Presbyterian Advocate

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY JUNE 25, 1870.

Union Movements.

The tendencies to Union manifested, in late years, among Presbyterians, are not only matters of interest to themselves but to the whole Christain world. Springing from a conviction of duty, and cherished with a view to greater efficiency in the prosecution of Christian work, at home and abroad, they are creditable to our age and to the bodies from which they emanate, nor do the union tendencies now manifested cast reproach on tendencies to disintegration, secession and disruption previously manifested or carried into effect. These, like the present union tendencies, were the result of convictions of duty, and, as their history shows, accomplished important results. They were protests against evils which subsequently were well nigh eradicated; they bore testimony to principles which, in so far as they were sound, have since obtained ample recognition. They created a laudable rivalry in the performance of works of faith and labors of love. The separated bodies exercised a beneficial reflex influence on each other, just as in our age of travel and publicity, the constitutions and administrations of the various nations of the world, and especially of the great progressive nations, exercise an influence upon each other. In the history of the material world we seem to have had, in the first instance, periods of disintegration, followed by periods of cohesion and obedience to the great law of gravitation. Both periods were governed by the laws which were applicable to them; so has it been with the secessions and disruptions of the Presbyterian Church. Yet, other things being equal, union is a nobler principle than dis-union, and we are glad that ours promises to be an age in which union, love and harmony are to receive many delightful illustrations in the history of the Presbyterian Churches, at least, and, doubtless, in the history of other Churches, also.

The colonial possessions of Great Britain have made a moral contribution to the cause of the Union of Presbyterians. No doubt some important unions in Scotland and Ireland had preceded the first Presbyterian Union consummated in Australia, but it was in that distant colony, and not in any of the mother lands, that it was first discovered that the causes, some of them arising out of peculiar relations of church and state, which had led to disruptions at home, ought not to produce similar results in countries in which no such causes existed. That might seem to be a veritable truism, but none of the parent churches did so regard it. They nearly all desired, in the first instance, to keep up organizations, in connexion with themselves, in the colonial dependencies of the empire, either as a matter of principle or to increase their own influence. It was under the liberalizing influence of a new world, in obedience to that law which so intimately connects moral results with physical conditions, the whole world over, that a comprehensive union of Presbyterian bodies, separated by comparatively recent events in Scotland, was first carried out in Australia. That union representing three leading Presbyterian bodies, namely the Church of Scotland, the Free Church and the United Presbyterian Church, has reacted on the Churches in Great Britain and Ireland, and has not been without its influence in the United States and Canada. No other union precisely similar has yet taken place. Neither the Union of the Free Church and the United Presbyterian Church, now under consideration in Scotland, nor the Union of the old and new school Presbyterian bodies in the United States, nor the unions consumated in Old Canada and in the Maritime Provinces, analagous to that now proposed in Scotland, is so comprehensive as that which has been consummated in Australia, and with the most auspicious results.

The Presbyterian Churches of Canada, are, however, rapidly tending towards an equally comprehensive and, perhaps, even a more influential union. They have probably stronger reasons for urging on the movement than existed at the antipodes. They have as great and important problems to deal with as can exist in that young empire, and they feel that with political conditions not unfavorable, and with means of inter-communication, at present good, at least as regards a large part of the territorial area proposed to be embraced in the union, and the sure prospect of their speedy extension, a union of the Presbyterians of all British America is practicable and desirable. In particular, the Synods representing the Church of Scotland and the Synods representing the bodies formerly known as the Free Church and the United Presbyterian Church, and including a large representation from the Irish Presbyterian Church, which maintained no separate organization here, are likely to lead the way in this grand movement and carry it into effect.

It seems to be a characteristic of our times, as distinguished from more distant periods, that great political and ecclesiastical changes are rapidly brought about. We have examples of this in the extension of political franchises in England, and the disestablishment of the Irish Episcopal Church. The proposed union seems to be a movement of this kind; a simultaneous impulse towards it may be traced in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec; it ought certainly to be very acceptable in Newfoundland. The warm personal friendship existing between many of the ministers of those Synods, their present co-operation in some forms of Christian effort, the need of extending such co-operation, the impetus which union would give to the suitable equipment of Theological Halls and other institutions of learning, the need of the moral influence of a united church in carrying the gospel to their French fellow-countrymen, as well as to the English speaking adherents of their church in the great Northwest and elsewhere, and other causes, having respect to their own self-preservation, the influence which they should exercise in this Dominion, and the good they should effect, all conspire to enforce the speedy consummation of this union.

We count it no disadvantage of union that it implies greater forbearance in non-essential matters than separation and disunion. It is being more and more understood that such a course is at once Scriptural and wise; that religious organizations are not dependent for the Divine blessing nor for the highest success on minor details of form; that sound principles will seek a natural outward manifestation; and that liberty, as well as order, should be found in the Christian Church.

We need hardly say that we are gratified with this great union movement. As regards the Union of Presbyterians in British America, in particular, we are more than gratified. The laity have long desired it. The clergy now seem to see their way to it. The moral necessities of the country enforce it, and we may indulge the hope that, ere long, it will be our high privilege to inform our readers that it has actually taken place.

Synodical Meetings.

This is the season in which Ecclesiastical Assemblies in a great part of the Christian world, gather together for their annual deliberations. These meetings are full of interest, not only to the representatives that attend them, but also to the entire Churches that are there represented. Schemes which have in view the progress of Christ's Kingdom are discussed, and the details of their working adjusted; and reports of Church work, both at home and abroad, are read and circulated over the whole Church. The rubbing together of mind on mind, sets both on fire, and thus warmed up, each returns to his every day work with fresh stimulus and energy. It is not out of place for all the members of Churches to pray earnestly and in faith for the out-pouring of the Holy Ghost on their representatives assembled in annual council; influences may go forth from such meetings that will be felt with blessed effect to the inmost corner of the land. We remind our readers then of this duty and privilege; they are to be constant in prayer, both in public and private, during the ensuing week, that the blessing of God may abundantly rest on the annual meetings of our Synods.

We say Synods, for the representatives of both Presbyterian bodies in these Provinces are to assemble in the early part of next week—the Synod of the Maritime Provinces in Halifax, and that of the Lower Provinces in Charlottetown. There is not much difference, we presume, in the nature of the business that is transacted in both venerable bodies; the greater part of the time will be taken up with reports of work done at home and abroad, and in the hearing of references from inferior courts. One of the most essential things in the existence and growth of a Church is to provide an adequate support for the pastors. This subject is engrossing the attention of all the Presbyterian Churches at the present moment. There are difficulties in this respect, in a country such as this, where the population is thin and new settlements are springing up every day, but they are not difficulties that we should for a moment consider insurmountable. In any case the sooner they are grappled with and overcome the better, for until this matter is put on a satisfactory footing, there cannot be the progress which we have a right to expect. No young man of ability and refinement and piety ought to be asked to give himself to the work of the ministry without a reasonable prospect of such an income as will raise him above what may be styled genteel poverty.—There are two directions in which this matter is to be attended to, and that in a much more earnest manner than it has yet been worked, first, by the stimulating of individual congregations to a higher sense of duty; and, secondly, by a more generous response on the part of the Church at large on behalf of charges that are not, and cannot be considered to be, self sustaining, even when their liberality is evoked to the utmost limit. Then there is Home Mission work, which in these provinces must tax the energies of the churches for many generations to come. As new inroads are made into the forest and new settlements spring up, the families must be assiduously looked after, and steps taken for the religious training of both young and old. These pioneers of civilization are not be overlooked; the church that does so is reckless at once of the responsibilities that rest on her and of her own best interests. It is not only a disregard of the great Apostolic commission, it is a policy the most suicidal that could be adopted, to neglect these backwoods settlements, for in time these will form strong and self-sustaining congregations that will aid in sustaining the other enterprises of the church. Then there are the Foreign Missions which the two Synods carry on in concert with churches on the other side of the globe, the field cultivated being the New Hebrides Islands. Few mission fields have of late years furnished more abundant fruit than that cultivated by the Presbyterians of these Provinces, have done. This is at once a cause for gratitude to God and for increased effort. It is a stimulus to us to work and pray and give as we have never before done. And, not to be too tedious, there is Ministerial Education to be discussed. It must be confessed that the project for providing for a native ministry has been carried out in a shameless, languid manner. We know not what the cause is, but such has been so far the result. The motto, "Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well," is one that is just as applicable to the conduct of a church body as it is to the individual.

There will also be delegates from the Upper Provinces. The hearing of delegates from sister churches is by no means the least interesting, as it certainly is not the least important, of the proceedings taken up at such meetings. We are sorry to learn that the delegate from the Lower Synod failed to attend the Canadian Assembly. We know from the Island papers that the gentleman appointed intended to be there. This should teach the Synod when appointing again to that duty to follow the example of our friends across the border, viz., to appoint an alternate, and then there is not likely to be a disappointment. We notice that a respectable delegation from the Maritime Synod attended the corresponding Synod in the Upper Provinces. We don't know whether any of the foreign delegates will favor these Provinces with their presence, if they have not been asked. There is blame somewhere. They certainly ought to have been invited to come. Dr. Dill was asked, and a congregation in this city guaranteed his expenses from New York, and we know that he looked forward with pride and pleasure to his visit to New Brunswick. We have been assured of this in private letters. But it pleased God to remove him to a better world. Whether any steps were taken with reference to the other deputies, we know not.

The subject of Union is also to come up in both Synods. This is, perhaps, the most important topic which will come up this year. The feeling that now exists in most quarters, is such as warrants the confident hope of a speedy and statute incorporation of the two bodies to which we refer in this article. There is no reason why they should keep apart. There is a great work to be done, and it cannot be done in the same manner or with the same effect by two bodies as it can be done by one. We trust the representatives of both Churches will come to the discussion of this topic with a prayerful earnestness—with a desire to promote the glory of God and the good of his Church.

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The University.

As many of our readers take a deep interest in the higher education of the youth of the Maritime Provinces, at least, we present them with a copy of the oration delivered by Dr. Jack, President of the University of New Brunswick, at the late Encœnia. It contains a history of the past and many valuable suggestions for the future. The feeling is gaining ground that it might be well to have one Central University, if not for the Maritime Provinces, at least for New Brunswick, the teaching faculties being entirely detached from the examining bodies. This would place all institutions claiming to furnish an undergraduate education on the same footing, and make degrees in Arts of equal value. Although Dr. Jack, whose oration takes a wide range, does not touch on that point, it is understood he is favorable to it. The matter deserves serious consideration.

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He that puts a Bible into the hands of a child gives it more than a kingdom, for it gives him a key to the kingdom of heaven.

The Training School.

To the Editor of the Presbyterian Advocate.

SIR,—I think the letter of Observer in a former issue of your paper, relative to the Training School at Fredericton did not deal altogether justly with the school accommodations. I do not understand how it could be affirmed that there was not space for a class to be seated in a room which not only could but did seat forty. The means of ventilation are objected to by Observer, and yet to our vision they are most excellent, according to the ideas on that subject in former days, which looked only to the drawing off of heated air, as though that were the same as the getting rid of foul air. There is also an excellent opportunity of getting clear of the heavy foul air by the opening of a little door in the lower part of the flue. The air too for the supply of the fires is drawn by pipes from the outside direct to the stoves—the very mode at present being adopted in all well ventilated buildings—instead of rushing from open windows and cracked doors as best it may, producing cold currents in the rooms. I do not think you could get better ventilated rooms in the province than those in which these schools are now located.

As to the promenade—why it struck our eyes, as one of the recommendations of the building, that there was a covered balcony the whole length of the range, along which two persons could walk and pass other two with ease. Here the soldiers used to disport themselves on the days when the elements were unpropitious, or when the dog-star ruled, shadowed from the sun or sheltered from the rain. Why, no better promenade could be had. We are glad to find that Observer did really observe the play-ground. Well, it was too large and too fine for any one to overlook.

The rooms are not what one would make them had school-rooms been intended from the first, but yet they supply the need of the department admirably. There is plenty of space in each of the four rooms to seat, according to the modern plan, (seat and desk for each pupil) forty persons. That is just about the maximum number to which one teacher can properly attend. There is a present want of a "common hall," which will I believe soon be remedied by throwing into one, two or three of the rooms on the third story. There is, unfortunately, an *inset porch* in each of the schoolrooms, which somewhat mars their appearance and also their capacity. It would be difficult to remove these porches, and unless they were placed outside on the corridor (which would destroy the premenade) the rooms would be cold in winter. If it were possible to get rid of these porches, the capacities of the schoolrooms would be greatly enlarged.

I hope soon to see all the barracks in the Dominion turned to similar excellent purposes.

Without saying anything of the comparative merits of former or present management, I may be permitted to say that when a change was made and when the former excellent manager of the school had resigned, it would have been difficult to make a better selection than has been made. I think in relation to Mr. Crockett and the other teachers observer's praise is just. I was highly pleased with the order, regularity and teaching capacity of principal and assistants, but especially with the evident fitness of Mr. Crockett for the position to which he has been appointed. I believe it is generally conceded that the gentleman stands at the top of his profession in New Brunswick. I do not think he would suffer disparagement in comparison with any one of the parties whose names "Observer" recals with enthusiasm.

Altogether, I feel delighted with the change in this training establishment from the former rooms in St. John,—where from their very construction order was impossible, and progress must have been meagre and doubtful to this place. I only wish the Chief Superintendent had got hold of the St. John barracks instead of that in Fredericton. As it is, I hope we shall soon get possession of these buildings for a College—a University—where Law, Surgery, Medicine, Literature, Science, Philosophy, and Divinity can be studied. Let the soldiers retire before the wand of the schoolmaster. The Black Gown is less costly and more profitable than the *Red Jacket*.

Yours,

ON THE WING.

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[From New York Journal of Commerce].

Criminal Lunacy.

The annual report of the Prison Association of New York for 1869 contains an able essay on "Criminal Lunacy." The author recommends the appointment of a commission of eminent mental pathologists and criminal jurists to collect and compare all the recorded facts bearing on this subject; to develop the principles thereto appertaining; to devise some rules that would enable courts and juries to decide on criminal cases involving the question of insanity with some approach to uniformity, and to suggest provisions to protect society against danger from persons subject to insane impulses. This is a good idea. Recent trials have disclosed a widespread ignorance among all classes of society about the characteristics and various grades of insanity. As insanity is a plea now more frequently offered than ever before in cases of homicide, arson, forgery, theft and nearly all kinds of felony, it would be a great convenience for courts, juries, advocates and editors, if an official and authoritative text-book were prepared going over the ground here indicated. Reference to such a work in the McFarland case, for example, would have saved much trouble for all concerned in that trial, though we do not say that it would have altered the verdict.

The essayist also adopts the idea that has been ably brought out by the Howard Association in England. That organization asks the British Government to create a standing commission of scientific experts, to whom should be referred all cases in which the plea of insanity is set up for the defense. This commission would do the work now devolving on mental pathologists summoned in great numbers, and consuming in their lengthy examinations, days and weeks. These examinations when conducted by statute lawyers on both sides, invariably leave the mind of juries befogged, and prevent everybody interested in the trial from getting at the real merits of the question. The investigations as at present carried on are too much *ex parte*. The defense, when the prisoner is rich enough or can raise money money to pay for it (and here let us add that poor culprits are rarely sheltered under the plea of lunacy), employs distinguished mental experts, at high prices, to find insane symptoms in the acts of the prisoner, and to make arguments under the name of testimony in his favor. The expert, thus retained by a very liberal fee, is really acting the part of counsel on the witness stand. A sufficient number of such experts, who are generally men of high standing in the community, all working together for the prisoner, invariably produce a strong bias in the minds of juries, which is not often overthrown by counter and less zealous witnesses called by the prosecution.

It is not proposed, as we understand the scheme, that this standing commission should supersede juries in cases where insanity is the defense, but only that the commission's report should be a part of the evidence. There is no question that it would have great weight with juries, and in most cases would determine their verdict, as it should do. It would certainly prevent the acquittal of many murderers and other felons who now go clear under the trumped up plea of insanity.

The Encœnial Oration.

May it please your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Students of the University.

INTRODUCTORY RETROSPECT.

Thirty years, lacking three months, have glided away since I first entered these Halls as Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in King's College, Fredericton. Coming fresh from a not unsuccessful career at a time honoured University in my native land, full of hope and youthful ardour, and cheered with fair prospects of advancement at home, I little then thought that New Brunswick was destined to be the abiding place of my mature and declining years, that I should become so closely identified with its welfare and prosperity, and that I should learn to regard it with affectionate fondness as the country of my adoption.

Thirty years of the freshest and most vigorous portion of manhood form a long period to every individual. It is especially long in the case of Professors, to whom the power of continuing for such a length of time in the regular and active discharge of their duties is seldom vouchsafed. Some years ago, the last* of the numerous staff of Professors that adorned my own *Alma Mater*, during my undergraduate course, died full of years and honours; and of those who where my early colleagues in this Institution none now survive. It has even been my fate to mourn the too early death of not a few of the promising students who attended my own classes and graduated here with distinction. Thus, as time moves on with his sure but noiseless tread, change and decay ever follow in his footsteps, and instability and uncertainty mark the lot of humanity.

I feel assured that you will pardon these passing personal allusions, inasmuch as this incessant mutation is full of warning to all of us, and the present occasion may be the last of the kind on which it will be permitted me to address you from this place.

THIRTY YEARS SHORT IN THE LIFE OF A UNIVERSITY.

While thirty years are a long period in the life of an individual, they may and ought to be but a short span in the existence of a University intended by its Founders to shed its beneficient influence not only on one generation of men but on many. Let us hope that such is the destiny of the University of New Brunswick; and that shooting up with ever increasing vitality, the young and weakly-rooted sapling may grow into the strong and healthy tree to which our children's children and future generations will resort to gather and enjoy the sweet and abundant fruit of all the learning and knowledge of a more advanced civilization.

These thirty years, however, have not passed without their accompanying vicissitudes being felt by the Institution itself, nor without leaving a deep and lasting impress upon its condition and prospects. During their revolution, it has had its full share of trials and troubles, and has even undergone the painful throes of a death struggle

GLANCE AT THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY.

Without attempting a lengthened narrative of the trying ordeal to which the College has been subjected, the present occasion seems to offer a fitting opportunity for taking a retrospective glance at the most prominent event of its past history.

A Royal Charter, bearing date the 15th December, 1828, was granted by the Crown, incorporating King's College, Fredericton, and conferring upon it the privileges of a University. An Act for the endowment of the College was passed by the Provincial Legislature in the following February. On my arrival, in the Autumn of 1840, I found that much dissatisfaction existed in the House of Assembly and throughout the country on account of the exclusive and restrictive character of the Charter. As early as 1833, a deputation, consisting of Messrs. Simonds and Chandler, was sent by the Assembly to the Home Government with a list of grievances for which they were instructed to seek redress. Among these, they were charged to complain of the narrow and illiberal policy manifested in the Charter of King's College, and to ask for its amendment in several important particulars. They truly represented that, as by the Charter, the Bishop was *ex officio*, Visitor, the President necessarily a Clergyman of the Church of England, and the members of the Council all bound to subscribe the Thirty-nine Articles of the same Church, such exclusiveness was calculated to keep alive the jealousy which unhappily existed with regard to the College, among a great majority of the inhabitants of the Province, who did not belong to the Church of England, and who naturally thought that as they contributed to the support of the Institution, they ought freely to participate in its benefits.

In a supplement to the Fredericton *Sentinel* of March 10th, 1841, I find that Mr. Wilmot, the present honoured Visitor of the University, is reported to have said in his place in the Assembly:—"He would gently remove the garment of exclusiveness, if by gentle means it could be accomplished; but for his part he would not cease to 'cry aloud and spare not' until the spirit of exclusiveness was purged from the Institution. His object and his sole object was to extend its popularity and usefulness. He wished it to take a high stand among Collegiate establishments. He wished to see it supported and encouraged by every denomination of Christians, diffusing its light to the surrounding Colonies, and dispensing the riches of knowledge throughout the land." How far the aims and aspirations, so eloquently expressed by His Excellency twenty-nine years ago, have been released, and how far the University as it now exists, with the last vestige of exclusiveness wiped out, has advanced in the esteem and confidence of every denomination in the Province, I leave you and the public to answer and decide.

THE CHARTER AMENDED.

In the year 1845, a Provincial Act was passed by the Legislature for the amendment of the Charter, and received the Royal assent at the end of 1846. By this Act it was declared that the Lieutenant Governor, or Administrator of the Government for the time being, shall be Visitor, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Chancellor. The provisions of the Charter, "that the President of the said College shall be a Clergyman in Holy Orders of the United Church of England and Ireland, and that the Archdeacon of the Province for the time being shall by virtue of his office, be at all times President of the College," were abolished; and the President was in future to be appointed by Her Majesty, her Heirs and Successors, or by the Visitor on Her Majesty's behalf. The Chancellor, the President of the College, the Master of the Rolls, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Secretary of the Province, and the Attorney General were made *ex officio* Members of the College Council, which was to be filled up by nine other Members to be appointed by the Visitor. No religious test was to be required of any of the Members of the Council, or of any Professor of the College, save and except the Professor of Theology, who was to be at all times a Clergyman of the United Church of England and Ireland.

DISCONTENT NOT ALLAYED.

This was undoubtedly a great and important step towards placing the Institution on a more liberal basis. It, however, failed to secure the public confidence and allay the irritation and discontent that had for years been sedulously fomented. The sore had rankled too long and been allowed to settle too deeply to be cured by any but the most incisive operation. The fact too, that, even after the new Council was filled up, the governing body still continued to be composed almost exclusively of Members of the Church of England, and the preference shown to that Church by retaining its Professor of Theology, formed ground of continued complaint and served to keep alive the feelings of dislike and hostility with which the Institution had come to be regarded by other denominations. The small number of students compared with the aggregate of the money that had been spent on the establishment—carefully counted from its very foundation for the purpose of giving greater effect to the statement—also furnished a fertile theme on which the enemies of the College did not fail to expatiate. The agitation against it, therefore, did not abate, and misrepresentation and abuse were weapons freely resorted to. As few people in the Province were really interested in making themselves acquainted with the truth or falsehood of the stories so diligently propagated, it is little wonder that many implicitly believed the unscrupulous aspirants to Legislative honours, who thought that one of the easiest ways of making political capital was to denounce the utter uselessness of the College, and the enormous cost it entailed on the country.

As a sample, and by no means the worst sample that might be adduced, of the bitterness and unfairness of the attacks levelled against the College, even after the important modifications in the Charter already referred to, I quote the following sentence from a leading Newspaper published in St. John, on the 9th of April, 1851:—"Cut the head off of King's College,—we mean the £1,100 per annum taken from the pockets of all denominations that the sons of a particular denomination may graduate."

PETITION TO WITHHOLD THE GRANT.

In the year last mentioned, an Address passed the House of Assembly, praying His Excellency, Sir Edmund Walker Head, the then Lieutenant Governor, to withhold the warrant for £1,100 payable out of the Treasury of the Province for the endowment of the College. His Excellency stated in reply that he was unable to comply with the prayer of the petition, because the grant in question was secured by an Act up to that time unrepealed.

Next year His Excellency sent a lengthy communication to the Chancellor to be laid before the College Council, urging the pressing necessity of doing something to popularize the Institution, and pointing out what he conceived to be the best methods of making it more generally useful and acceptable to the Province atl arge. A Committee of the Council was appointed to consult with His Excellency on the subject; and several new statutes were enacted with the object of improving the discipline and giving a more practical cast to the course of instruction. Little or no change, in public sentiment, for the better was effected. Long opposition had roused feelings of bitterness and exasperation in the breasts of those unfriendly to the College, and strong passions and prejudices rather than principles henceforth influenced their actions. Moreover, an extreme party—always dangerous because fierce and vindictive—had at length sprung up who declared that nothing less would satisfy them than the complete subversion of the College. In terms not always either chaste or truthful they inveighed against the uselessness of the Institution and the heavy expense at which it was maintained; and triumphantly asked whether all attempts to improve it had not invariably ended in signal failure? The same result, they asserted, was to be expected in the future, and hence the only sure and effectual remedy was its total destruction. The cry now raised, if sadly wanting in stern dignity and patriotism, resembled in passionate and fanatical vindictiveness that of Cato of old, who at the close of every harangue against Carthage, made the Senate-house resound with the ominous and inexorable words—"*delenda* est Carthago."

1854—AMENDMENT.

In the year 1854 a bill was introduced into the House of Assembly to repeal the section of the charter granting £1100 per annum for the endowment of the College. To this, an amendment was moved by the Hon. J. A. Street, then Attorney General, to the effect that a Commission be appointed to enquire into the present state of King's College, its management and utility, with a view of improving the same, and rendering that institution more generally useful, and of suggesting the best mode of effecting that desirable object; and should such Commission deem a suspension of the present charter desirable, then to suggest the best mode of applying its endowment in the mean time for the educational purposes of the Province. This amendment was carried, and being concurred in by the Legislative Council, it received the assent of His Excellency at the end of the session.

COMMISSION APPOINTED.

A Commission was accordingly appointed, and among its members were the eminent educationists, Dr. Dawson and Dr. Ryerson. They, as directed, submitted to His Excellency an able and exhaustive report, together with the draft of a bill for establishing a comprehensive system of University education in New Brunswick. These documents were laid before the House in 1855, and they form the groundwork upon which the University, as now constituted, was finally established.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

From the report of the Commissioners I beg to quote the following paragraph:—"New Brunswick would be retrograding and would stand out in unenviable contrast with every civilized country in both Europe and America, did she not continue to provide an institution in which her own youth could acquire a collegiate education such as would enable them to meet on equal terms, and hold intercourse with, the liberally educated men of other countries. New Brunswick would cease to be regarded with affection and pride by her offspring, should any of them be compelled to go abroad in order to acquire a university education. The idea, therefore, of abolishing or suspending the endowment of King's College cannot be entertained by the Commissioners for a moment. On the contrary, we think there should be an advance rather than a retreat in this respect, and that the youth of New Brunswick, whether many or few, who aspire to the attainment of the best university education, as preparatory to professional or active pursuits, should be able to secure that advantage in their native land."

RECOMMENDATION OF COMMISSIONERS NOT PALATABLE TO MANY.

The recommendations of the Commissioners did not at all meet the views of many, who, blind to the value and importance of institutions for the higher education, to the welfare and prosperity of every country, and impatient for the prey now almost within their reach, were determined that King's College, however changed in name and character, should cease to exist in New Brunswick.

In 1856, Mr. Connell brought in a bill to suspend the grant to King's College; and although the bill prepared by the Commissioners was moved in amendment, the former was finally carried in the House, but did not pass the Legislative Council.

In the beginning of 1857, as fresh storms fraught with danger to the College, appeared to be brooding in the political atmosphere, some members of the College Council, anxious for the fate of the institution and watchful over its welfare, deemed it high time to move in the matter. Accordingly, His Honor Justice Wilmot, then an active and useful member of the governing body, drew up a report on the condition of the College, and suggested a plan for its improvement. He, at the same time, prepared a bill to carry into effect the principles embodied in the report. These were adopted by the College Council, and it was resolved that they be transmitted to the Visitor, to be laid before the Legislature. The House ordered five hundred copies of the bill to be printed, but no further action was taken upon it during the session.

In 1858, Mr. Connell, with dogged persistency, again introduced a bill of even a more sweeping and summary nature than had hitherto been attempted. The first section of it read as follows:—"All sums of money payable to the Chancellor, President and Scholars of King's College, Fredericton, and their successors by any law and usage, shall from the first day of November next be discontinued, and all acts relating thereto shall be suspended." This bill was strenuously opposed; but having been amended so as to extend the term of existence of the College to the first day of February, 1859, the friends of the institution were obliged to allow it to pass. It afterwards received the concurrence of the Legislative Council, and was assented to by the Lieutenant Governor, on the 6th of April, 1858.

PROFESSORS HELD IN SUSPENSE.

During the weary times of trouble and conflict, the position of the Professors was far from enviable. Harrassed by suspense, and filled with anxiety for the future of their families, it is not to be wondered at if their ardour was damped and their vigor and health so impaired as to render some of them prematurely aged. The College itself doubtless suffered from this as well as from the fact that most people were naturally unwilling to send their sons to an institution whose existence could not be depended on for a single year.

Immediately after the passage of the bill which was to deprive the College of the means of support, the Council forwarded a petition to Her Majesty against the allowance of the bill, and the Professors addressed letters of remonstrance to the Colonial Secretary. At a later date, His Excellency, the Hon. J. H. T. Manners-Sutton, sent to the Colonial Secretary a despatch reviewing in a comprehensive and masterly way all the circumstances of the case. The consequence was that Her Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, declared Her disallowance of the Bill, simply on the ground that it annulled the pledged faith of the Crown, so far as regards the sum granted out of the Civil List to the College, out of which the salaries of the Professors were paid.

THE ATTACK RENEWED.

In 1859 the attack was again renewed by the introduction of a bill to suspend the grant to King's College, so far as relates to the sum of £1100 paid out of the revenues of the Province, and not included in the Civil List. As an amendment to this the Hon. Mr. Fisher moved the substitution of a bill relating to King's College. This was, in effect, the bill which had been prepared by His Honor Justice Wilmot, and which had been laid before the House two years previously. The amendment was carried; but the new bill was vehemently opposed at every step in its progress and by every possible manœuvre. It was amended in several particulars; and it was only by hard fighting that its supporters were enabled to carry it safely through the House. It readily passed the Legislative Council, and finally received the Royal assent.

In the preceding brief and imperfect sketch of the history of King's College, I have purposely abstained from enquiring how far the internal management by its then responsible head tended to affect the popularity and general usefulness of the institution, and check the gradual increase of students. The motives which restrained me will be readily understood.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

From the time the Royal assent was given to the new bill, King's College ceased to exist, and the institution became the University of New Brunswick. Let us hope and pray that under the new name it is destined to have a less stormy, but a far more lasting and useful career than fell to the lot of its predecessor. Being maintained out of the general revenues of the Province, it is open, as it ought to be, to all classes and denominations without distinction. Fortunate and favoured will it be, if it can succeed in rallying round it the affections of the entire population of New Brunswick, so that all may come to look up to it with honest pride and satisfaction as *our* University. While free from every sectarian bias or control, it reverently recognises and duly enforces the obligations of religion and morality. It aims to unite the hearts and train the minds of all its students in the love of learning and virtue. By the free intercourse and association of all classes and creeds in the common and ennobling pursuit of science and liberal accomplishments, prejudices are removed, narrow and contracted views are expanded, mutual sympathy and esteem are promoted, and habits of respect for the opinions of others are engendered.

1860.

The University was fairly launched on its new career in September, 1860. The events of the succeeding Academical year are too fresh in the minds of most of you to require more than a passing allusion. It seemed that the institution was still to be subjected to a more than ordinary share of trouble and change; but the sources of these were now internal. My old friend and dear companion of many years, Dr. Robb, was removed by death; the former principal, Dr. Jacob, retired on a pension; and the recently appointed President, Dr. Hea, found it necessary to resign in the following June. At the Encœnia of 1861, I delivered the address as President of the University of New Brunswick. If since that time the University has failed to advance so rapidly in the road to prosperity as its ardent friends could desire, no part of the failure can now be attributed to misrepresentations or attack from without. Indeed we have, for the most part, been treated with the utmost fairness both by individuals and the press. This I gladly and gratefully acknowledge; for had it not been for the kindness and consideration so generously and liberally extended to us, the task of securing for the University the confidence and good-will of the general public would have been far more difficult.

STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGIATE ESTABLISHMENT.

In making certain comparisons which some people still show a fondness for instituting, the work done at the Collegiate School or Academy ought, in common fairness, to be taken into account, as that forms in reality a part of the work accomplished by the University. Taking this view of the subject, it will be found that within the year 1869, for instance, the total number of *students* that attended the University establishment amounted to 166. This very respectable number would be considerably increased could we succeed in connecting with the institution an Academy for the higher mental training of females. An object so truly desirable could, I think, be readily effected, if the good people of Fredericton would wake from their apathy to a due sense of their deep interest in this important matter, and, instead of relying so much upon Hercules, were to put their own shoulders unitedly and resolutely to the wheel.

HOW TO ESTIMATE THE SUCCESS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

In estimating the success of the University proper by comparison with other institutions of a like character abroad, it ought to be borne in mind that here we have as yet only the Faculty of Arts in full operation, and that in thoroughly equipped Universities the students in that Faculty form only a fractional part of the whole, and are usually small in number as compared with those studying Medicine, Law and Divinity. For example, in each of the two last years we have graduated more students in Arts than even McGill College, where the number attending the Law and Medical Classes alone ordinarily exceeds two hundred.

SCHOOLS OF LAW AND MEDICINE SHOULD BE CONNECTED WITH THE UNIVERSITY.

On addressing you five years ago from this place, I took occasion to point out as forcibly as I could the advantage and desirability of establishing, as early as possible, Faculties of Law and Medicine; and since then I have urged the subject upon the attention of some of the leading gentlemen of these professions; but I am sorry to say that my well-meant endeavours have not met with much encouragement. Many seem to have no thought above and beyond the routine work of their daily calling, and are too much occupied with self to have any time to spare for the public good or the advancement and elevation of their profession. The education which does not awaken intellectual tastes, cultivate kindly and generous sympathies, and disabuse the mind of prejudices,—which does not make man interested in other things than his own household and his own business,—which sinks the true man, with his manifold cravings and aspirations, in the mere merchant, lawyer or physician, is very unsatisfactory and one-sided, and has no tendency to refine or civilize a community.

The medical men of Halifax have evinced a commendable degree of public spirit, and an amount of care for the general interests of their profession, which it would be well for their brethren in New Brunswick to imitate. Within the last two or three years a Faculty of Medicine has been organized in connection with Dalhousie College, and is now, I believe, in fair working order.

SPECIAL COURSES, IN AGRICULTURE, ENGINEERING AND NAVIGATION.

If, under present circumstances, we cannot look hopefully forward to the speedy establishment of Law and Medical Faculties in connection with this University, there can be no doubt but that the time for them will come; and meanwhile, it behoves the Senate and Professors seriously to consider whether, with even the limited teaching staff we now possess, greater efforts should not be put forth to give stated and regular courses of instruction in such practical subjects as Agriculture, Surveying and Engineering, and Commerce and Navigation, in order that the range of usefulness of the institution may be widened as much as possible. For the information of those who may wish to profit by such special courses, detailed synopses of them should be published in the University Calendar.

OBSTACLES TO PROGRESS.

Although, as I have above shown, the number of our students in the Faculty of Arts will compare favorably with that of those attending the same Faculty in institutions usually considered more flourishing; yet it is not to be inferred that I am contented, or mean to rest satisfied with the progress already made. I beg, therefore, that you will bear with me a little longer while I briefly advert to some of the obstacles which hinder the filling of our halls with the crowd of students with which some think they should overflow. For the present, such a desirable result could not be expected by any one who carefully considers the circumstances of New Brunswick, and the occupations of the great bulk of the population. As regards the general undergraduate curriculum in Arts, I have repeatedly visited every section of the Province, and I can testify that in few of the schools have I met with pupils sufficiently far advanced to matriculate, who did not enter as students for the regular course. The small number of such advanced pupils is owing less to the inefficiency of the masters than to the short and irregular attendance of the scholars, arising oftener from apathy than inability on the part of parents. In fact, one of the greatest obstacles to the steady advancement of education is the carelessness and indifference of parents; and the most likely remedy for this evil seems to be direct taxation for the support of schools.

As the Common Schools are improved, the general estimate of the value of education will be raised. Between them and the University there is a sort of reciprocal action, and a more intimate relation than is usually supposed. For, the higher the level to which the education of the people is lifted, the greater will be the number of youths prepared and eager to profit by the University course; and, on the other hand, the greater the number of well-educated men issuing from the University, the higher will be the value set by society on cultivated intellect, and the more will the interest felt in education be diffused through the mass of the population. This mutual dependence was recognized by the University Commissioners of 1854. Their scheme was to give to the Rector of the University the direction and control of the whole educational system of the Province, and thus secure a definite relation and harmonious working between all the different teaching institutions in the State. The nearer the University is drawn to the Schools, and the Schools to the University, the better for the successful working of any comprehensive plan of education. There should be no break in the chain of a truly national and harmonious system,—no divorcement of the Common Schools from the Grammar Schools and the University. It is a matter of great public concern and advantage that boys of more than average ability, in whatever rank of life they may be found, should be enabled to rise to a position suitable to their talents. For this end all available aids and encouragements should be afforded, and every stage in their educational progress, from the lowest to the highest, should be made as smooth and direct as possible.

I have already intimated that, for some time to come, we cannot expect a very marked increase of regular students from the country districts. The case might, and ought to be otherwise, in cities, and more particularly in the commercial metropolis of the Province. There, however, it unfortunately happens that the real intrinsic value of sound mental training is ill-understood and worse appreciated among the generality of business men; and the consequence is that very few of those, who could well afford to give their sons a superior education, think it worth while to send them to the University.

HIGHER EDUCATION NOT PROPERLY APPRECIATED BY BUSINESS MEN.

One man, as if stating an incontrovertible truth, will gravely tell you that, as his son is not intended for a profession but for mercantile pursuits, a University education would be thrown away upon him and his time wasted. Now, there might be some show of reason in this mode of argument were the boy destined to stop at the foot of the ladder,—to continue an office-drudge and a runner of errands, or a mere machine for making entries and adding up columns of figures. But this is not, in general, the end contemplated. The boy is expected to become the prosperous and respected man of business; and it may well be asked, whether by rejecting a thorough mental training he is not sacrificing future welfare and solid success to a present but transient advantage. He may become an efficient and valuable clerk or accountant, and yet be fit for nothing higher; for, has it not often happened that men who acquitted themselves well and satisfactorily in that narrow sphere of action, have miserably failed on undertaking business on their own account? And after all, do not mercantile pursuits, especially on a large scale, imply mental operations of a high order, as well as an extensive and varied acquaintance with the world of nature and the productions of science and art? And will not that mind, in the long run, have the advantage which has been trained and strengthened by the exercise of its various powers,—which has been accustomed to follow processes of argument and induction, and to organize, classify and subordinate details to principles?

THE MORAL SIDE.

So much for what may be termed the intellectual side of the question; but it also presents a serious and moral aspect, which is to some extent suggested by the different excuse which another man will give for not sending his son to College. He will tell you with much importance and self-complacency that, for his part, he can see no good in a University education, and that he has got on very well and made money without it. His son, he says, has already received at the Grammar School a far better education than ever fell to his lot, and starts in life from a higher position, and with much better prospects of success [illegible] it really true that his prospects of money-making—for that is what is meant—are better? Let us see. The father probably sprang fresh from the common people, and has a strong current of the healthy and uncontaminated blood of the people coursing through his viens. He was resolute to make his way in the world, and pursued his object with steady and unfaltering aim. He had energy and push, and being born to work, work was and is his pleasure and enjoyment, and he has an unflagging appetite for it. On the other hand, the son, if not actually reared in the lap of luxury, has been allowed to have pretty much his own way, and has not been stinted in the gratification of most of his desires. He thinks more of gaiety and amusement than of work—more of spending than of making money. In short, the good that was in him has not been developed in struggles with adversity, and the evil that was in him has grown rank in the ease and sunshine of prosperity. The experience of every one will tell him that I have not been drawing a fancy picture; and in this view of the relative positions, it need scarcely be asked whether the son has a better chance of more worldly success than was enjoyed by the father.

AN EDUCATION BEFITTING THE STATION, NEEDED BY ALL CLASSES.

Ignorance and vice are said, and rightly said, to go hand in hand; and it is universally admitted that education is one of the surest and most direct means of repressing the grosser crimes to which the lower orders of society are addicted. But although it is seen that vices of a more or less aggravated character are incidental to every rank and condition of life, it is not yet generally understood that the same kind of remedy—an education suitable in range and quality to the particular class—may in each case be attended with results equally salutary as those which would flow from the wide diffusion of elementary knowledge among the ignorant classes. It is high time that this important fact were recognised and acted upon. This truth being acknowledged, it would at once be conceded that the boy of fourteen, or fifteen, who, getting impatient of school control and longing for the imaginary freedom of manhood, rushes prematurely to seek employment behind the counter or the merchant's desk, can be but ill prepared to begin the serious business of life, and battle with the trials and temptations which beset his path. He is as yet little used to reflect on consequences, and his attainments are meagre and his ideas limited. His mind is plastic and unformed, and its powers are undeveloped and untrained. He has not learned to concentrate his attention and follow consecutive trains of reasoning. His faculties have not been awakened to the beauty and grandeur of the material universe, or to the consideration of the true position he himself occupies therein. He knows little of the limits natural and moral which hem him in on every side, and which he cannot transgress with impunity. The giant powers of nature, which it is the glory and the boast of the man of science to render subservient to his purposes, have never formed the subjects of his study. Having acquired no intellectual tastes and no fondness for literary or scientific pursuits, he finds, as might have been foreseen, his evening leisure dull and irksome, and to relieve its tedium he betakes himself to questionable amusements. On these he may make shipwreck of health, fortune and character, and may find all his expectations irrevocably blasted before he has well set out in life. Of late years, cases of embezzlement by clerks for the support of expensive pleasures, have become more and more frequent; and frauds on a large scale, by public men, have ceased to be uncommon. It cannot but be admitted that these evils exist and are on the increase; and although a sound religious and moral training, which will guide and influence the conduct throughout life, must ever be the only sure safe-guard against them, yet it will be granted that a higher and more thorough education, refining the taste and ennobling the character, may, with the Divine blessing, be made to exert the most powerful and beneficial subsidiary influence that can be brought into action.

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*Sir David Brewster.

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The Lieutenant Governor proclaims and appoints Friday, the first day of July next, as a General Holiday; "and enjoins and calls upon all Her Majesty's loving subjects throughout the Province to join in the due and proper celebration and observance of the said anniversary."

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☞ We are requested to intimate that Rev. Wm. Wilson, of St. Andrew's Church, Chatham, will preach in New St. Stephen's Church, to-morrow, at 11 a. m. and 3 p. m., and in St. Andrew's Church at 6 p. m.

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THE DICKENS FAMILY.—Mrs. Charles Dickens, who survives her husband, has lived apart from him ever since their unfortunate differences resulted in a public scandal in 1856. Mr. Dickens had buried several children, and leaves two daugters—one married to Mr. Charles Collins, brother of Wilkie Collins, the novelist, and one unmarried—and several sons, the eldest married and already dabbling in literature, one in Australia, one in the navy, and one winning high honors in the university. Miss Hogarth, a sister of his wife, has given her life to the care of the family, and was with Mr. Dickens at Gad's Hill at the time of his death.

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There is a piece of sense in the remark made to a high-toned minister, who indulged in great words and finished phrases:—"Take heed, sir, that you do not put the hay so high in the rack that the young lambs cannot get to it."

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Examination of Mr. Scovil's School.

The examination at King Street Academy took place yesterday, under the patronage of the Chief Justice, and Revds. Clark, Hill, McKenzie, Caie, Deveber, Tilley; the Mayor, Hon. T. R. Jones, and several ladies and other gentlemen, parents and friends of the pupils. The various classes sustained their examination in a manner highly creditable to themselves as well as to their teachers.—The French, Algebra, Book-Keeping, Physiology and Geometry pupils deserve great praise for the manner in which they acquitted themselves.

The successful competitor for the Silver Medal in the branches of Arithmetic, Wells' Science, Geography—Great Britain and the Colonies—Astronomy, Geometry, and Algebra, was Frederick Sullivan, to whom it was therefore awarded. For want of time several of the classes could not be publicly examined.—The examination concluded about half-past two, after which the various prizes were distributed to the successful candidates, of which the subjoined is a list:—

F. Sullivan—Algebra, Astronomy, Geometry, Well's Science, History and Arithmetic.
G. Jones—Greek, Virgil, Euclid and Arithmetic.
F. Fairweather—Book-keeping and French.
H. Fairweather—General Geography, Physiology and Well's Science.
H. Masters—English Grammar.
W. Burnham—2d Greece, 2d Arithmetic.
E. Kaye—Modern History.
G. Adams—English Grammar and 2d Mental Arithmetic.
C. Pritchard—Punctuality and Good Conduct.
F. Sulis—Geography of Great Britain and Colonies.
W. Miles—1st Mental Arithmetic.
W. Stewart—Use of Globes.
A. Skinner—Latin Reader and Astronomy.
R. Stewart—Ancient History.

Junior Department.

J. Bowes—America.
J. D. Purdy—Arithmetic.
H. Barbour—Spelling.
A. Estey—Geography.
F. Miles—Spelling (Primary).
R. Ritchie—English Grammar and History.
J. Magee—Tables.

The subjects for the medal for the ensuing year are Composition, Book-keeping, Mensuration and Geometry.

The school will be closed for five weeks, and the pupils are expected to return on Monday, first day of August. We cannot conclude without expressing our highest approbation of the manner in which the exercises were conducted, and the admirable arrangements which the Principal has provided in his new buildings for the comfort, the health and the general well-being of his pupils, and we trust that the establishment may remain for many years as it is now—a credit to himself and the city generally.

F. A. EVERITT.—We observe by the Springfield, Mo., *Daily Patriot*, that our former townsman, Mr. F. A. Everitt, is making his mark in business circles in Missouri. We quote the following:

"The first importation of China, Crockery and Queensware, direct from England, ever made in Southwest Missouri, was made by our enterprising townsman, F. A. Everitt. It consisted of twenty-nine crates of crockery and chinaware, manufactured in England. It was shipped by way of New Orleans, then bonded and transported by river to St. Louis, where the duties—about $1,000 in gold—were paid by Mr. Everitt, and the goods shipped per South Pacific Railroad to Springfield, where they arrived a few days ago in excellent condition.