

For the Christian Messenger.

“Associated Alumni of Acadia College.”

MR. EDITOR,

This Society and the objects it has in view is a subject which deeply interests your readers and the Baptist denomination generally. The Public Meeting of the Society, to be held on Tuesday next, will doubtless be a highly interesting and attractive occasion. It has been thought desirable to republish a portion of the Circular recently sent to those of the Alumni whose residences are known to the Committee. You will therefore please insert it in your columns for two or three weeks.

It is proposed to send Delegates to each of the three Associations for the purpose of bringing the claims of the Society before the people, and receiving the names of such persons as may wish to join,—and we trust that each of our churches will not fail to send to the Association a list of those entitled to be Members of the Society in their own right, who wish to enrol themselves, and of others intending to join the Society, that they may be proposed and admitted in the regular way.

Unlike most other institutions, Acadia College is wholly thrown for its support upon the voluntary contributions of the Baptists of these Provinces; they must sustain it, and find the means for its support, or it will die, as certainly as the man would perish who refuses to take the food necessary to keep life in his body,—and we want this fact to be distinctly appreciated by every man, woman, and child throughout our denomination. Let each and all only believe that the fate of Acadia College depends upon their individual exertions, and we have no fear for our institutions. It is far from our wish or intention to insinuate that the Baptists of these Provinces have failed in their duty, or that they are not largely imbued with the spirit of generous liberality; indeed, we think that they have nobly met and discharged the various claims upon them, that, in a denomination like ours, continually arise. But these efforts have been heretofore too spasmodic. What we, as a denomination want, is more system, and with that system, less effort would give far greater results.

We firmly believe that the “Associated Alumni of Acadia College” will supply this desiderata as far as our institutions of learning are concerned, and we trust also will be the means of inducing more systematic action in the conduct of our various other denominational interests.

This Society proposes to derive support for Acadia College from two classes of persons, namely, first: those who have studied—for no matter how brief a period—at the College or Academics; and secondly: those other friends of the institutions who are interested in their maintenance and support. And upon whom, let us ask, does the care of Acadia College so worthily devolve as upon those who have within its walls slaked their thirst at the sacred stream of knowledge, and received that mental training that has enabled them, it may be, to more than hold their own in the great battle of life; and where is the student that having himself reaped such advantages, would now desire to shake himself free of all responsibility or care as to the future of his College, and not cheerfully return, to repay in some measure, the debt he owes his Alma Mater. Had this Society been established years ago, and every student, as he quitted the Academy or the College, enrolled himself among its members, what an amount of influence, that has lain so long dormant, because not evoked, would have yearly been marshalled in augmented strength in support of these institutions of learning, and how much prouder and more stable would they have this day stood. We trust that the appeal now being made will be responded to by those who have studied either at the College or Academy, that all those who can possibly do so, will make it a duty to be present at the public meeting, advertised in behalf of the Society, and that those who cannot be present themselves, will send their names to be enrolled as members of the Association, together with the fee necessary to qualify them for membership.

Before we conclude we have a word to say as to the second class above designated. Every man who pays his money takes an interest in its disposal, and that interest is generally proportionate to the amount he has paid, and the control he has over its appropriation. Let the donors to Acadia College become members of this Association, and they will have a voice in the disposition not only of their own contributions but of every shilling of the money expended by the Society, and in addition will have the pleasure of watching the benefits derived from their own liberality, and the progress made from year to year by those students whom they have furnished with the means of pursuing their studies, and of fitting themselves for future usefulness. Another benefit to be derived from

this Association is, that the influences in favor of our institutions will no longer lose any of their force in consequence of being to a considerable extent diffused. A Society, powerful as we trust, the “Associated Alumni of Acadia College” is destined at no distant day to become, and by means of which the denomination can concentrate all its power on any one point, or to the attainment of any desired object, will give us, as a denomination, weight and standing, and enable the Baptists of these Provinces to place their educational institutions on high vantage ground, and to worthily fill, themselves, that position to which their numbers their intelligence and their wealth so clearly entitle them. We trust that an influential meeting at Horton on the 5th June next, and the enrolment of a large number as members of the Society, will attest that our friends attach as much importance, and look for as large results as we do—from the successful inauguration of the “Associated Alumni of Acadia College.”

The Act incorporating the Society passed the Legislature at its last Session, and a constitution and by-laws have been prepared for the adoption of the meeting.

JAMES W. JOHNSTON, Jr.,
Chairman.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MAY 30, 1860.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

We beg to inform our friends that the Rev. Dr. Tupper will leave his home for the Western Association at Hillsburgh early in next week, and that he has kindly consented, on his way there, to call on such of our subscribers as he is able, who are in arrears for the Christian Messenger. We trust that all he may visit for this purpose will be prepared to make payment of the amounts due. Our esteemed local Agents will much oblige us by rendering him any aid which may be necessary, in the accomplishment of this object.

We shall also be greatly obliged if our friends generally, who have not yet paid their subscriptions, will embrace the opportunity of sending them on by the hands of the Delegates attending the Associations. We are hoping to have the privilege shortly of meeting with each of those bodies.

Doubtless it will be satisfactory to those indebted to us, as well as to ourselves, for them to feel that they are honestly discharging their obligations, and by that means are enabling us to meet our liabilities honorably, and without embarrassment. This is a matter which concerns our friends' own welfare and happiness no less than ours, and we shall allow no scruples to prevent us from requesting, and we do hereby request, respectfully but earnestly, that all who are in arrears will bring or send on their payments without fail.

Anticipatory and Hortatory.

Time hastens on with noiseless tread, and refuses all entreaty to delay his rapid march. Two or three weeks only will have to pass on into eternity, and we shall be again brought to the period for holding our denominational Anniversaries. Brethren who have no other opportunity of meeting to exchange christian salutations, will then gather together from the various parts of the province, and will manifest to each other the mutual attachment which, all the year round, binds their hearts together by ties of christian love and sympathy.

These meetings are doubtless anticipated by many as seasons of spiritual refreshing, and often prove a source of holy joy, as of old, when “the tribes went up, the tribes of the Lord unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.”

Whilst we would not suppress one iota of the gratification derived from the christian fellowship thus experienced by ministering and other brethren, or depreciate these occasions of returning to recount together the wonders of grace the Lord has wrought by his Word, we would not forget that much land still remains to be possessed. The past is beyond recall; its labors are recorded on high. The mighty works which have been wrought by his name are with us, and to some extent placed on the page of faithful history; but its present enjoyment excludes the remembrance of present obligation and duty, in reference to our dying fellowmen, and the only means of rescuing them from impending destruction, we lose much of the primary object of these yearly gatherings.

The circumstances of the churches have greatly changed since the first establishment of the Association in this Province, sixty years ago. A greater measure of light is diffused abroad. The real character and principles of the Baptist body are better understood. Yet

after all, we believe there is not so great a change in these respects as some would lead us to suppose. If we may judge from individual misconceptions, and by what else can we form a correct judgment, there is still a vast amount of sheer and absolute ignorance as to the character of genuine christianity and the laws and ordinances of Christian churches. Ignorance, Bigotry and Infidelity, combine to shut out the light, and blind the eyes of their victims, by giving the world distorted views of the glorious Redeemer and his soul-saving truths.

Those who are accustomed to read our pages from week to week receive an amount of information with regard to Christ's demands upon his followers, which places them in a very different position to those around them. We desire to do no injustice to our contemporaries, but when we say that we believe they are not desirous of giving their readers the same views of Christian truth and the requirements Jesus makes on his believing people, as held by Baptist churches, we make a statement which we suppose they will not controvert. Whilst we believe that truth is withheld, we also believe that error is inculcated. Errors that tend to bind up the soul in destructive security are encouraged and propagated.

When we look at our predecessors and consider the history of our denominational Patriarchs, and the position they occupied in their day, with regard to other bodies, we must conclude that a great change has taken place in the descendants of one or the other. We would fain hope that change has been mostly in others, that many belonging to them have been led to renounce that antipathy to spiritual religion which then so generally prevailed. We are, however, not quite sure that there has not been some retrograde motion amongst ourselves,—whether we have not softened down the precepts of Christ and allowed ourselves to drink in somewhat of the spirit of the world.

Whilst, then, we meet from year to year, and receive reports of progress and talk of the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom on earth, it may be well for us to institute some enquiries respecting “the old paths,” and ascertain if we are still walking in them, and maintaining the honor of Christ before the world. There is but little doubt, we think, that if the same type of piety and devotedness seen in the Hardings, the Mannings, and the Dimocks, generally prevailed in our day, there would be far greater results to rejoice over than are now witnessed.

We rejoice in the perfect independence of each church, and its obligation to manage its own discipline and government. In this respect we call no man Master, be he Bishop, Priest, President or Pope. No Association, Synod, Conference, or Council can give laws to a Church of Christ, as we believe it should be constituted, yet it is perfectly competent for brethren to enquire, and to aid each other in the enquiry, if there has been no departure from that Christian simplicity and godly sincerity so evident in primitive times and a former age.

By such an enquiry we might be called on to pluck out a right eye or cut off a right hand, and cast them from us, but should have to sacrifice nothing that is really valuable. We should be only removing an obstruction, which, if retained, would mar the body, and probably produce greater evils, or ultimately result in spiritual and eternal death.

Let there be then great heart-searching, and an honest examination of this matter amongst both ministers and people before meeting together in each of the Associations for fraternal fellowship, and when so meeting let there be much prayer and dependence on the direction of the Master, and on the Holy Spirit given to direct his church into all truth, and we shall find that in His glory we shall be enabled to rejoice; and we shall see our prayers speedily answered in the coming of His Kingdom.

Our brethren in Canada are making substantial progress in the matter of denominational Education. Dr. Fyfe is to be the President of the Institute at Woodstock.

A writer in the Canadian Baptist says:—“A dawn of hope arises in the opening of the Institute. There is the prospect of a class of young men devoted to the work of the ministry. The Lord grant it.”

In alluding to the past efforts of the denomination, of a similar character, he adds: “We thought the College in Montreal,” (of which Dr. Cramp was President,) “had proved a failure, but what would the churches east and west do to-day, were it not for these young men who had emerged out of it. The labors of our brethren in that department have not been in vain.”

The same communication concludes with some excellent remarks which may apply no less to other places than to Canada. We commend them to our brethren. The writer

says:—“All connected with that Institute need patience. They will need to write the word WAIT, on their hearts, with an iron pen. Remember, every glorious enterprise was laid in prayer and hope, but watered with many tears. It is then it will bring forth a harvest of rich fruit. Our greatest troubles will arise from among ourselves. The Baptists are the most impolitic of all denominations. They would have been extinct long ago, had not God been in their midst. No form of religion can bind them together, if the spirit and power of it be gone. The extreme simplicity of their form is all-powerful to accomplish every end, when the body has spiritual health, but extremely feeble if not; hence the necessity of holding a vital connection with the Head. O that the Baptists would act in concert, in every good cause? When shall it once be? What would they not accomplish? What might they not ask of God, and what would He not be willing to give? They might but raise their banners in the face of the world, and the creation would soon be subjected to God.”

GUYSBOROUGH.—Extracts of a letter from Rev. A. F. Porter.—“We are still as we have been on the aggressive. I recently baptized an aged man of near 70 years.”

“Two weeks ago I paid a visit to Tracadie, and enjoyed a pleasant season, and baptized fourteen. The Lord was evidently with us.”

We invite the attention of our readers to the letter in another column on the Society of the “Associated Alumni of Acadia College.” The meetings at Wolfville in the afternoon and evening of Tuesday next, will, we doubt not, secure the attendance of a large number of the friends of education. Quite a number of gentlemen, we learn, are expected to speak on the occasion.

The Rev. Dr Knight, Vice President of the Methodist Conference, died at Sackville, on the 23rd ult., after a ministry of 44 years duration.

News Summary.

There have been few periods in history when the world at large has been more free from actual warfare than at the present moment, and yet there exists throughout that portion of the world which is tenfold more powerful and influential than all the rest, a sensation of restlessness and an expectation of change and commotion which has seldom been equalled. Throughout the principal nations of Europe this uneasy sensation is painfully evident, and the present state of the Continent more resembles an armed time, when the din of battle is again shortly to recommence than a settled and satisfactory state of international tranquility. The chief cause of this is the fickle and turbulent character of the French—governed by a man who is himself governed by the necessities of his station. Thus scrupulous and crafty, his prime object is to turn to the account of his own ambition, and to foster their insane and absurd love of what they term glory, to serve his own ends. Perhaps the best security that his neighbours have, is that his ambition apparently differs from that of the First Napoleon, which for its own gratification seemed to set at naught all the usual dictates of prudence and calculation of probable success, rushing blindly to its object, like the horse to the battle. Still there are no means of knowing how soon his less reasoning hosts of armed desperados may compel him to attempt the wildest schemes of conquest.

After all, our own hope and belief is, that, amid the shaking of the nations, God is working out designs of unspeakable importance to our race, and intimately connected with the establishment of His own Kingdom on earth.

The early arrival of the English Mail on Monday morning, enables us to give news from Europe to the 19th inst.

Our English correspondent's letter will be found on another page. We have been obliged to reserve a portion till next week, as our space was previously occupied. The Imperial Government seems far less secure than had been supposed. The question of paper duties appears to present considerable difficulty and may possibly cause them trouble, or even defeat.

An interesting letter we have received from Burmah will appear in our next.

The Prince of Wales has accepted the Honorary Colonelcy of Volunteer Rifle Corps, composed of Civil Service employees.

The Great Eastern is to sail from England on the 9th of June for New York. She is to be fitted up to carry 300 first-class passengers a great number had already taken passage.