

continent of Africa, and shown the positions in which the trade chiefly ramifies, and then prevent the merchants conveying slaves to the ports. (Hear, hear.) By this an organisation would be created which would tend to the entire suppression of the slave-trade. I would engage in it myself if the Government felt inclined to support me in it. After the depots had been formed, I would take in the aggregate 500 men, a few from each station, and I would then commence from the east coast of Africa and march across along the equator to the west coast. I would, at the same time, show those spots which are most advantageous to us in a mercantile point of view, and which would pave the way for a system of—I won't say colonisation—but civilisation, and colonisation will necessarily follow. (Hear, hear.) That is a matter which we need not doubt for one moment, for the fact is, the negro cannot govern his own land, and the land is such that it will be the subject of contention before long. Austria has already her eye upon it. An Austrian gentleman has gone out there and his object cannot be to discover the source of the Nile, because it is settled."

For the Christian Messenger.

ANOTHER WORD WITH THE "GOVERNOR."

MR. EDITOR,—

As I looked over the Governor's last communication, I was reminded of the old story of the attorney's endorsement of the brief:—"No case; abuse the plaintiff." His modesty is exercised on my behalf, because I chose to state the fact that I contributed of my substance to support our College. I was not aware that an anonymous statement gave any special prominence to its author as an individual proper. Perhaps he will pardon me if I say I have responded to his late urgent call.

It is really too bad that we cannot have a plain talk, without an educated man as the Governor forgetting the *matter* in hand, and dipping into 'small talk' about the *manner*. We expect the Governor of a College to be a greater adept at fine English, than an 'ignorant' man. A friend suggests, however, that it was not the "dashes, notes of admiration, &c.," that gave such pain, but the nature of the thoughts in connection therewith. It is an old trick of schoolmen, I believe, that when they do not like a thing to heartily denounce its accessories. Passing by the Governor's childish remarks about my anxiety to appear in print, I will, Sir, with your permission, say a word or two bearing upon the point under discussion. With doubtful modesty, he proclaims his complete demonstration of the utter futility of my objections to his statements. Is he candid? Let us see:—

S.—You say that Acadia's course of instruction is not second to that of any College or University on the Continent of America. Is that so?

G.—Yes. Take Harvard. You see she has a little advantage in German and Zoology and these smaller matters; but Acadia's four-and-twenty classical authors amply balance that.

S.—But Acadia has no course of instruction in Law, Medicine, Physical Science, Philosophy, &c., &c. How then is she "second to no University in America."

G.—(No answer.)

S.—Comparing, in the classics, Harvard's staff of Teachers and course of instruction with Acadia's, one would think that the efficiency of the two institutions was, respectively, as five to one.

G.—Not at all. I have solved the problem, and find it to be less than one to three. (One to four, he should have said, according to his data. Won't the Harvard Professors hang their heads when they see the Governor's computation.)

S.—You have something, a tit-bit in short, in your letter about Oxford and Acadia,—implying, I should think, that they were about equal now, especially in classics. What about that?

G.—Tit-bit is not elegant.

The foregoing is the *pith* of the queries put and the answers received. Your readers may judge of the 'maximum' of thought displayed in these lucid demonstrations of the Governor's; and whether it does not appear that his first letter contained too strong language.

Since the objections already given remain so imperfectly answered, or not answered at all, it would be folly in me to bring forth anything more cogent to convince him of his want of moderation. Let him ponder well the preceding outline, and if he still fail of conviction, he might perhaps find the reason in a couplet from old Hudibras.

As to my advising persons to obtain their Collegiate education in other lands, if I con-

sidered the benefit to the individuals alone, I certainly would, providing they had the requisite means. I would say, Seek out the best institution in the world; and since I do not believe it to be found in Nova Scotia, Go abroad, would be my advice. In fact, I have known young men practice much self-denial to attend some American institution, even after they graduated at Acadia.

The Governor would fain make it appear that I contradict my professed love for Acadia, by saying "hard words" against her. In this also he errs. My 'hard words' have been, as every reader must know, not against Acadia, but against the Governor's half *caricature* of her. I love her too well to be pleased with her photograph taken under so powerful a magnifier, and especially to have it handed round for a veritable view as seen by the raked eye.

In return for the Governor's kind advice, I would say to him at parting, Be moderate. It is far easier to add many an Alpha to a statement, than to retract one Iota. Overstatement is sure to recoil. Acadia College does not need such aid. Its noble founders went about their work in a plain matter-of-fact way; let its supporters walk in their steps. Puffing and spread-eagleism, (pardon the inelegance) belong over the border. And finally, (since by some late contrivance, you are not obliged to foot it to Wolfville,) as your swift couriers roll your stately chariot towards Acadia, think what a dust you and the 'fly' have kicked up: and wherefore?

A SCHOLARSHIP-HOLDER.

Jan. 28th.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 3, 1864.

ARE MIRACLES NECESSARY NOW?

To this question we may unhesitatingly answer, No. Christianity does not now require miracles to prove its divine origin. The existence of the Christian church is the proper testimony to the world of its divine character. This is the pillar and ground of the truth. The church has the Divine record, but it must not be supposed that the world will take that and judge of the reality and value of religion by its communications. We may present its truths to the world, but something more is required before we shall find that men, "at enmity against God" and "dead in trespasses and sins," are willing to receive it as a revelation from Heaven. We need not be surprised at the appearance of infidelity and scepticism, from time to time, in their various forms, as in the case of the Bishop Colenso, Strauss, and a host of men of less note. With the scriptures in our hands we can very satisfactorily account for these exhibitions of man's degeneracy.

The fact of there being any change effected in men by a reception of the truths of revelation; is now the only miraculous evidence of Christianity being a divine power on the earth. If the religion of Christ were presented to the world in all its simplicity and beauty, instead of being covered up by so much of superstition and error, as we find it in a large portion of its professors, we may well suppose it would have far more convincing power than at present. Men do, to some extent, judge of religion by observing its fruits, but their judgment is often perverted. They may enquire, Who will shew us any good? We can point them to what it has done for those who have made the same enquiry; and who after learning the source of all good in the world—the Lord Jesus Christ—have embraced him as their Saviour and Teacher.

Too many look rather at the remaining imperfections of Christians than at the reformation which has been effected; and thus they get distorted views of the Gospel and its teachings. The New Testament declarations respecting Christian character must be the standard for ourselves, as well as the one we must present to the world. This knowledge, with the influence of the Holy Spirit is more than equal to the miracles wrought by our Lord and His apostles. The age in which we live is therefore, not without its miracles and striking evidences of Christianity being the only true religion.

THE BEST BAPTIST BOOK.

One of our correspondents sends us the following:—"The publication in your last paper of Rev. Mr. Davis's 'Echo,' reminded me of a circumstance which occurred in a town in this Province where I resided:

Mr. B— was a carriage-maker by trade, and a member of the Episcopal Church, but was suspected of a leaning towards the Baptists.

Mrs. H— was a member of the Wesleyan Society—a good Christian woman, with one son in the ministry of that body and another preparing therefor, but had been, like thousands of others, taught to look on the Baptists as a bad set, while at the same time, knowing no more about their real tenets and views than of Chaldee or Arabic.

Mrs. H— agreed to let her son go as an apprentice to Mr. —, but, with a true mother's watchfulness over his welfare, after concluding the agreement with Mr. B—, said to him, "I have one favor to ask of you, and that is, that you will not give my son any Baptist books to read,—for truly I would as soon see him a Roman Catholic as a Baptist." "My good woman," replied Mr. B—, "make your mind quite easy on that score, the only Baptist book I have in the house is THE BIBLE."

Some of our readers may suppose that we have given too much latitude to the discussion which has been going on for two or three weeks past between "One of the Governors" and "A Scholarship-holder" respecting the merits of Acadia College and its curriculum. They may suppose that it would have been better if some of the remarks made had not appeared in print. If a similar question had been raised in reference to an institution belonging to some other denomination, doubtless much of what has been said would have been suppressed. As however we knew both disputants were warm friends of Acadia and, although they might indulge in a little too much sharpness towards each other, yet we thought it best to let their communications appear, believing that the subject could well endure examination and that neither the College nor the Professors would eventually suffer by any amount of enquiry.

The interests of Acadia College they both know, as well as we do, are far too important to be trifled with. What is being done within its walls should be more generally known than it is and a little manly criticism only brings out the facts and induces people to look at the question more carefully. Passing over the opinions on which these two gentlemen differ we find them agreed that a larger amount of labor is being performed by the Professors of Acadia, than should be expected of them.

They are as a Scholarship-holder says, "overworked" and are performing more than the amount of labor, their number would indicate as he says again, "working thus hard in the hope that very soon another Professor will be given to lend a helping hand."

The Baptist denomination have reason to be thankful that they have such men to fill these stations. Let the people feel that these men are laboring for them, that the past success which has attended their efforts is but a good beginning, and it will act as an inducement for a continuance of similar labor. The seed sown here by the churches and the friends of higher education in due time will bring forth an abundant harvest of good to the church and the world; over which Scholarship-holders and Governors may rejoice in time and throughout eternity.

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE vs. A PROVINCIAL MUSEUM.—The Reporter asks,

"Cannot some arrangement be entered upon by which the community may enjoy the advantages of having access to the highly creditable Museum attached to the Halifax Mechanics' Institute, instead of being buried out of sight, as it now is, in the eastern wing of Dalhousie College?"

If the proposal made by the Hon. Dr. Tupper, some time ago, to have Dalhousie College appropriated to a Provincial Museum, had been acted upon: his collection would have formed a good nucleus for it. Such an arrangement would have prevented a good collegiate establishment at Truro, which was becoming an honor to the Presbyterian body, from being sacrificed, and would have saved that body from the charge of seizing the Provincial Funds, when both political parties were in a comparatively helpless condition. It is not yet too late to retrace their steps; now that they see they are to have it all to themselves—unless, indeed, that was at first their real desire. If the Act had been left open for the present legislature to confirm, it would have had less the appearance of a determination to take advantage of their opportunity. In that case the project of Dr. Tupper, of doing something really valuable for the Province, might have been tried, instead of such an amount of public money being used in supporting one denominational institution.

MOUNT ALLISON CELEBRATION.—This reunion appears to have been a season of high festivity with our Wesleyan brethren. The attainment of the 21st year of the Institution at Sackville was celebrated by the assembling of about one hundred of its former students. About 1250 names have been enrolled on its books since its first establish-

ment. We much regret that we have not space to give a more lengthy report of this interesting gathering. The *Provincial Wesleyan* contains a full account of the various exercises. The discussion of the Eurhretorian Debating Club seems to have afforded much gratification. The negative of the question—Ought England to have consented to become a party in the proposed European Congress?—seems, as a matter of course, to have been the most popular. Professor Inche gave an address on "Time and Timepieces." Professor Allison descended on the Grecian teacher "Socrates." Much enthusiasm characterized the Alumni meeting. An Association was formed of those acknowledging Mount Allison as their Alma Mater, after which a public meeting was held, to which the Professors, Students, &c., &c., marched in procession. Addresses were delivered by several ministers and others.

The meeting in the evening was for the purpose of affording an opportunity for old students to speak. Several gentlemen from different parts of the three provinces addressed the meeting to good effect, and all separated on the following day, greatly delighted with the opportunity which they had enjoyed.

POLITICAL.

During the past week Halifax has, day by day, assumed more and more of a business aspect. The people's representatives have been coming in from all parts of the country for the purpose of exercising their legislative powers, and considering what measures are necessary for the public good. Each new arrival was indicated by little gatherings in the streets, as the new comer met his friends or those of his party. Quite a number of the gentlemen have arrived whose faces are almost as familiar as our own citizens—having resided in the city for two or three months every winter for several years past—whilst others may be seen, who, being new members, are as yet scarcely known in that capacity.

More than the usual amount of congratulations have greeted the return of the legislators this year, it being their first appearance since contesting their strength on the field of conflict and obtaining the suffrages of the people.

Speculation is busy as to the aspect our Provincial Parliament may assume under the new Government, with a new House and new Administrator of the Government. But little indication is given in the press as to what measures will be promised in the opening speech, or brought forward by the government. We do not profess to know what are the intentions of government or parties, but see no reason why we may not speculate a little as well as our neighbours. At any rate we may venture a word or two on what we think might be done. The questions of Retrenchment, and Dismissals and Appointments,—almost the only staples of the acknowledged organs of the two parties for some time past,—will doubtless be the keynote of several debates.

The Registration of births, marriages and deaths, which we have urged on the two last parliaments, will probably be attended to.

The License Law needs some amendment before it can be made an effectual barrier to the traffic in death and destruction. Notwithstanding the present law has been pronounced equivalent to Prohibition, yet there are a few loop-holes which need a little repairing, and will require the vigilant attention of temperance legislators.

Education will possibly be reconsidered. Its difficulties will not be less than they were formerly. It is doubtful if the present House will be prepared to adopt Assessment for the support of Common Schools. This, however, is now the great desideratum. What will be done with the Dalhousie College Act? is more easily asked than answered. It is plain that the movement which has attempted to resuscitate Dalhousie has succeeded only in providing a very unsuitable place for Presbyterian students, and perhaps in giving a few of the city clerks a little knowledge of chemistry, &c. It is plain that it affords no satisfaction to other religious denominations, and probably even the *seventeen* members of the Presbyterian Synod who, last summer, voted "That it would not be advisable to accept the terms proposed till other denominations would also accept them," will feel that their measure would have been the better one, both for the present peace and future welfare of their church. It has, however, been hinted that the body have the power to hold on to the building and revenues of Dalhousie, and they may possibly forbid that any change shall be made.

Parliament will assemble to-morrow, and we must wait patiently for the developments which will in due time be made. We shall, as heretofore, endeavour to give our readers