

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Associated Alumni of Acadia College.

DEAR SIR,

A copy of the enclosed circular has been mailed to all those entitled to be members, in their own right, of the "Associated Alumni of Acadia College," whose address could be obtained, but many could not thus be communicated with, in consequence of their place of residence being unknown. And there are, I am persuaded, many friends of the institutions at Horton, and of education generally in all parts of the Province, who on becoming acquainted with the objects of the society, will gladly seek admission amongst its members, in order that they may further those objects, strengthen the society, and increase its usefulness. I therefore request that you will give the enclosed circular a place in your columns, for the information of those entitled to membership, and for the purpose of giving increased publicity to the Society, and I trust that all who peruse the "Circular" will consider themselves as personally addressed, and by hastening to join the Society, either as Annual or Life Members, place on a more efficient and permanent basis institutions of a great and acknowledged utility, and extend more widely the inestimable blessings that are sure to flow from a sound and enlightened education.

I am, on behalf of the Committee, Very truly yours, JAMES W. JOHNSTON, JR., Chairman.

[CIRCULAR.]

DEAR SIR,

On the 20th day of December last, a number of the Alumni, and other friends of Acadia College, met in the College Library at Wolfville, and formed a Society called "THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNI OF ACADIA COLLEGE," in aid of the Institutions at Horton, to be composed of all who had studied either at the College or the Academies in Horton or Fredericton. The terms of Membership were fixed at an Annual payment of 20s., or a donation at any one time of £25, to constitute a Life Membership. All other friends of the Institution, or of education generally, upon being ballotted for, may become Members, on the above terms.

At that meeting, a Committee was appointed composed of the following five gentlemen, namely, James W. Johnston, Junr., Rev. Dr. Cramp, Rev. S. W. deBlois, Rev. David Freeman, and Alfred Chipman, Esq., charged with the duty of obtaining from the Legislature, an Act of Incorporation—of preparing a Constitution and by-laws, and of corresponding with, and obtaining the co-operation of the Alumni of Acadia College—and the students of the two Academies as far as practicable.

As Chairman of that Committee I have now the pleasure of addressing you, and I feel assured that I have but to name the object proposed to be accomplished by the Society, to awaken your sympathy, arouse your energies, and secure your active assistance on behalf of our Alma Mater.

Various untoward circumstances have of late combined to place the College in a situation of temporary difficulty, and to render it expedient to adopt measures to secure its efficiency as a seminary of learning, and to aid in placing it beyond the risk of financial embarrassment.

This is the object sought to be achieved by the Society, and with that view it is contemplated to found and sustain, either wholly or in conjunction with the Governors,—Professorships,—and to assist the students, by the bestowal of scholarships or pecuniary donations, either at the discretion of professors, or as the reward of superior attainments tested by an examination—and by awarding prizes for excellence in particular departments of learning, to stimulate the industry and excite a noble rivalry among the students at the College, and scholars at the two Academies. Societies such as this, and with similar objects, are attached to most of the Institutions of learning in the neighbouring States, while in our own Province, King's College has its Society composed of its Alumni and friends, whose associated efforts have largely contributed to the prosperity of that Institution. And I trust that the united operations of the Alumni and friends of Acadia College, will ere long place our Institution, on that flourishing basis, so essential to its efficiency and prosperity, and so loudly demanded by the growing educational wants of the Province; and so to be desired by all those who, having received within its halls the educational training to which, it may be, they are indebted for their success in life, cannot now, for their credit's sake, feel indifferent to the rank this institution is to take amongst similar Seminaries of learning in the Province.

It is proposed to apply to the Legislature, about to meet, for an Act of Incorporation, and as soon as the Committee have the Constitution and By-laws in a sufficient state of forwardness, the Members of the Society, together with those who shall, in the mean time, signify their intention of joining—will be convened to assist in passing them, and in inaugurating the Society.

It is also intended to have a public meeting

of the Society annually, at the College Anniversary, on which occasion a public oration will be delivered, and other measures adopted to render the Society popular, and its meetings attractive, and it is hoped that the Society will be in a state of sufficient forwardness by the month of June next, to render such a public meeting prudent and desirable.

In the mean time, we earnestly solicit your sympathy and co-operation with the work we have in hand, and trust that you will as promptly as possible authorize us to enrol your name either as an Annual or a Life-Member of the Society, and will also furnish us with the names of persons in your locality eligible for Membership in their own right, who are willing to join,—and of those, you may enlist in our cause, to be ballotted for at our next meeting.

You can either address myself in Halifax, or any other member of the Committee in Wolfville, and your subscription may either be remitted forthwith, or paid in at the meeting to be held in Wolfville next June, as you prefer.

Dear Sir, remember the King's business requires haste.

I am, on behalf of the Committee, Very truly yours, J. W. JOHNSTON, JUNR., Chairman.

For the Christian Messenger.

Caution.

MR. EDITOR,

A Teacher from the Normal Institution at Truro obtained a school in one of our western counties. There is a Baptist church in the place, and a Sunday school connected with it. The Teacher was requested to assist in the Sunday school, and complied with the request, but took advantage of the opportunity, to introduce Pedo-baptist notions. The minister found, to his astonishment, that an attempt was made to persuade his own little boy that baptism came in the place of circumcision, and that therefore children ought to be baptized!

I make no comment, but will only say, that I do not believe there is a Baptist in all Nova Scotia who would take advantage of his position as a Teacher in a Presbyterian Sunday school, to introduce Baptist principles among the children.

The fact I have mentioned suggests a caution. Let our friends exercise due care in the selection of Teachers.

Yours to serve, Feb. 27th, 1860. WATCHMAN.

For the Christian Messenger.

ADDRESS

TO THE BAPTIST MINISTERS OF NOVA SCOTIA:

Beloved Brethren,—We now address you in behalf of the fund for Ministerial Education. We do not, indeed, ask you to contribute a single pound, from your slender support, which we are aware is, in many cases, far below what it ought to be; but we bespeak for the object your cordial sympathy, your fidelity, in explaining and pressing its claims, and your persevering effort until that object is, at least partially, accomplished. The arrangement for the fund was first made at the last Convention—the appeal to the people was made during last year; but only a few congregations and persons have yet responded. We think more might be done if we had the strong desire of the ministers, and their full determination that it should be done.

We suppose that there is none who better understand the value of education, more or less, to a minister of the Word, than you do. Through the aid of your congregation you may materially assist pious and indigent young men called to preach the word. We understand there are some of those young men, whose hearts are warmed with love to the Saviour, and who have burning desires to win souls to Christ, now pursuing their education with very limited means, who are enduring privations to which they ought not to be subjected. There are others, also, looking to the ministry who are engaged in various pursuits to secure means for education, but who ought now to be in a course of mental training. And beyond these cases there are doubtless many other modest young men, who love God supremely, and the souls of men ardently, who desire to enter the ministry, but who are deterred from cherishing the intention of doing so by a deep sense of their mental and educational unfitness for the work. Some of you know, by past experience, the yearnings of those purest spirits, and their conflicts, their resolutions, and their failures. O how desirable that such good intentions should be encouraged,—that such minds be instructed,—that such men should be employed in the holy vocation.

Will our beloved Pastors and Ministers bring this subject before the Throne, in secret, in the family, and in the sanctuary? Will they not make an appeal to the sympathy and benevolence of these churches, which will result in appropriations to this benevolent purpose? Will they not seek out such promising young men, and encourage them to forsake

the world and consecrate themselves to the service of the Great Head of the Church. In doing this good work they will be fulfilling the intentions of the Divine Redeemer, who enjoined upon his disciples to "pray the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth more laborers into the harvest."

We are, beloved Pastors and Brethren, Yours truly,

D. MCN. PARKER, R. MCLEARN, S. SELDEN.

Halifax, March 1, 1860.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 7, 1860.

Revivals of Religion.

THE questions have been often asked, What is a Revival? and When is a Revival necessary? Spurgeon has remarked that his labours have been favoured with a constant state of revival, continued through several years. Surely this is the only genuine and satisfactory kind of religious revival. A mere temporary state of excitement cannot be called a revival of religion. They are too often spasmodic efforts to improve a state of things which, amongst Christians, should never exist. A state of declension has crept into a church and brought its sad results, to the members, their families, and the world. Certain times have been found less convenient than others for securing a general attendance on religious services. The deficiency found necessary at such times instead of being repaired on the first opportunity, has become habitual, and Christians have continued neglecting to assemble themselves together. The effect of this has been that they have become less alive to their obligations to themselves, to the church and to the world. On an awakening to this state of declension becoming general, a desire has arisen in the minds of believers to apply the remedy. They call to mind the fact that of old "they that feared the Lord spake often one to another," and remembering the blessed promises attached to such a state of things at that day, they come together, acknowledge their deficiencies, and express their desire for a walk more in accordance with their profession of entire consecration to Christ. Sinners, seeing and hearing these things, are led to think of their state, and begin to enquire if "judgment must begin at the house of God," "what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel?" and "if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and sinner appear?"

This may be, and we believe is, the philosophy of most revivals of religion, but if so, surely they should not have the subsequent declension as one of their essential features. If the revival be genuine, surely it would be permanent, and a progressive state of improvement would follow. Wherever one month's revival is an excuse for eleven months of irregular attendance and carelessness in the performance of religious duties, there it may not be wondered at if the church drags out a miserable existence, and remains without strength, in a spiritually cold, barren and lifeless condition. A wide field is here open for remark, upon the necessity that exists that Pastors should adopt such a course of instruction and training as will prevent such disastrous relapses. But our space is filled. We may return to the subject on some future occasion.

"Books: their relation to the time and the men," was the title of an able lecture delivered in Temperance Hall on Tuesday last, before the Young Men's Christian Association, by Mr. R. Wetherbe. The lecturer commenced by remarking that in this day men are not so much ruled by kingly and priestcraft, as was the case in former ages, but that the great king, by which even sovereigns themselves as well as their subjects are controlled, is Public opinion. He next shewed the relation between public opinion and books, and pronounced a glowing eulogy on the press, as the great means of multiplying thought. On the proper position which books should occupy, Mr. W. spoke very effectively, by shewing that a book should be taken rather as a servant than as a dictator, and that men should gather from books what of value they contained, and not yield up to them their own judgment. Books contain the treasures of fact and history from the past, to enable us the better to discharge our duty in the present life, and be prepared for an entrance on the ever-advancing state of knowledge, and happiness awaiting us in eternity.

P. Lynch, Esq., will lecture on Tuesday next, subject, "The Queen."

The Canadian Baptist after copying the resolutions of the Governors of Acadia College, making the Rev. Dr. Cramp President of that Institution, adds:—"We think that our friends in the Eastern Provinces have made a wise move. They have put 'the right man in the right place.'"

We acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the Annual Report of the New Brunswick Provincial Lunatic Asylum, by which we learn that there are at present in that Institution 154 patients, in various stages of insanity; 59 have been discharged, of whom 29 were recovered and 4 unimproved and 29 have died during the year. The Superintendent urges the necessity of increased accommodation in the following terms:

"Five years ago, when the Cholera prevailed in this neighbourhood, I called attention to the horrors that would likely ensue from the introduction of that epidemic among our crowded inmates.—Hitherto we have escaped. Now Small Pox is in the City and vicinity, and if that loathsome contagious disease were admitted into our midst, I may venture to predict that the result would be fearful indeed. But it should not be forgotten, that in overcrowding we violate the laws of nature, which apply to the preservation of health, and it is only reasonable to anticipate that these laws will be vindicated."

A CONSUMMATION DEVOUTLY TO BE WISHED.—We shall be glad to record such facts as the following, concerning any of the towns and villages of Nova Scotia.

A writer in the Spirit of the Age, says of the town of Asheville, N. C., "To-day at high twelve, the most beautiful part of the day, the last liquor shop in our town was closed."

News Summary.

The Great European Congress proposed by Louis Napoleon and the Emperor of Austria for the adjustment of the difficulties of Italy, seems by general consent to be considered a failure. The differences that have sprung up between the French Emperor and the Pope have put an end to this proposal.

A proposition made by England to the other leading powers appears to have met with no better success. This proposal was to withdraw all troops and influences from Central Italy, for a certain time, to let them settle their own form of Government among themselves as having the best right to do so, and if they persisted in declaring their wish for annexation to Sardinia to ratify their wishes. France and Sardinia readily agreed to the measure, but Austria and it is now said Russia, refuse to assent. This however is not likely to interfere with the question, as there is little doubt that Italy will be left to follow her own counsels, which if France and England approve, no other nation will like to interfere.

Austria indeed is too much exhausted and in debt to again go to war with France to re-instate the Italian Dukedoms or the revolted Provinces of the Pope, and Russia does not feel interest enough in the matter to actively interfere. As a Military and Ecclesiastical despotism, she naturally revolts at the idea of allowing the Italian or any other people to exercise a choice in their own rulers. But the union of Central Italy with the Constitutional and free kingdom of Sardinia is in a measure already complete and only needs a short lapse of time to become a settled fact.

The City of Tetuan, the second in the Empire of Morocco has fallen into the hands of the Spanish troops, whose victory over the Moors was complete, and the whole of their camp and baggage fell into hands of the victors. Great rejoicing has taken place in Spain, and honors are being heaped on General O'Donnell, the Spanish Commander.

Latest Intelligence.

Merchants' Exchange, Halifax, March 3, 1860.

The steamer Anglo Saxon arrived at Portland on Thursday last. Dates from Liverpool to 15th, Queenstown 16th.

Austria, in reply to England's proposition relative to settlement of the Italian question, states that she cannot retreat from the engagements of Villafranca and Zurich.

Russia declines to accept England's proposition as a solution.

Purloughs to French soldiers in Rome have been suspended.

Political arrests in Sicily were increasing.

A conspiracy had been discovered in the Neapolitan Army, ascribed to Piedmontese agency; Naples had complained to other powers.

Sir William Napier is dead.

Lord Elgin goes to China.

Consols 94.

Breadstuffs slightly advanced.

Cotton dull.

For General Intelligence, &c., see 6th and 7th pages.