

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College.

At a public meeting held in the Baptist Meeting-house, Wolfville, on the 3rd inst., J. W. Barss, Esq., in the chair, a statement of the financial affairs of the College was presented. It contained the following particulars:—

"The design with which the project of the Endowment Fund was set on foot has been but imperfectly realised. The present state of that Fund is as follows—the sum of £1500 is securely invested, partly in Nova Scotia and partly in New Brunswick; the sum of £6000, or thereabouts, subscribed for Scholarships, consists of notes given by the subscribers, and bearing interest.

The invested portion produces only £90 per annum. The interest on the notes, if the whole could be collected, would amount to £860 per annum. But the expense of the collection will absorb a large portion of the proceeds. Allowing, however, but £100 for the expenses, the entire remaining sum, interest on investments included, is £350. Some contributions for current expenses have been received from time to time, but that source of income is very precarious, and altogether inadequate to the exigency.

Acadia College cannot be efficiently conducted at less expense than £900 per annum, which would require an Endowment Fund of £15,000, unless some other means can be devised for raising a portion of the income. But our entire Fund is only £7500, the greatest part of which is not yet collected."

It was added, that the sum of £350 will be required by the beginning of June, for the payment of salaries which will be then due.

The President of the College addressed the meeting, and shewed that the establishment of an additional Professorship has become absolutely necessary to the efficiency of the Institution.

A resolution was unanimously passed, affirming the desirableness of the collection of the notes, with as little delay as possible. The importance of raising the Endowment to £15000 was also admitted. Measures will be adopted for that purpose.

A Committee was appointed to prepare and circulate an Appeal to the Churches for contributions, with a view to meet the payments falling due in June, and to make provision for the support of the College till the completion of the Endowment. The Committee consists of the brethren J. W. Barss, Joshua Ellis, and the Revs. James Parker, T. A. Higgins, and E. O. Read.

S. W. DEBLOIS, Secretary.

April 12, 1861.

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Acadia College.

Feeling deeply impressed with the importance of sustaining our Educational Institutions, especially Acadia College, I have thought, with others, of many schemes tending to this point. So many plans present themselves, that I find it difficult to select the one that will be most acceptable to others, and which will be most likely to gain their support. That this Institution of learning has been greatly beneficial in its progress, is evident to the most casual observer. That mistakes have been made in its management not a few of its most sincere friends will admit. The past is history that may be read with advantage. We should like to turn another leaf and write a brighter page for the future. The Governors and friends of the College dare not go back, their object is progress. They aim at improvement in financial management as well as in elevating its literary standard. To do this latter, more professors must be engaged,—(the Governors say four in all will be required),—these can only be employed by having sufficient funds, and these funds cannot be depended upon when arising from uncertain sources. Then a permanence in operations can only be secured by resorting to the Endowment plan; £1000 will be needed to be raised, which, with that now invested or pledged, and to be collected, will make up the amount formerly contemplated,—£15,000. I wish to suggest a plan to raise one half of this sum, (£5000) leaving the other half to be collected by the Governors and other friends as they may think best.

There are many in our churches and other friends of higher education, of respectable means, and imbued with a self-sacrificing spirit, who I wish to join me in this enterprise. I propose that fifty persons come forward and give £100 each, and we have the £5000 at once secured. In looking over the wealth, intelligence, and piety of the Baptist body in our three Provinces, I feel that this is not too much to expect. I propose to take the scheme in charge (with the sanction and by the advice of the Governors) and I will see to the collection and faithful investment of the funds, free of charge, that no part of the sum be used in Agencies. Let each one who is willing to come forward for

the purpose named, write me to that effect; when, with my own name, fifty names are obtained, which I anticipate will be before the Convention in August, a payment of £20 will be asked for soon after; the balance will be secured by annual payments of £20 by notes, bearing interest, which will spread it over four years. This will make it comparatively easy for the contributors, and secure the object sought, as the principal will be invested as it comes in, and the interest used for annual support.

Now let me ask who will send first her or his name to place on the list. From time to time progress will be reported in the Messenger. The writer is not visionary nor enthusiastic but is very hopeful.

J. W. BARSS.

Wolfville, April 12, 1861.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, APRIL 17, 1861.

Our Collegiate Institution.

PERHAPS we ought to apologize to our readers for having given so little advocacy in our pages to the cause of education, in connection with Acadia College. Our correspondents have kept us advised from time to time, as to the position of the College, and we have depended, probably too much, on the intelligent use of our friends would make of the facts so set forth, to awaken more interest in, and attention to, this vital part of our denominational operations.

It cannot be conceived that we, or indeed any who regard the welfare of the church of Christ, and the intelligence of its ministers and people, should feel any other than the deepest concern in this institution, which has been planted in faith and watered with the prayers and tears of our holiest and best men.

There was a time when the body with whom we are identified in these provinces was debarred from securing a collegiate course of education, except by the sacrifice of conscience and religious principle. Thanks to the energy and beneficence of our fathers and brethren, many of whom have been called to their reward in heaven, while others are left to bear the burden and heat of the day, we now have the doors to the temple of learning flung wide open. Many have entered its halls, and thence obtained precious supplies from its stores, which have enabled them to go forth to bless this and other countries, and to do honor to the patrons of their Alma Mater, and their native land.

Our work is not now to erect the temple and open its doors, but to provide the means of keeping them open. No aid is given to Acadia College by Government grant. No State allowance comes to assist in providing for the support of its teachers. The unflinching courage of the Governors of the College, and their reliance on the fidelity of those for whom they act, has buoyed them up with hope, and this alone has enabled them to keep it open, thus far. They have supposed that the work so nobly begun, would not be allowed to stop, and that the doors which have invited the entrance of our best minds would never be shut. Crisis have come and threatened dire disaster, but they have not yet ceased their visitations. Each one has brought with it more or less of temporary relief and additional experience of the necessity of a more permanent and reliable foundation.

By the communications in our present issue it will be seen that another and perhaps a more serious crisis has now arrived, and it becomes now a solemn question, in connection with which each member of our churches should ask himself, whether he has not duties and responsibilities which have not yet been fulfilled, and privileges not yet realized.

As in the christian race, it is not he who starts fair who obtains the prize, but he who continues unto the end. So in our educational institutions we have had noble minded men to lay their foundation. These have been called from their work, and recruits have from time to time, appeared to fill up the ranks of those who stand for its defence. But a small portion comparatively of our brethren have, however, as yet given their hearty support. A large number of faithful christian men are still without participating in the honor of sustaining this "School of the prophets," or they are doing so to a very limited extent; but we trust that they will not rest satisfied until they have come forward in such numbers as to make success certain and failure impossible.

Various have been the proposals and suggestions offered by the friends of Acadia College for its sustentation, by which to secure a combination of the patrons of superior education. Some of these have been partially successful while others have not appeared

practicable. The Endowment has not been completed, and is so much scattered that it has been found exceedingly difficult to gather up its proceeds. The result has been that from this and other sources, its actual income has not been equal to its demands. It has consequently been found necessary to make special appeals from time to time. This however must not be deemed an ordinary one. The danger now impending is imminent and unless it be averted the consequences will be most disastrous. Reader, the talent entrusted to your care will be required of you when the Master comes; let there be such a use made of it as may meet his approval. We speak as to wise men.

Thoughts on current events.

The first shot! Who shall say when shall be the last? All experience tells us that the first drop of human blood shed in anger is but the immediate precursor of an abundant flow. What grounds of confidence have we that on the present occasion, especially in a domestic quarrel, the strong bent of the human heart for vengeance will soon be stayed, or that the conflicting elements, so long effervescing in the vitals of the neighbouring Union, will be speedily allayed? We surely have none. We will not stop to consider how deep a blot the scenes that are now enacting in South Carolina, may be on the late proud banner of the great Republic, or how sad a reverse is presented to all the high anticipations of national hope and glory, but we are driven to reflections which far outweigh even these important considerations. It is a backward step in the great march of civilization, both in a moral and intellectual point of view, occurring, as it does, in a land boasting of the privileges and institutions of North America, which will take the world by surprise, will do an irreparable injury to the cause of human liberty, and, far worse than all, will, we fear, most seriously interrupt the progress of benevolent and religious effort, not only on our own Continent, but to no small extent throughout the whole world. One of the very worst symptoms of this most unhappy catastrophe appears to be the deep perversion of religious feeling which seems universally to pervade the Southern Churches of all names, in regard to the question of Slavery. So deep indeed as to argue an utter blindness of heart and understanding, as to some of the first and most obvious principles of christian morality. We dare not believe that the pious among the Baptists, the Episcopalians, the Presbyterians and Methodists of the South, many of them esteemed hitherto among the excellent of the earth, have in reality abandoned some of the plainest precepts of their faith, and given themselves over to be the willing tools of an ungodly political party, whose very watchword is Mammon. If ever the duty of earnest and persevering prayer rested on the Churches of America, that time is the present.

News Summary.

The community was startled on Saturday morning by the receipt of a message over the electric wires, that on the previous day, a fire had been opened by the South Carolinian troops on Fort Sumter, the small fortified Island in Charlestown harbour, occupied since the commencement of the Southern Secession, by the U. S. Government troops. The telegram was so brief that scarcely any particulars were received. Two men on a floating battery of the attacking force are said to have been wounded, but of what occurred within the fort we have no information. It was hoped, and by many firmly believed, that this untoward collision would have been at least delayed for some time to come—delayed until the efforts at reconciliation should have been wholly exhausted or some compromise made by which a pacific separation of the insurgent States might have been effected, and the horrors and miseries of an intestine war avoided. The die, however, appears now to have been cast, and we can only wait with deep anxiety for the result of this fatal collision. Of course affairs having been thus precipitated, every hour will now be fraught with intelligence of the deepest moment, and the further neutrality of the great border Slave States, can scarcely be hoped for. In such a complication of conflicting interests and passions as have been lately presented by the United States, it were difficult indeed to say, what measures might have been taken, to defer or prevent the present state of things. It is justly, we think, observed by the London Times, that the virtual interregnum between the cessation of the authority of the former President and the inauguration of the new, has operated most unhappily on the interests of peace and conciliation. It has done so, because, most unfortunately, the whole policy of Mr. Buchanan and his un-

principled Cabinet was neither more nor less than a traitorous conspiracy to betray the interests of their country and strengthen the hands of the seceders. That the North, if united and energetic in their movements, will be able to act with an overbearing and destructive power on the South, there cannot exist a doubt, and we may look for almost every hour to bring us new and varied accounts of coming events. That the shedding of blood will be arrested in its first stage, is most unlikely and against all past experience.

Our Brethren in New Brunswick.

We have before referred to our two Baptist papers in New Brunswick—the N. B. Baptist and Christian Visitor and the Christian Watchman, and the antagonistic position in which they stand towards each other. The fire of their wrath over the Lord squabble seems to burn more and more fiercely. The conflict becomes more and more deadly.

In themselves these matters do not much concern us in this province, but when they are made use of for the accomplishment of other purposes and our brethren are brought into unseemly collision we cannot remain unconcerned spectators.

We should not have troubled our readers with any notice of these political contentions but for a very small compliment paid to ourselves by the former of the above mentioned papers, and some remarks made in connection therewith, which we think may convey an incorrect impression of our body in this province.

The leading editorial in the N. B. Baptist and Ch. Visitor of the 3rd inst., entitled "The demoralizing tendency of political partizanship" shews some of the evils arising from religious men, and particularly those connected with the religious press, becoming political partizans; the article itself we think exhibits good evidence of the truth of its title.

The editor, for the purpose of illustrating his own position and his present relation to political affairs in that province, refers to some of the phases of the past history and present position of Nova Scotia politics.

In reference to the effects of political strife as seen in this province, he says:—

"From personal observation we are prepared to assert that there is scarcely a Baptist Church in Nova Scotia, of any note, that is not more or less disturbed in its peace, and weakened in its influence for good, by this hydra-headed monster. To such an alarming extent has this state of things gone, that we were informed by a very intelligent Nova Scotian, the other day, that even the Courts of Justice in the Province are polluted by this deadly evil, so that when a man goes into court with his case, he looks round upon Judge and Jury, and decides what his fate will be, not by the justice of his claims, or by the force of evidence, but by the political leanings of the Bench and of the jury-boxes. This is a sad picture, but, we believe, truthful."

As regards the assertion that "there is scarcely a Baptist Church &c." we think we may, with a much better opportunity of knowing the truth, assert that such an accusation is almost wholly groundless. Difference of political opinion no doubt does exist in many of the churches and probably will continue. The manliness and independence of our members would very naturally lead to such a state of things; but in very few instances indeed has such difference generated serious contention, or caused division; certainly to a less extent than in many other bodies. We can agree to differ, and at the same time respect each other none the less, where independent enquiry has led to such difference of opinion. We also think the observations of our brother in reference to our Courts of Justice are very much nearer a libel than the truth.

After alluding to the efforts of "those politicians who are not Baptists and had no sympathy with the denomination, to divide the body" our contemporary remarks:—

"Did these leading Politicians believe that Mr. Johnston was a Tory, or that the Baptist Ministers who supported him were Tories? not so. They knew that he and they were Liberals in the true sense, to the backbone, but it suited their purpose to call them Tories and therefore they lied and called them Tories and the political dupes in town and country threw up their hats and said they were traitors to their own principles, and to the true interests of the country, and therefore they must be put down."

We are not called on either to endorse or to deny the truth of these sentiments. Our readers may be able for themselves to put their proper estimate upon them! The following extract contains the remark to which we alluded above, as but a small compliment to ourselves:

"Our esteemed cotemporary, the Christian Messenger, took an active part in these early struggles, and nobly defended the right, on account of which it received its full share of contumely and abuse. But so thoroughly was the denomination divided when the present editor of the Messenger took charge of the paper, that he felt that the peace of the body demanded of him a neutral policy, and so far as we have under-