

on the ground of works for salvation, do not go over to embrace a system which relieves men of thinking for themselves, and entrusts so much to the irresponsible Church.

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College.

MR. EDITOR,—

I had the pleasure last week of attending the Examination of the classes of Acadia College. The manner in which the Students acquitted themselves showed that they had pursued studies with indefatigable diligence, and that they had been directed and led forward therein by men well qualified to fill the Professorial chairs. The Examination was conducted in silence, that is, written questions on the different branches gone over were placed in the students' hands, to which they were required to return written answers. The taciturn character of this plan might be objected to by those preferring to judge of the merits of scholarship by the hearing ear, still, as quite outweighing this objection, it may be said in its favor that it allows to each student the whole time allotted to the examination of the entire class. He is thus saved from the confusion of ideas sometimes attending impromptu answers, and is enabled, by calmly and deliberately looking into the question under consideration, to write down for its answer the result of all the study he may have devoted to it. Besides, this being done, and the papers being placed in the hands of the Examining committee they may employ the seeing eye in learning the exact progress each student has made, as also his relative progress to the other members of the class. In classes composed, as they generally are, of persons differently gifted naturally, it might be expected that some would outstrip others in climbing the hill of science. But it deserves to be said of the students of Acadia College as a whole, that the progress they have made in their studies during the last term is highly creditable to themselves and to their teachers.

A glance at the last published Catalogue of Acadia College will be sufficient to show that the standard of education has been raised high by that Institution. It is not mere rhetoric to affirm that the course of instruction, as there pursued, especially in Classics and Mathematics, ranks second to that of no other College or University in America. A comparison of its Catalogue with that of Harvard, Brown, Yale, or Kings, will confirm the truth of this statement. The truth is, the curriculum which has been adopted at Acadia College, conforms quite closely to that of Oxford. And it is well known that many who enter that University, having studied years at the famous schools of Eton and Harrow, possess a larger acquaintance with classical lore at their matriculation than is even proposed to be required by passing over the whole course at some American Institutions.

Nor does the reputation of the curriculum as defined in the Catalogue of Acadia College consist only in its name. It was not drawn up to remain a dead letter. Already several of the students have far advanced in the Course for Honors, and with an enthusiasm and success from which no lover of learning could withhold his admiration.

The Professors of the College are laboriously but cheerfully performing their respective duties. The time of Dr. Cramp, the venerable and highly esteemed President, from the multiplicity of his labors, is almost infinitesimally divided. At one time he digs among Hebrew roots, showing how verb and noun-stems grow out and blossom around them; at another he dilates upon the Evidences of Christianity. Now he explains to his class in Exegesis how much depends upon the right understanding of Greek particles in the determination of the Apostles' meaning, then he expatiates in the great field of History, bringing his marvellous memory to bear upon its dates and events, and never losing sight of their unity in the development of the divine plan. Nothing pertaining to the welfare of the College or denomination is too insignificant to claim his notice, nothing too difficult for him to comprehend and master. By a rare combination of qualities he unites in him the vivacity of youth with the judgment of age; the suppleness of the gymnast with the strength of the giant. Everything, accordingly receives the attention it merits, from the keeping of the weekly record of a student's standing, up to grappling with the great question of popular education.

Prof. DeMill fills to adornment the Classical Chair. His acquaintance with classical literature is extensive and thorough. He has devoted a good deal of study to the Greek accent and versification. His power of reading and appreciating the beauties of the old Latin and Greek Poets is one, to which, perhaps, few have attended. Under his touch the chorusses of *Aechylus* and

*Sophocles* at once limber up, and become felicitously smooth and musical and charming. The students under his tuition become fired with enthusiasm. To write and speak good Latin and Greek prose is quite an easy matter for many of them; while of some it is said that they are beginning to dream in Hexameters.

It is not saying for Prof. Higgins all that might be said, to state that, in his Department he is every inch a man. Whether you put him in mixed or pure Mathematics, in both he is perfectly and pleasantly at home. No one could persuade Prof. Higgins that there is no poetry in Mathematics, or that, in the solutions of Mathematical problems the mind does not gain the loftiest and truest conception of abstract truth. His classes love and respect him, and place every confidence in his ability to instruct them.

Tutor Jones is a young man of promise, and is performing his work to the entire satisfaction of all concerned.

The Rhetorical Exhibition of the Sophomore class came off according to appointment. The unfavorable character of the evening prevented a larger attendance, but those present were delighted with the "feast of reason and the flow of soul." The male and female Academies are both in a flourishing condition.

The Board of Governors met on the 18th, of the action of which, with your permission your readers shall hereafter be informed by ONE OF THE GOVERNORS.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 30, 1863.

The close of the year.

Another link in the great chain of Eternity is just passing from us. We have been carried through another series of revolutions of our earth, as we have journeyed around the great central Sun, and so we are brought to the last one of the fifty-two lesser divisions of time—established by Divine revelation,—which have made up the greater fragment of eternity—the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three.

The great scroll of the Past has thus added another page to the thousands already folded up for future reference, and a new page of what is prepared for the Future is about to commence its developments. This, in a few hours, will begin unfolding itself to us, and will constitute, as it proceeds, the things Present. Thus the silent marches proceed with resistless tread, measuring out to us our moments, each of which is laden with new blessings and responsibilities.

This is a suitable season for reflection. As the traveller reaches each of the milestones on his journey, he considers how far he is from his home, so we may count Time's progress and feel that life is rapidly passing away. With the aged, the middle-aged, and the young, every year effects changes which bring the termination nearer and nearer, and soon the solemn realities of our never-ending condition will burst upon us, whether we are prepared to enter upon them or not. Many on our right and left hands have, during the year, been called away to their unchanging state and we have no certainty of entering upon another one, or even of finishing the present. If we are fully prepared for life here, then are we ready for death and eternity.

We might look over some of the changes which have taken place during the year amongst the nations of the earth, and learn from them that "the Lord reigns" and overrules the designs of men for the accomplishment of his purposes.

Our pages have, from week to week, recorded passing events, and a re-perusal of them would afford material for much profitable reflection. A year ago the Lancashire distress was calling upon us for temporary relief. This necessity, and that of the French operatives, has been gradually diminishing, until it is now demanding hardly more than the ordinary local rates can furnish. "Long live Arthur, King of the Greeks" was then heard from the South of Europe. That cry is now forgotten in the deaf, which has attended the reception of George the 1st from Denmark—which country itself has exchanged sovereigns, and is but partially through the dangers incident to that change. The resistance to the reigning power being only from a small portion of territory, and therefore but feeble, and because discountenanced by the other sovereignties, will, in all probability, be soon overcome, and that without difficulty. Poland is the only portion of Europe where any serious eruption has marked the year. The effusion of blood there still continues. May her blood soon cease to flow, her wounds be healed, and the noble patriots be permitted to enjoy the blessings of freedom instead of their hated despotism. We might go on to review

the various movements on the continents, east and west, but a glance at the fifty-one past issues of the *Messenger*, or a little reflection on the part of those who are our regular readers, will afford sufficient to convince them that it has been a year of mercy and goodness from the Most High.

The various defeats and victories of the year which our republican neighbours have experienced, would need a volume to notice. The great battle of Fredericksburg was the subject of remark at the close of last year. The tone of public opinion, with regard to slavery, has, we think, made some progress, whether to serve a purpose or with a sincere desire to remove the blot of slavery, we do not now enquire. Their constitution was the seat of great disorder, and is having a terrible remedy applied. We trust the war spirit has reached its highest point,—of that, however, it is not easy to form a correct opinion.

In our own province we have seen some changes. In the highest offices of the state the people willed that the former occupants should retire for those now enjoying the honors and emoluments. What may be the state of parties, and what the results of their deliberations when the representatives come together in Parliament, we are unable to divine. We trust that there will be no sacrifice of principle to expediency, but that full consideration will be given to the claims—religious and political—of all parties and denominations,—that righteousness may preside in our councils, and equity govern our rulers.

Perhaps there is no institution or part of our social arrangements which does so much to combine together a community, as a well-conducted Family Newspaper. All concerned in sustaining it are participants in the good it is calculated to do. The contributor of news items, of poetical effusions, or of more elaborate articles, feels that he has some interest in its circulation, and in extending the sphere of its operation. Readers and writers have thoughts and feelings more or less in sympathy with the thousands who participate with them in its contents. Every person who is concerned in the advancement of his own locality, will do all he can to promote the spread of information around him. A people's progress is shown by their patronage of literature, and a religious newspaper is the best auxiliary to the Pulpit, the Sabbath School and the Teacher. With some such thoughts as these we have pursued our way through the past year and have sought to do the best we could, under the circumstances, for our patrons. With the same feelings we propose to enter upon another year, and to do as we have been doing, and as much better as possible. We have received a quantity of new type, and hope to present our readers with a sheet which they may find a pleasure in perusing, not only for what it contains, but for its general appearance and the orderly arrangement of its matter.

We have to offer our best thanks to our friends who have made efforts to extend the circulation of the *Messenger*. The reception of a number of New Subscribers for 1864—although as yet far below the 500—has afforded us much encouragement. We are promised more from several quarters, and live in hope of shortly receiving them. We shall print some extra copies from the beginning of the year, to supply those who may make up their minds and forward their names in the course of a week or two.

We much regret that we shall be under the necessity of removing a few names from our list, who have neglected to make payments for some time past. Should it be found that any so removed have, in the mean time, sent on the amount of their arrears, we shall be most happy to restore their names immediately, and forward the missing numbers.

To those brethren who have acted as Agents in their several localities, we beg to offer our special thanks. To them we are greatly indebted for their very efficient aid in our work.

We have to offer our apology to some few of our patrons for sending them our last week's issue with two pages misplaced. The error was not discovered till several copies were worked off, and we were obliged to make use of them.

In our list of Deaths will be seen that of Colonel Robinson who died at Jersey on the 4th inst. He, Colonel R. was engaged some years since in the arduous service of surveying the boundary lines between New Brunswick and the United States, and between Canada and New Brunswick. He also performed other highly important services, one of which was, we believe the first survey of a route for a Railway through New Brunswick to Quebec. He has left a widow (the eldest daughter of our respected friend, J. W. Nutting Esq.) and three sons. We hope to have a more particular notice in our next.

"THE WEEK OF PRAYER" for 1864 will be observed in Halifax by meetings being held as follows:

Monday Jan. 4th, at Temperance Hall at 11 o'clock a. m., and 7 1/2 p. m.

Tuesday, Jan. 5th, at Granville Street Church 9 1/2 a. m., and 7 1/2 p. m.

Wednesday Jan. 6th, at Brunswick Street Church at 9 1/2 a. m., and 7 1/2 p. m.

Thursday, Jan. 7th at Chalmers Church at 9 1/2 a. m., and 7 1/2 p. m.

Friday, Jan. 8th at Grafton Street Church at 9 1/2 a. m., and 7 1/2 p. m.

Saturday Jan 8th at St. Matthews Church at 9 1/2 a. m., and 3 p. m.

Ministers of different denominations are named to preside at all the meetings with the exception of those at Temperance Hall, at which the Hon. S. L. Shannon will take the chair in the morning, and His Worship the Mayor in the evening.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.—A proclamation in the *Gazette* summonses the Legislature of this Province to meet for the despatch of business on the 4th of February next. This will doubtless be looked forward to with deep interest by many. We shall soon find, that, as the time approaches, the parties composing our legislative bodies will be preparing themselves for the battle.

REV. JOHN FRANCIS.—The San Francisco *Evangel* contains a digest of the letters from the churches to the Baptist Association of San Francisco. The following notices, from this source of Mr. Francis, formerly pastor at Amherst, will interest many of our readers.

OAKLAND.—We have parted with our late esteemed pastor, Rev. J. B. Saxton, and now enjoy the pastoral oversight of Rev. John Francis in a cold, low spiritual state, but hope for better times. The average size of our congregations is fifty. Sunday school, forty-eight. Volumes in library, four hundred.

BROOKLYN.—We have settled as our pastor, Rev. John Francis. Congregations and Sabbath school increased. Have no church-debt. Hope to improve our house of worship the coming year.

IMMIGRATION.—A London paper, *The Public Opinion*, of the 11th Inst., contains a letter from the pen of Mr. Robert L. Weatherbe of this city on this subject. It recommends more encouragement being given to emigration to British North America, as the best security from U States invasion. Every effort to lay before the British public the advantages within the reach of industrious persons desiring to emigrate, will make our province better known in the mother country and is worthy of commendation.

We perceive that at a Fancy Dress Ball, lately held at St. John, two persons attempted to represent, one "the Devil" and the other "a methodist minister," walking arm-in-arm. This is pronounced "an outrage on propriety". Perhaps when it is considered that on such occasions the patrons try to bring together incongruities and opposites, the design was after all not entirely outrageous, especially if they had both endeavoured to carry out their character truly. We doubt if the pseudo-methodist minister acted his part as well as the devil.

Disgusting details of a great prize fight between Henan and King for £2000 are given in the English papers, and we are sorry to see copied into our provincial journals. It says but little for the taste of their readers, if the editors of those papers believe such beastly exhibitions are acceptable to them. Let us not cast a stone at Spain for her bull-fights while we have this more degrading spectacle brought into our own parlors to be read by all the members of our families.

News Summary.

OUR last mail from England brings nothing of public importance that can be called news. The most important question now involving mere European policy, is the dispute between Denmark and the several States and Governments of Germany, called the German Confederation, relative to the Duchy of Holstein. This vexed question has for some time past been a source of controversy, attended with some danger to the peace of Europe, but as most of the greater powers are deeply interested in preserving the present state of quiet it is to be hoped that the danger may shortly pass away, and the matter in dispute be settled by their friendly interference.

The questions that chiefly engross public feeling and engage the attention of the Press in England, arise from our relations with the East. Since the late peace with the Chinese, by which a highly favourable treaty was concluded with the Imperial Government, England and other European powers have lent their aid, to a considerable extent, for the