

PINE HILL DIVINITY HALL
150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

ORDER OF SERVICE
September 20th, 1970

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship

Introit: Old Doxology

Prayer of Invocation & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: "O Come, let us sing to the Lord" 666

Responsive Reading: "Song of the Fathers" 768

Scripture Lesson: Dr. Ralph Chalmers, B.A., B.D., ThD.,
D.D.
-President, Maritime Conference-United
Church of Canada

Anthem

The Evening Prayer: Rev. Hugh Creaser, B.A., B.D.,
-Moderator, Pictou Presbytery
Presbyterian Church in Canada

Announcements

PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Hymn: "O God of Bethel, by whose hand" 446

Guest Speaker: Dr. Gordon E. MacDermid, B.D., B.D., Ph.D.

The Offertory - Presentation - Doxology

Hymn: "For all the saints, who from their labours
rest" 174

Benediction

Choral Amen

Organ Postlude

We welcome all who have come to share in this Service of Worship. As we remember tonight the work and the witness of Dr. Thomas McCulloch may it help to stir each of us to promote the work of Church, School and Community and may this hour be one which is rich in fellowship for us all.

DR. THOMAS McCULLOCH

Born in Scotland in 1776. Educated in Medicine and Divinity in Glasgow. Ordained in 1799. Volunteered for overseas service, and came to Pictou in November 1803. Served as both pastor and doctor in Pictou. He soon started to think of educating young men in higher education. In 1816, the Governor approved an application from McCulloch for an institution for higher education. This institution became known as Pictou Academy and it was a small university teaching the classics and science. It did not confer degrees. In 1820 the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Nova Scotia appointed McCulloch as Professor of Divinity. He started a class of 12 persons who met on Saturdays in an unused room in the Academy, and they started out on a four year course. Later the term for Divinity students was changed to a month or more in the Autumn. In 1838, the Government decided to provide University training at Dalhousie, and Thomas McCulloch was appointed its' first President. He continued to teach Divinity Students in his own home in Halifax. In 1843 McCulloch died, and was brought to Pictou for burial in Laurel Hill Cemetery.

PINE HILL DIVINITY HALL

Pine Hill is the theological College of the United Church of Canada in the Atlantic Provinces. It perpetuates the earliest college of any of the Church which entered into the Church in 1925, but as at present constituted it was formed by the Amalgamation of the Presbyterian College at Halifax, N.S., and the Theological Department of Mt. Allison University at Sackville, N.B. The representatives of the two colleges met on March 29th, 1926 & agreed upon the terms of union and in October of the same year the union was effected. The College was incorporated under the name of "Pine Hill Divinity Hall" by an act of the Parliament of Canada. Since 1926, until the present year 1970 there have been 675 theological students graduate from Pine Hill. There are at present 9 persons on staff.

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From: Pine Hill Divinity Hall
1820-1970

E. Arthur Batts,

Hebrew and Theology. . . The chief importance was attached to the study of Theology. Orthodoxy was then considered a sine qua non in any person looking forward to the Presbyterian ministry. He had by this time his lectures on the Calvinistic system written out. . . Besides attendance upon these examinations, our exercises were preparing discourses which were delivered memoriter and plans of sermons. The subjects of the discourses were generally doctrinal, or sometimes papers showing the connection of doctrine and duty, of the latter Tit. 2:14; 3:6, 14, being favorites. The discussion of each rendered necessary on the part of students a careful study of the doctrines involved, and the delivery of them gave opportunity for further elucidation on the part of the Professor, of questions raised.

Some of the exercises thus became somewhat conversational. We were invited to state our difficulties or objections, which he patiently labored to remove. . . Sometimes he gave us most valuable thoughts in his quaint droll form of expression. Take, as an example, the following as an advice in regard to preaching: 'Give them a good introduction. If you get them with you at the start, it will carry you through the middle of your discourse, then stop when you think they would like a little more. . . ' It must be admitted that the system of instruction was deficient, and yet under it were trained ministers as efficient as the church has ever possessed."¹

Patterson's final statement is borne out by the fact that seven from a fairly small number of graduates were later honored with doctorates, including the Rev. John Geddie, the pioneer missionary, and the Rev. James Ross, who to a great extent, carried on McCulloch's work.

For his services as Professor of Divinity, McCulloch took no salary for the first four years. In 1825 the Synod agreed to pay him £30 "as a small acknowledgment of his excellent services." One or two years he may have received as much as £40. This, and a few pounds for new books, seems to have been the total cost to the Church of the Divinity Hall.

In the year 1833, the Synod decided to raise £2,500 to endow a Theological Professorship. Through the years money slowly accumulated, though not even the interest seems to have been drawn upon for a long time.

In 1836, we read that the Doctor submitted a letter of resignation ^{to}:

¹The Theologue Vol. 3 No. 2, pp.38-9

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he was prevailed upon to continue.

In Scotland, The Glasgow Colonial Society had little use for a body outside the Established Church of Scotland, but a second organization formed "in aid of the Pictou Academical Institution and of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia"¹ aided the Academy and Divinity Hall. A group of Glasgow Succession Theological students was also helpful.²

In September 1843, Dr. McCulloch passed away, and it is doubtful if the Divinity Hall met that year.

¹cf. *Proceeds of the First Meeting*, printed in Glasgow, 1827.

²cf. Pamphlets issued in 1828 and 1829, in M.C.A.