, that if all voters held their franchise in the same light as the parties then testifying, it would be a pretty expensive matter to secure a seat in the Legislature.

Notices, &c.

Acadia College.

The Quarterly Examination of the Classes will take place on Thursday, the 17th inst., commencing at nine o'clock, A. M.

J. M. CRAMP, President.

March 5, 1864.

Horton Academy.

A Rhetorical Exhibition by students of this Institution, will be held on Wednesday, the 16th inst., to commence at seven o'clock in the evening. Tickets of admission, 12½ cents.

T. A. HIGGINS, Principal.

Donation Card.

Mr. Editor.—I have recently received from my friends in this place, donations to the amount of \$80, the greater part of which was in cash.

I wish also gratefully to acknowledge the kindness of Bro. J. Chase, of Wolfville, who unsolicited collected for me during the last year, a goodly number of excellent books, from friends in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Mr. Sherman D. Bayers, of Horton, has also lately made me a donation of thirteen volumes of valuable books for all of which I feel very grateful.

Yours truly,

JAMES PARKER.

Lakeville, Feb. 18th, 1864.

Colchester Co. Quarterly Meeting.

The Colchester Baptist Quarterly Meeting will be held (D. V.) with the Church at Lower Stewacke, March 19th. Conference of the Church at half-past 2 o'clock, P. M. Ministerial Conference at 1 o'clock, at the Baptist Chapel.

D. W. C. DIMOCK.

Colchester Sabbath School Convention.

A Quarterly Session of this Convention will be held at the Baptist Meeting-house, Lower Stewacke, on Friday, the 18th March. To begin at half-past 6, P. M. A full and punctual attendance of delegates and friends is solicited.

T. H. RAND, Secretary.

Tyso, Feb. 15th, 1864.