

Dr. Saunders' Defence. No. II.

Sir,—To show the public that the business transacted in creating the professorship of education in Acadia college, as well as in Dr. Rand's appointment was fairly and honourably done, and not as it has been described by Mr. Bars and others, I will give a plain outline of its history. These details are intended to refute the reports now current and evidently believed by some, and among them, strange to say, Mr. Bars himself, who at his time of life ought to know how misleading flying rumours are likely to be. Any knowledge that I have of the matter has been obtained since the Convention decided to transfer its theological work to Toronto, and since Professor Tufts resigned his place in the college. Before this I had not heard even so much as a hint that a chair of education was thought of for Acadia college; nor had any one in Halifax, interested in the college, so far as I know any earlier knowledge of the movement than myself. Although some of us, were, up to this time, entirely uninformed, yet others, in whom I, in common with the denomination have great confidence, had for months been carefully considering the whole subject. Foremost among these was the president of the college; and was not this as it should have been? From his position, as president, is it not expected of him that he will wisely plan for the enlargement and up-building of our institution? He is not unaware of his responsibilities. If he had needed any healthy stimulus in this direction, he certainly has had it within the last few years. Are we to suppose that the president of Acadia college has been an indifferent spectator of the wise and far reaching policy of Dalhousie college? The able and successful plans of Principal Ross have been made plain enough to be seen even by the blind. To strengthen his Arts course an efficient professor is taken from the staff of President Sawyer. When it is decided to establish another faculty, another professor is captured at Sackville and carried off to begin a law school. Has Dr. Sawyer been sitting by listlessly gazing at the development of these carefully laid plans? No. He too has been making arrangements for the future. He saw that the services of Dr. R. could they be secured, would do much to advance the best interests of Acadia college. In this matter his perfect knowledge of the man qualified him to be an impartial and independent judge. He had known him as a student in his classes, as a teacher in Horton Academy and the normal school at Truro; and as the superintendant of education in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In this case our president understood the needs of the college, and knew the ability and rare experience of the man. He knew that a man who had successfully superintended, through great difficulties, the building up and perfecting of two complete systems of public education would add much to the reputation and working power of Acadia college. Here I would remind Mr. Bars, and those whose opinions he has adopted, that the Baptists of these provinces have in the past trusted Dr. Sawyer as a wise and able leader. He has ever proved himself worthy of their confidence. Has he ever led them into any serious embarrassment? After the burning of the college buildings he said, it is important to build a seminary for young ladies as well as a college for the students. It will be successful and give good returns. But Mr. Bars said it is ruinous to go into debt, and it has not been submitted to the Convention. Dr. Sawyer said it is wise, embark in it. The governors took his advice. To day not even one word is needed to justify the course adopted, although a large debt was incurred by it. The denomination has practically said, by wiping out that debt, popular assemblies are not the places for determining the policy and developing the plans of our institutions of learning. This we intrust to our president and to the governing bodies. Are then these writers, anonymous and otherwise, not wise and otherwise, but otherwise altogether, to be followed rather than president Sawyer? Do these dealers in fugitive and groundless rumours assume to take the reins out of Dr. Sawyer's hands and become the guides of educational affairs for the Baptists of these provinces? I am strongly inclined to the belief that they will have a slight preference for following their old professional leader. They have not yet decided that the president, professors, senate and governors are a number of wire-pullers, "plotting in secret" and doing their work "in dark corners." In my opinion the Baptists are a little disposed to hesitate before assuming that Dr. Sawyer is designing unworthy things and plotting with others in secret. Rather indisposed are they, so I shall

for the present assume to regard him in this light, or as a blind leader of the blind. When the public come to hear the president on this subject at the next convention, if it shall be necessary for him to speak, a subject concerning which there may be grave doubts, it will be apparent even to the retailers of whims and fancies, that in the matter of establishing a chair of education and in the election of Dr. Rand to fill it, the president has gone forward with his eyes wide open. President Sawyer has not been inattentive to the discussion of education as a university subject—a discussion which has been going on for the last fifty years. In noticing its development and progress he would unconsciously to himself deliberate on the feasibility of introducing it into Acadia College. Because persons outside of the profession have not studied and matured their views on this question it ought not to be inferred that Dr. Sawyer has turned deaf ears and blind eyes to a matter which has engaged the talents of some of the most distinguished educationalists both of England and America. The Baptists will not forget that President Sawyer has a right to their intelligent and loyal support. What are the facts in this connection? So long ago as last spring, Dr. Sawyer took into consideration the founding of this chair of education and the offering of it to Dr. Rand. He had concluded that the time was ripe for it. There was however one thing and only one thing in the way. Funds sufficient to meet the expense were not available. But the retirement of Professor Tufts from the college, and the transfer of Dr. Welton to Toronto, events not foreseen by any one more than a few days before the convention met at Halifax, opened the way for immediate action. By these changes the necessity was laid upon the senate and governors to strengthen the college staff and to re-arrange the course of study. They looked to the president for advice. They found him prepared. Among other things, he commended as a subject worthy of their serious attention, the establishment of a chair of the principles and practice of education, and Dr. Rand as a suitable man to fill it. From this point, as the following facts show, the business flowed into its natural and constitutional channels. It was taken up by a committee, composed of a committee appointed by the board of governors and the executive committee of the senate. Here I may refer to the legal powers of these respective bodies—the bodies which, by statute law and by the confidence placed in them by the Convention are bound to act in all such matters. I may also state the composition of these organizations. We have the senate, composed of the president and faculty of the college, 6 fellows and 12 scholars. There is also another organic body constituted of these six fellows and 19 governors. The faculty of the college is the executive committee of the senate. What authority have these bodies in the founding and filling of chairs in Acadia college? The constitution of the senate states that "the senate shall, at the instance of the corporation (the governors and fellows) or otherwise, recommend professors to fill any chairs becoming vacant, and shall recommend any professors to fill new chairs from time to time to be established, and shall present to the governors the names of candidates for appointment." The senate "shall also do perform and establish every other thing and matter having relation to the purely literary department of the college." It is thus plain that the senate is by law clothed with authority in this matter of creating and filling chairs. In this joint committee are found the constitutional advisers of Dr. Sawyer—the professors of the college. Prominent among them are two gentlemen—Professors D. F. Higgins and R. V. Jones—who have long held this position. For about a score of years they have given their counsels and labors to Acadia College. Not a little of the confidence reposed in the president is owing to the fact that he is surrounded by these wise counsellors. It is well-known that the views of Professors Jones and Higgins are greatly valued by the president. The governors put themselves in a position to take the official advice of these gentlemen. They did not hesitate to discharge their duties in this responsible position. Both Professors Jones and Higgins fully agreed with Dr. Sawyer in the matter of founding the new chair. The extreme pleasure of the former in the prospect of its realization was accounted for by the intimacy and friendship of class life known to have existed between himself and Harding Rand. The committee of the governors were largely influenced by the unanimous views of the executive of the senate. A committee from this joint committee was sent to Dr. Rand to ascertain whether he would consider the offer of

this chair and on what conditions. A report was made and unanimously adopted. It was resolved to call a meeting of the governors for Wednesday morning following the Convention. This meeting was held. Here again Dr. Sawyer gave his views at length. Dr. McVicar, a man eminently qualified to form sound opinions on the subject, by request gave the governors the benefit of his views. They were in perfect accord with those previously given by Dr. Sawyer and his associates. After full discussion a resolution was passed requesting the senate to nominate a professor to fill the chair in question. The governors then adjourned to meet after the senate had been called together. On returning to their homes the president and professor of the college gave further thought, as I assume, to this most important movement. After some time had passed a meeting of the senate was called for the 14th September. The governors were summoned to meet later on the same day. The senate accordingly assembled. After a full discussion of the subject it was moved by Judge Johnson and seconded by the Rev. S. B. Kempton, that T. H. Rand, D. C. L., of Fredericton, be recommended to the board of governors for the professorship of the principles and practice of education. This feature also of the question was thoroughly considered, after which a unanimous vote was taken. Later in the day the governors met and took up their part of the business. One governor only expressed his judgement against the founding of the chair. He did not think there was a necessity for it. Others at first were in doubt in regard to having the necessary funds for meeting the expense. Various opinions were expressed relative to the amount of the salary; but when the vote was taken to adopt the recommendation of the senate and the offer of the chair to Dr. Rand at a salary of \$1,600, it passed unanimously. It was believed that under the circumstances a less sum should not be offered. Several of the governors who had to leave before the vote was taken, said they would vote for the resolution. When the public know these facts, they will see that Mr. Bars and others have been imposed upon by wholesale dealers in "whims and fancies." Truly yours, E. M. SAUNDERS. November. The following are the brief notes referred to in another column: THE ACADIA COLLEGE DIFFICULTY—DR. SAUNDERS CORRECTED. To the Editor of the Herald:— Sir,—I regret to be obliged to say to your readers that the statements made by Dr. Saunders in your issue of yesterday in regard to my connection with the appointment of Dr. Rand, are wholly incorrect. D. F. HIGGINS. Nov. 9th. To the Editor of the Herald:— Sir,—I should be obliged for the privilege of saying to the readers of the HERALD, that the account which Dr. Saunders has given of my connection with the appointment of Dr. Rand to a chair in Acadia college would have been materially different if he had known all the facts in the case. Yours truly, A. W. SAWYER. Nov. 9, 1883. Dr. Saunders writes on the same day asking Dr. Higgins to "point out specifically the 'wholly incorrect' to characterize of the above statements," and also asks Dr. Sawyer for the facts referred to. Dr. Saunders' No. 3 will appear in our next. For the Christian Messenger. The Lunenburg Church, Dear Bro. Selden,— Having completed the outside of our NEW CHURCH we wish to publicly thank you for the use you have given us of the columns of the MESSENGER from time to time and which has been the means of showing our needs to our Brethren many of whom have sent us aid. We hoped to have been satisfied at getting the outside finished this winter but now that it is done seeing we have met with such great success we are all the more anxious to go on with the inside and get the whole finished that we may be able to get together in the prayer and conference meeting as well as in the more public worship. In order that we may finish we want a considerable sum of money yet. We understand there are some persons who intend giving something, if so, we would here kindly ask them to forward their contributions as early as possible that the work may not be

delayed. The sooner we get together the better, for at present we are scattered amongst other denominations. Some time ago we addressed an appeal to the several churches to give us a special collection, and those of Caester and Bear River were the only ones which responded. Now we do hope our sister churches are not going to turn a deaf ear to our call, but trust they still intend to help us. We again desire to repeat our request regarding the special collection. Do brethren and sisters think for a moment. Is our work worthy of your support? Certainly it is. It is an endeavor to extend Our Redeemer's Kingdom and bring others to believe on his name. Again outside of our churches in this county who have all aided us more or less we want many willing hearts to come forward and contribute before it will be finished. Remember brother or sister you may be pleasantly situated in having a church after your own heart where you can attend from Sabbath to Sabbath but we are not so favored, yet trust we shall be e'er long when we hope to feel grateful to those who have stood by us in the work. Now brother or sister do you wish to be a sharer in building up the cause of Christ in this long neglected place. We hope you do for in giving you will be blessed. Let our building be remembered by every Christian worker until it is finished for we know you will not forget us afterwards. Contributions can be sent to our Treasurer at Lunenburg. Thanking you again for your valuable space. We remain in behalf of the church, CALLED SPIDLE, Pres't ISAAC GATES, Treas. FRED. A. SYMONDS, Sec'y. Notices. THE YEAR BOOK. The Baptist Year Book for the Maritime Provinces is now ready for distribution. Orders will be received at the Baptist Book Room, 104 Granville Street, Halifax, and at the Visitor Book Room, St. John, N. B. Price 10 cts. J. PARSONS, Chairman of Committee. Nov. 10th, 1883. LECTURE COURSE OF THE DARTMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH. The first lecture of the course to be given in connection with the above church during the winter months, will be delivered on Friday the 16th inst., by the Rev. Dr. Burns. Subject—"David Livingstone." We are fortunate in getting Dr. Burns to open the course, as he will be sure of a good house. Rev. L. B. Gates has removed to Digby and wishes all correspondence addressed to him at that place. RECEIVED FROM WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES. Omslow,—Miss Elida A. Blair.....\$5 00 Berwick,—Miss Effie Hilsley..... 8 00 M. R. SELDEN, Treasurer. Halifax, November 13th, 1883. CORRECTION.—In acknowledgements Colportage Fund account Baptist Book and Tract Society, collection from Antigonish Church should be \$8.52, instead of \$52.00. CONVENTION FUNDS RECEIVED. J. W. Bars, Esq., for H. Missions.....\$100 00 Lunenburg Church for Missions..... 9 12 Antigonish Church..... 18 27 Upper Stewiacke "..... 2 00 First Cornwallis "..... 20 00 New Albany "..... 12 00 C. A. Harrington, Esq., for Convention Fund and F. Mission..... 20 00 Hillgrove Church..... 6 00 2nd Hillsburg "..... 5 00 G. W. Freeman, Esq., Amherst, for Home Missions..... 5 00 Wilber D. Freeman, do. do..... 1 00 Frank B. Freeman, do. do..... 2 00 Miss Lizzie Pinkney, Digby, for M..... 10 00 First Digby Neck Church..... 27 15 Dartmouth Church..... 28 00 \$267 54 G. E. DAY, Yarmouth, Nov. 12th, 1883. Moneys Received. Asa Rood, \$2.50; Mrs. N. McPherson, \$2; A. Gills, \$6; C. Bishop, \$5; C. E. Parker, \$2; S. E. Miller, \$1.50; M. E. Marshall, \$4; Geo. W. Freeman, \$5; G. W. Calbeck, \$5; M. A. Half yard, \$4; Mr. J. Seaman, \$12; G. Taylor, \$4; R. Delap, \$2; Westport, (no name), \$1.50. SUNDAY SCHOOL STORIES! 24 pages each, illustrated with colored picture cover. A package of 24 assorted will be sent for ONE DOLLAR. Hackett's Commentary on Acts, \$2 00 "The Word and works of God," by G. S. Bailey..... 1 09 The "Pulpit Commentary" by Rev. Canon H. D. M. Spence, M. A., and Rev. Joseph S. Exell, editor. Homiletic Quarterly, together with 100 other contributors. Genesis, Exodus 2 vol., Joshua, Judges and Ruth, Jeremiah 1 vol., Mark 2 vols., are now out. Price \$2.25, post paid. Subscribers will receive a discount. Address Orders, MacGregor & Knight, 125 Granville Street, HALIFAX, N. S. Oct. 24.

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