

# CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

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REV'DS. I. E. BILL & R. THOMSON,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace, good will toward Men."

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## BRING THE HOLY BOOK.

O, bring the holy book!  
Its words are pure as ether of yon sky,  
Truths, from their essence, on its pages lie,  
And brightly beameth o'er the spirit-eye,  
Which loves this holy book.

O, bring the word inspired!  
It tells the wonders which our God has wrought,  
And wide proclaims that all have found who sought  
That God, whose wisdom mocks man's deepest  
thought.

O, bring the word inspired!

Praise to His Holy name,  
Who gave this volume as a guiding star:—  
Inspired by Him, who, from his throne afar,  
In pity looks on all who wandering are,  
A welcome gift it came.

Welcome to all the pure;  
Welcome forever is God's holy word  
To all, whose ears his promises have heard,  
And who by them to deeds of love are stirred:  
And long shall it endure.

All things on which we look  
Shall pass away, and still God's word remain:  
Volume inspired! to be perused again  
Perchance in memory, when we bliss attain;  
Then bring the holy book!

## An account of the formation of a Theological Institution by the Baptists of Canada.

As it may, at some future time, be of importance to have on record a narrative of the circumstance connected with the establishment of a Theological Institution by the Baptists of Canada; and as it seems necessary to give some explanation of the circumstances out of which the address and reply here published, have grown; a statement of the action of the Regular Baptist Missionary Society of Canada, of the committee of that Society, and of the subscribers to the endowment fund in the matter is here subjoined.

At the annual meeting of the Society, held in Toronto, October 12th, 1852, a committee on ministerial education, consisting of Messrs. Gilmour, Inglis, Pyper, Duncan, Miller, and McCord, made a report, in which they recommended that "steps be immediately taken to procure an endowment for a Theological Institution;" and that Dr. Maclay should be requested to undertake a tour of the churches, with a view to procure subscriptions to such an endowment. The Secretary of the Society was instructed to communicate with Dr. Maclay; and a committee was appointed to carry out the recommendation of the report.

In conformity with these appointments the following letters were exchanged.

HAMILTON, October 18th, 1852.

REV. DR. MACLAY—MY DEAR SIR:—At the annual meeting of the Reg. Bap. Missionary Society of Canada, it was suggested that you might be induced to devote a short time to raise an endowment for a Theological School in the province. The suggestion was received with great interest, and it was unanimously agreed to solicit you to set aside your earliest convenient period for this purpose. I will say nothing of the importance of the object, but I may be allowed to say that you can accomplish, probably, what no man living can in securing it; and may here erect a monument to your own name—and what you will prize more—a permanent means of benefiting the Church of God.

If you accede to our request, and name a time when you may enter the province, a committee of friends will meet you and make arrangements for your comfort and convenience in making a tour of the churches. With much respect and affection, I am yours, fraternally,  
JAMES INGLIS,  
Cor. Sec. of R. B. Missionary Society.

NEW YORK, Nov. 1, 1852.

MY DEAR BROTHER,—On my return to

this city from a tour through the Provinces of New-Brunswick and Nova-Scotia, I found your letter of the 18th of last month. My knowledge of the interests of the Baptist denomination in Canada, in part derived from personal observation, long ago impressed upon my mind the conviction how much those interests would be promoted by the establishment and maintenance among yourselves of an Institution for ministerial education; while the sacrifices heretofore made to procure one, as well as your present letter, furnish gratifying proof that this want is appreciated.

During the present year, I received a similar application from brethren in Mississippi, to aid them in endowing Clinton College, in that State. The Board of the Bible Union, to whom the invitation was referred, reluctantly decided it was inexpedient for me to accept it in view of some pressing and unfulfilled engagements. They have in the present instance consented that I postpone a promised visit to Kentucky, and I therefore, accept your invitation, and shall, God willing, be in Canada in the course of the ensuing week. I fear, however, that you overrate the value of any services I can render, but such as they are shall be given gratuitously, and let me add, a donation of \$100 towards the undertaking.

Affectionately, yours,  
A. MACLAY.

The committee appointed to carry out the recommendations of the Report on Education, met at Hamilton, C. W., on Nov. 11, 1851. Dr. Maclay was present, and he expressed his readiness to proceed at once on his mission to the churches. The necessary arrangements for his journey were made, and terms of subscription were adopted, in which it was provided, that the money subscribed was to be applied strictly as a permanent endowment; and that no subscription should be held binding if less than five thousand pounds be subscribed. It was also provided that a meeting of subscribers should be "held at Toronto, on Wednesday, January 19, 1853, to organize an Educational Society for the establishment, regulation, and maintenance of said Theological School."

Dr. Maclay visited the churches in the western section of the province, so far as the severity of the season would permit and was everywhere met with the greatest cordiality. The liberality of many of the churches far exceeded the most sanguine expectations of the friends of the enterprise; and before the day appointed for the meeting of subscribers, the amount subscribed far exceeded the stipulated sum, though a large number of churches had not been canvassed.

On the 19th of January, 1853, according to appointment, the subscribers met at Toronto; when Mr. Wilkinson was chosen to preside. Dr. Maclay made a verbal report of his tour, and stated that he had through the blessing of God obtained subscriptions, amounting to nearly £6000.

A Society was organized under the designation of the "Regular Baptist Theological Education of Canada," to consist of all donors of twenty-five pounds and upwards, and of the representatives of associations of donors of smaller sums amounting to twenty-five pounds. The constitution of the Society provides that the committee of management shall invest money received for the endowment of a Theological School, in real or provincial securities, or in securities under the consolidated municipal loan fund act only; that no portion of the endowment shall be used except for the production of income, and that any party guilty of contravening thus this provision shall be personally liable for any loss sustained by the endowment.

The chairs in the Theological School are to be filled by a special committee, consisting of the President, Treasurer and Secretary for

the time being, and four other members of the Society at a general meeting of the Society, especially called for the purpose.

The thirteenth article of the constitution provides that "the Theological School for which the endowment has been originated, shall be called and known by the name of "MACLAY COLLEGE." The College is located at Toronto.

Before the close of the meeting, Dr. Maclay was invited to assume the charge of the department of Theology in the College, and an address was adopted, which, with a reply to it, is here subjoined.

The following are the office-bearers of the Society for the present year:

President—Rev. James Pyper, D. D.  
Vice-Presidents—Jacob Beam, Esq., Rev. George J. Ryerson, Rev. Robert Boyd, Rev. Abram Duncan, Rev. William Wilkinson.  
Treasurer—William McMaster, Esq.  
Secretary—David Buchan, Esq.  
Other Members of Committee—Rev. A. Maclay, D. D., Messrs. A. T. McCord, David Paterson, Thomas Lailey, William Burke, J. B. Miller, T. A. Haines, Duncan Bell, Alex. Hamilton.

TORONTO, C. W., Jan. 19, 1853.

To the Rev. A. Maclay, D. D.:

DEAR BROTHER,—We cannot part with you at the close of your arduous toils to secure an endowment for a Theological Institution in Canada, without expressing our high sense of your services, and our gratitude to you, under God, for favors which we can never even hope to repay. Our urgent need of such an institution—the importance of its results when secured—the sacrifice of ease and comfort which such an undertaking at this season involved to one of your years, and the mingled energy, wisdom, and kindness with which you have prosecuted it, lay us under deep obligations.

It is doubly pleasing to acknowledge obligations when esteem for a benefactor mingles with gratitude for benefits conferred. We dwell with thankfulness upon the grace of God which crowns your life of devoted and successful activity with an old age of so rare usefulness. We praise His Holy Name for all he has done for you and by you. In the present case, we cannot but cherish the hope that what has been so well begun, will be happily conducted to the glory of God and the welfare of Canada. But be this as it may, you may well reflect with satisfaction on your share in it, and we rejoice with you in the confidence that your labor shall not be in vain in the Lord.

When you leave the Province, our love, gratitude, and prayers will follow you. When you are gone, we will endeavor to cherish the memory of your example and counsels. We shall often recall the happiness which your visits have shed over our homes, and the instruction as well as pleasure of our social intercourse. Your progress through our churches has been attended with a salutary and elevating influence which will not soon be exhausted. The glorious gospel you have proclaimed from our pulpits cannot be as water spilt upon the ground; and your advocacy of the cause of a pure Bible has left impressions which cannot be effaced.

If we add anything to our fervent prayer that God may bless you, it is to express our unanimous desire that God, in his providence, may lead you back to spend the remainder of your days, in carrying out amongst us the objects contemplated in the Institution which you have been instrumental in originating.

On behalf of the Subscribers.

WILLIAM WILKINSON, Chairman.

We regret that we cannot give the reply of Dr. Maclay in full; it would take up more than the whole of our paper; we con-

clude, therefore, with the few last paragraphs of our venerable brother's epistle, only remarking that the perusal of the whole, as found in the *New York Chronicle* of the 21st of May, will amply repay any one for the time so spent.—Eds.

## Recapitulation.

Let me now pass in hasty review the considerations thus far submitted to you in this address. We have seen the promising condition of the Common Schools and Seminaries of Learning in Canada, and the exemplary efforts of other denominations to promote ministerial education. We have seen in contrast, the inactivity of Baptists, while their numbers, circumstances, and opportunities earnestly demand their best endeavors. They are last, where they ought to have been foremost. We have seen the urgent demand which the destitution of churches, and of the Province at large, presents upon your earnest and prayerful endeavors to send laborers into the fields white for the harvest. We have seen that you must furnish and forward these laborers from your own ranks, and that the time has come when you must take an independent and self-sustaining position. We have seen that the Theological Institute and the Regular Baptist Missionary Society are the appropriate agents for preparing, distributing, and sustaining these laborers. We have seen the necessity for the exercise of meekness and forbearance in co-operating in the Missionary cause, and the practicability of your complete and cordial union in so great a work. We have seen the necessity of a Theological School in order to the efficiency of the Missionary Society. Not because a formal education for the ministry is essential to ministerial usefulness, but because the Theological School will call forth men of suitable gifts and graces for the work—save time and talents—cultivate suitable habits—elevate the standard of ministerial qualifications to meet the wants of the age—and prepare the preacher of the gospel for its defence and its advancement. We have seen the importance of a native ministry, with a home education, and the impossibility of obtaining suitable men from alien institutions or other lands. We have glanced at the course of instruction which ought to be prosecuted—the formation of a library—and the provision that will be necessary for the support of students during the period of their attendance at the Seminary.

And now let me suppose this two-fold instrumentality in successful operation. The Society I shall suppose established in your confidence, and furnished with ample means to aid feeble churches, and to send the gospel into destitute regions. This Seminary I shall suppose to be fully endowed, and to have obtained the services of suitable professors. I shall further suppose, that a reasonable number of young men have devoted themselves to the ministry, and are prosecuting their studies in our classes. The city of Toronto and its vicinity—a vicinity which three railroads and numerous steamers will soon extend over a very wide area—will afford an ample field for the exercise of their gifts during the sessions of the Institute, and during a portion of the year they will be dispersed over the Province as messengers of grace. Not only will this furnish a considerable amount of evangelical service, and afford a suitable opportunity for the cultivation of their powers, but before the close of his studies the character and qualifications of every student will become known to the churches and to the Society. Vacant churches will, in many instances, be prepared to receive the young preacher with open arms as he issues from the school. The Missionary Society, with an eye to the necessities of the several localities on the one hand, and to the qualifications of the students on the other,