

For the Christian Messenger.

ACADIA ATHENAEUM.

On the evening of March 11th, the members of this Society opened their doors for the admission of their friends.

The exercises of the evening were opened with a lively speech from the chair. The routine of formal business was so arranged as to have a most pleasing effect.

The subject for discussion was then announced, "Is this the happiest age?" Upon which as many spoke as the time would permit.

Those on the negative side of the question agreed that there had been progress in vice and misery, as well as in virtue and happiness.

The audience listened with unabated interest throughout the whole proceedings; feeling, no doubt a deep sympathy for both parties as their claims were severally advocated.

At the close all joined in singing the National Anthem, and returned to their homes, I hope with happy hearts, to enjoy the present in reality, the past in memory, and the future in prospect.

AUDIENS.

Wolfville, March 17th, 1864.

For the Christian Messenger.

HORTON ACADEMY RHETORICAL EXHIBITION.

The usual Exhibition in connection with Horton Academy took place as announced on Wednesday evening 16th inst. The evening was fine, and the admission fee, which was almost treble that of last year, seemed to no effect in diminishing the audience.

The proceedings were enlivened by music performed by an amateur choir presided over by Prof. Saffery with his usual ability.

The dialogues were of an amusing character and elicited rounds of applause.

PROGRAMME.

- 1 Power of Habit, P. R. Foster, Aylesford.
2 Nature, a minister of happiness, N. C. Saunders, Yarmouth.
3 "Know thyself," D. Eaton, Cornwallis.
4 "Marcellus wept," H. C. Messenger, Falmouth.
5 The unforgotten foe, Dialogue.
6 Vanity of earthly grandeur, A. Locke, Locke's Island.
7 Look well to the foundation, E. C. Spinney, Wilnot.
8 Exhibition interrupted, Dialogue.
9 "Excelsior," J. McDonald, Uigg, P. E. I.
10 Individuality, J. G. Paint, Hawksbury, C. B.
11 Farmer and Student, Dialogue.
12 Early Impressions, Lewis Hunt, Cornwallis.
13 Blood will tell, Dialogue.
14 The Cases of Life, J. Wheelock, Aylesford.
15 Solitude, J. Wallace, Wolfville.

NATIONAL ANTHEM.

SEVEN PRINCE WA' FRANT.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, MARCH 32, 1864.

"SYSTEMATIC BENEVICENCE."

A sermon on this subject was preached before the Baptist Missionary Convention of Canada West, by Rev. Dr. Caldwell, of Toronto. By the request of the Convention it was published.

"There exists much infidelity on the subject of giving. This is one of the reasons why so much perplexity, loss and poverty abound. If God's people would honor him with their substance and the first fruits of their increase, their barns would be filled with plenty (Prov. iii. 9, 10)."

"How MUCH SHOULD WE GIVE? Let each one give according to his ability (1 Pet. iv. 11). Let each one give, the poor as well as the rich. The blessedness of giving is so great that the poor are not to be deprived of it."

To give rightly and systematically, every one must give on his whole net income, and not on what remains after he has supplied his own supposed necessities; because every man can make his necessities equal to his entire income, and so have nothing left for God.

But how much per cent. of their income ought Christians to give? When giving was regulated by law under the Mosaic economy, the Israelites were required to give one-tenth of their income for the support of the ministers of religion, the Levites, alone; one-fortieth additional to the priests; to provide animals, meal, wine and fruits for sacrifice, and offerings to the temple.

"While the primitive Christians devoted more than half of all their income to the cause of Christ, professors of our denomination in this country, at the present day, do not give to the same cause one-twentieth part of their incomes. Let them begin at once, and devote, at the very least, one-tenth of their whole property to the Lord. Surely it will not be too much for them to give for all objects, what the Jews gave to the ministers of religion alone! But for the sake of systematizing your beneficence, begin with one-tenth as the minimum."

The following table shows the amount to be given weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly, from an income of from ten dollars to fifty thousand dollars per annum.

TABLE A. 10 per cent contribution. Yearly Income. Weekly. Monthly. Quarterly. Yearly.

There are very few of Christ's disciples either so poor or so young as to be unable to obtain an income of ten dollars yearly, and out of that to give one dollar. The one dollar, expended on themselves, can make but little difference to their earthly comforts, but it may make a vast difference if deposited in the bank of heaven, or used as seed-corn for means of increased usefulness.

The proportion recommended in this pamphlet to be devoted to the various objects and Societies is considered very fully, and if the Canadian Baptists were but to adopt the principle here propounded, and work it out but partially, they would soon have abundance for all their operations at home and abroad.

THE EDUCATIONAL BILL has now passed the Legislative Council. The Morning Chronicle of Saturday last gave the following report of the Hon. Mr. McCully's speech, on the reading of the first clause of the bill in committee on Friday.

Hon. Mr. McCully briefly addressed the Committee in opposition to the Bill. He characterized it as a most injudicious measure, wrong in principle, defective in detail. It was so drawn up that he believed that it was next to impossible to comprehend many of its enactments, some of which not entirely inconsistent with others were certainly not in harmony.

Some few amendments were made at the instance of Hon. Mr. Creighton. One or two were suggested by Hon. Mr. Almon. Hon. Mr. Creighton said he felt his hands tied and could not consent to their being made.

Since the above was in type we have read Mr. Oldright's report of the discussion, and it does not materially differ from the above, except that the Hon. Mr. Creighton said that he did not think that the government were by any means desirous of having the control of the educational machinery of the country.

Hon. Mr. Almon moved an amendment to exempt Teachers from taxation, but it was negatived, and no amendment but those made by Hon. Mr. Creighton were agreed to.

The following are the principal clauses, we presume which were referred by Mr. McCully. We copy them from the amended Act for the information of our readers. It is, doubtless, a most important measure and should be well understood by the people generally.

18. One fifth of the whole sum appropriated for common schools shall be applied to aid poor and scattered sections in addition to the amount to which they may be otherwise entitled, on such terms as the Commissioners shall decide; the remainder to be distributed among the sections where suitable school houses are provided, in such manner that teachers of the same class shall receive at the same rate,—that second class teachers shall receive not more than three-fourths of the amount paid to the first class teachers,—third class teachers one half of the sum given to first class teachers; provided that in cases where the Inspector shall report that the teacher has not sustained the standing as a teacher

or indicated by his license, when it shall be competent for the Commissioners to withhold the Provincial grant in whole or in part.

20. The Commissioners shall allow twenty-five per cent. to all schools supported by assessment in addition to the amount to which they would otherwise be entitled, provided the inspector shall report that instruction has been impartially afforded to all seeking it.

It shall be the duty of the Trustees

(2) To contract with and employ a licensed teacher or teachers for the section for a period of not less than five months, and to determine the amount of his or their salaries, which must be procured from the people by voluntary subscription or assessment, and not by fees per pupil. All common schools shall be free to all the children residing in the section in which they are established.

These clauses afford but little encouragement to Schools supported by subscription. No aid will be given to any school except it be free to all—every child received into it without payment of school fees. Those schools which are sustained by Assessment are to receive a bonus of 25 per cent from the Provincial Grant, over and above what they would, if the amount from the people were raised by voluntary contribution.

We make these suggestions not in a capricious spirit, but by way of anticipating a practical difficulty which must arise, if the measure become law, and to any extent realize the apparent intentions of its framers. Will the organ of the government please inform us on this point?

Other sections of the bill provide the means for carrying out the Assessment principle.

THE PICTOU RAILWAY BILL.

Last week we gave our readers a summary of the action taken in the House of Assembly in reference to this Bill. As the Act is a short one and many of our readers may wish to read it for themselves, we copy it entire:—

An Act to authorize the construction of a further section of the Provincial Railway.

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly as follows:—

1. The Governor in Council is hereby authorized to contract for the construction of a further section of Railway between the station house at Truro and the navigable waters of the harbor of Pictou, and, as far as practicable, on a site adapted for a common line for an extension of a line of railway from the station aforesaid to the frontier of New Brunswick.

2. The provisions of the Chapter of the Revised Statutes, so far as may be, are hereby made applicable to the construction and management of such section.

3. The Governor in Council may appropriate any deposits in the Savings Bank towards defraying the cost of construction, and may also, for the purpose of this Act, issue Provincial Debentures bearing interest at a rate not to exceed six per cent. redeemable in twenty years, and not to exceed the sum of sixteen hundred thousand dollars in the same manner as is provided for issuing Debentures under the said Chapter of the Revised Statutes.

The speeches on its introduction, noticed in our last, were sufficient to elucidate the measure. The members from different sections of the province had to speak upon it, and endeavored to show the consistency of their action on this occasion as compared with votes formerly given. The altered state of the reverse was the great explanation.

The difference between the position of the Intercolonial road formerly and now, too, had something to do with the speech of each member pro and con.

The following speech from one of the members for Pictou contains a good epitome of the arguments in its favor.

Mr. D. Fraser said that what he had heard to-night, compared with declarations made in time past, convinced him that some hon. members could change their minds. The present opposition had frequently asserted that Mr. Laurie was extravagant in his calculations, but if he were, the hon. members for Shelburne (Mr. Locke) rivalled him in that respect, as he (Mr. Locke) had asserted that the extension of the line from Truro to Pictou would cost £17,000