

For the Christian Messenger.

**Quarterly Examination at Acadia College.**

Pursuant to notice, the Quarterly Examination of the Students of Acadia College commenced on Tuesday last, and was continued throughout that and the following day. The Rev. Stephen W. deBlois and James W. Johnston, Junr., Esq., two of the examiners appointed by the Convention, were present, together with some gentlemen from the village and the surrounding districts.

The Classes were examined in the various studies that had occupied their attention during the term, and the result, while it was highly creditable to the students themselves, met the unqualified approval of the Examiners, and the visitors present, and must have amply rewarded the Professors for the time, care, and attention they had evidently bestowed in the discharge of their responsible and arduous duties.

The mode of examination was most thorough and searching, and the replies given by the students to the various questions propounded, satisfactorily proved that they understood and had made their own the subject matter of the various Lectures, and had not rested satisfied with simply committing them to memory.

On Wednesday evening, public Orations were delivered by the more advanced students in the spacious College Hall, which, at an early hour, was filled to overflowing, not by those alone who reside in the immediate neighbourhood of the College, but by a goodly number who, despite the inclemency of the weather, had come from a distance to enjoy the pleasure of another of these Oratorical exhibitions.

Dr. Cramp, who presided with his accustomed ability, after prayer had been offered by the Rev. David Freeman, introduced the different speakers with suitable remarks on the chosen subjects of their orations. Not the least attractive part of the evening's programme was the fine music discoursed intermediately by a choir resident in the village, who kindly lent their well-cultivated vocal powers, to give a charm to the entertainment that melody alone could furnish.

The following is a list of the speakers, and the subjects of their declamations:

Addresses were then delivered by James W. Johnston, Junr., Esq., the Rev. David Freeman, and Rev. S. W. deBlois. After which the choir sang the National Anthem in a style that would compare not unfavourably with many efforts of a like kind from city performers; and the benediction being pronounced, the meeting separated, well pleased with the exercises, and the manner in which the evening had been passed.

The number of Students who attended the college during the last term, was, I was informed, 22, and, as far as I could judge, the College is in a highly efficient state, with every prospect of ere long surmounting the many difficulties that have of late beset its way, and realizing the expectations of its most sanguine friends.—Communicated.

**Christian Messenger.**

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 21, 1859.

A year seldom passes in these latter times without leaving behind it some striking traces of character in regard either to the moral or physical condition of our race. The year just closing has not been without its reminiscences in this respect. The formal opening of the great Empire of Japan to the commerce of the world, will form a prominent feature in the future history of the period in which we live as it may very properly be considered the destruction of the last great barrier to the free and unrestrained intercourse of the whole human family. An event however of still more immediate concern to the civilized world is what has transpired in Italy. The brief and sudden campaign of the French Emperor and its immediate results, we cannot but hope, however intended, may yet work rich blessings to that hitherto ill-governed and

unhappy country, and may not improbably prepare the way for its final liberation from both civil and religious thralldom.

But may we not trust that the events are only subsidiary to far higher purposes of good to man. In themselves they are but material, soon to pass away and be forgotten. A series of much greater occurrences have characterized the year now closing upon us. The spark of Divine Grace which, during the past year, was kindled into so wide and steady a flame on this side the Atlantic has crossed the deep, and is manifesting itself in the kindred nation of the ancient world. Ireland and Scotland have been largely partaking of its sacred influences, and who shall define the limits of its progress, or say to what extent in the gracious purposes of God, these rich blessings shall be hereafter developed, and the fruit redound to the Redeemer's glory. In many parts of England and Wales signs of spiritual vitality are becoming evident, and in Sweden, Germany and several other parts of Continental Europe, souls are awakening from the dead formalism of a mere external profession of sound doctrine or from the still deeper and more deadly sleep of Papal superstition.

We need not remind our readers that our own hearts have, from time to time during the past year, been gladdened with the intelligence that in one or another locality of our own favored Province, a spirit of prayer has been poured out upon the churches, and not a few immortal souls have been rescued from impending ruin.

What we have thus briefly referred to may well distinguish the present year as one of striking events, as well as of special mercies, demanding emotions of devout gratitude to God, and an earnest consecration of all our powers and our possessions to His service.

**Christmas.**

How many are the reminiscences of the past which are brought to mind by the return of the present week. Christmas as a season of rejoicing, of family gatherings, of making presents, and especially of gifts to the poor, must afford pleasure to every rightly constituted mind; we therefore cordially join in wishing our readers a Merry Christmas not for one day only, but for the week, which is considered by Englishmen more than any other in the year, as a time of friendly greetings and family rejoicings.

It is doubtful which have the largest share of enjoyment, those who open their hearts and indulge in the luxury of giving, or those who are the recipients of their favours.

We have but little respect however for the origin of this festival, it being but a relic of heathenism with a Christian name engrafted upon it. Nor have we any idea of there being any sanctity connected with the observance of it as a religious festival; the Word of God does not recognize any sacred day but that on which our Lord arose—the Lord's day.

In consequence of the 25th of December falling on the first day of the week this year, the holiday was appointed, by Proclamation, on Monday the 26th. We regret that notice of this did not appear in the *Royal Gazette* before our last issue, or should have noticed the same. We trust however that before this our readers, old and young, rich and poor, high and low have participated in the rational enjoyments of a "Merrie Christmas."

The same number of the *Gazette* also announced that in consequence of New Year's Day falling on Sunday, Monday the 2nd will be observed as a Holiday. Were it possible for us to call on each of our readers on that day and have the opportunity of shaking hands with them, it would afford us no small amount of pleasure to do so, and exchange the complements of the season. We must, however, content ourselves with making use of this medium to approach them. That we may be in time to do this before the day has passed we will now wish them, one and all, and shall use our endeavours to make it to them, "A HAPPY NEW YEAR."

On the eighth page of our present issue will be found the Index—Contents of Volume 23." It is not the general practice now-a-days for Proprietors of Newspapers to go to the expence and labour of getting up for their subscribers a table of contents at the end of their volumes. Perhaps it is because they think their papers are not preserved. We know however that many of our patrons do preserve, and that very carefully, their copies of the *Messenger*, and put them together at the end of the year into volumes for future use and reference. We desire to encourage this, so that when any parties wish to "ask history," they may not find it difficult to obtain satisfactory answers.

The "Christian Messenger" thus becomes not only a Family Newspaper, but also a Record of passing events, and a Repository of useful and entertaining knowledge.

A celebrated artist once said as a reason for his attention to the minutest details in his work, "I paint for eternity." This should be the motive for every work of our hands, especially for what is committed to the press. Newspaper writers often think their work too evanescent and ephemeral a character to have more than a temporary effect, and consequently they fail in accomplishing more. If they realized to themselves before committing their thoughts to paper, "I write for eternity" they would often avoid sending to the press much that now appears, but which is not worth the time it took to write it, or the paper on what it is printed.

The public press possesses a vast amount of influence. The future good of mankind depends in a great measure on the character of those who exercise control over this instrument of power. We feel the weight of responsibility which rests on us, and entreat an interest in the prayers and sympathies of our brethren so that our pages may ever contain what may be worthy of preservation and of re-perusal by generations yet unborn.

**Society of the Alumni of Acadia College.**

In accordance with the notice given, a meeting of the Alumni of Acadia College was held in the Library of the College on the evening of the 20th inst., for the purpose of forming themselves into a Society. A number of the Alumni, with other friends of the Institution were present. The meeting was called to order by James W. Johnston Junr. Esq., being appointed Chairman, and the Rev. David Freeman, Secretary. The chairman in a few forcible remarks explained the object of the meeting, and the desirableness of the proposed organization. The following among other resolutions were then proposed, and after discussion were carried unanimously.

*Resolved*.—First, that a Society be at once formed for the promotion of Education in connection with Acadia College, by contributing to its funds, by promoting and sustaining either partly or wholly Professorships and Scholarships, and by such other means as may be deemed advisable.

*Secondly*, That the Society be composed of those who had studied at Acadia College or at the Baptist Academies in Horton and Fredericton, and of such other persons as should be proposed and ballotted for.

*Thirdly*, That the terms of membership be an annual payment of twenty shillings or a Donation at one time of twenty five pounds.

Other resolutions connected with the formation and management of the Society were then adopted, after which some twenty gentlemen enrolled themselves as members of the Society, and a committee of five was appointed with power to add to their number, charged with the duty of obtaining from the Legislature an Act of Incorporation; of preparing a Constitution and Bye-laws; and of corresponding with and obtaining the cooperation of the Alumni of Acadia College, and the students of the Academies as far as practicable. The committee were then named as follows:—James W. Johnston Junr. Esq., Rev. Dr. Cramp, Rev. S. W. deBlois, Rev. David Freeman and Alfred Chipman Esq.

The meeting then adjourned to the call of the Committee. The proceedings of the meeting we are informed was most harmonious. All seemed determined to rally for the support, and advancement of the College and institution endeared to them by many tender and affectionate reminiscences. We doubt not the nucleus of a Society has been formed, which as its friends rally to its support, shall gather increasing strength,—and be largely instrumental in raising and sustaining an Institution of learning at that point of efficiency which the standing and exigencies of the Baptists of these provinces demand, we shall at all times be pleased to notice in our columns the progress of the Society.

**Final Notice.**

According to the notice given in several of our preceding numbers, we shall, after this week, remove from our list of Subscribers the names of some of our friends who have not favored us by remittances. They will therefore find their papers discontinued at the beginning of the year.

Stern necessity and our obligations to all parties concerned, especially to those who pay for their paper regularly, compels us to adopt this course.

We have to pay hard cash for every sheet of paper we use and for every line that is printed upon it. We can only do this by obtaining payments from those who receive our visits every week.

We can only hope to make "both ends meet" by observing the strictest economy and occasionally giving a vigorous pull on one hand at the expenture, and on the other at arrears.

Should any papers be stopped of those who have lately paid to our Agents, we shall be glad to hear from them as soon as possible, and we shall have great pleasure in again replacing their names, and also of those who pay up their arrears, and forwarding to them the back numbers.

The accounts we shall shortly forward to such as are discontinued will we trust be attended to without delay, so as to avoid further expense.

The letter of "a church member" on another page will we trust accomplish the object of the writer; but we must protest against its length. However excellent the matter or necessary it may be to address our readers on such subjects, we believe such appeals would be read far more generally, and would prove more acceptable and useful, if put into smaller space. We warn our brother (he is not a minister) that in future he must try and condense more or we shall be obliged either to curtail or divide for two numbers.

**The Christian Messenger for 1860.****THE BAPTISTS OF NOVA SCOTIA.**

We have received the Introductory Letter of the Series which some time since we informed our readers had been promised by MENNO, on "The Baptists of Nova Scotia."

Taking this as a specimen, we have no hesitation in saying that they will be no ordinary treat to all our readers. They will not be long prosy details of things which might as well be forgotten, but brief spicy sketches of men of sterling worth, from whom much may still be learned even by the most devoted men of the present day; of times full of the deepest interest; and of events connected with the early religious history of this province, which will command the attention of all denominations of christians.

These letters we believe will be welcomed and read with avidity by thousands in this and the adjoining provinces.

The first one of these articles will appear in our next issue—the first week of the New Year. Any parties not already subscribers, who desire to secure the whole series should send on their names without delay or we cannot promise to supply them with the back numbers of the paper.

**THE PARKER AND WELSFORD MONUMENT.**

A large block of brown freestone from the Albion quarries, weighing between 12 and 15 tons, was removed from the wharf to the shed in Pleasant street, on Friday last. Mr. Lang the architect is intending to carve out of this a perfect figure of a lion the size of life. Besides the workmen, upwards of 100 soldiers were aiding in its removal. It is an interesting feature in this piece of work that a number of the men so employed were in the trenches at the Crimea with Major Welsford when he fell.

The latest telegraph Despatches afford a few days later European news than that received by our last mail. Its tenor continues to be pacific, as the approaching Congress at Paris is likely to embrace all the important questions that now agitate Europe, whatever may possibly occur to interfere with the peace of the world will possibly grow out of their deliberations.—It is to be hoped that good sense and humanity may so far influence their counsels, as to avert the untold evils that any outbreak must inevitably occasion. Austria is said to be experiencing a good deal of difficulty with her Hungarian dominions. This is not to be wondered at when she is attempting to govern them in a spirit which the increased intelligence of the present age renders insupportable. Austria is now the most bigotted Roman Catholic Power in Europe. Half her Hungarian subjects are Protestants, and it is said that both in Hungary and Bohemia, numbers are yearly coming over to that communion.

The United States Congress are assembled at Washington. From our New York Exchanges we observe that nothing had been done for the first week, except sharp altercations between the Southern and Northern Members in both branches, on the vexed subject of Slavery, growing out of the subject of the Harper's Ferry Insurrection. The numerical power of the South in Congress, is, we believe, become a minority, and the consequence would appear to be a more acrimonious and defiant spirit in support of the cherished institution of Slavery. Should their legislative numbers and influence still continue to grow less, it may be hoped that the sound sense and patriotism of wise and moderate men from all parts of the Union, will devise some more feasible plan than has yet been attempted, to wipe out the anomalous blot of Slavery from their national code.