

Youths' Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

Sunday, April 24th, 1864.

Read—LUKE I. 18-38: Annunciation of the birth of Christ. I SAMUEL X: Saul appointed king.

Recite—JOHN VI. 10-11.

Sunday, May 1st, 1864.

Read—LUKE I. 39-56: Mary's song of praise. I SAMUEL XI: The Ammorites utterly routed by Saul.

Recite—ISALAH I. 1-3.

What a little Flower said.

"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen, And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

So sang a poet many years ago. But there was one little flower, born in the desert and breathing out its fragrance there, which was not useless. It saved a valuable life, and taught a striking lesson.

Mungo Park the traveller and discoverer in Africa, found himself sick, weary, footsore, and sat down in a desert place to die. There was no friend to comfort him, no food to nourish him, no kind voice to cheer him. He thought of Scotland, his dear home, far away. He thought of his friends, and exclaimed, "O God, must I die here alone in this desert waste?" Despair seized upon him. He had not strength to rise.

Just at that moment his eye caught sight of a tiny flower. He looked at it, inhaled its fragrance, and admired its beauty. It seemed to say, "Listen to me. I am alive here in this desert. God made me, and sent me here to speak to you. I live in this lonely spot, and why may not you? Does God take more care for me, a little flower, than for you, an immortal man? Cheer up; don't give way to despair. Trust in Providence, and make one more effort to live: for if God so clothes the grass of the field, will he not much more care for you?"

Such was the sermon which this little flower preached to Mungo Park. He listened to it. The weary and despairing man took heart. He thanked the little flower for the sermon. Perhaps he kissed it. Then made he another effort to rise and pursue his journey, believing that God had still a blessing in store for him.

He had not proceeded far ere the sound of a female voice, singing one of her wild melodies, saluted his ear. It drew nearer. Soon he saw a native woman bearing a jar of water. With instinctive fear she at first drew back; but seeing his sick and wayworn appearance, she smiled upon him, offered him drink, and conducted him to her cot, where she gave him milk and vegetables. The grateful traveller, after this refreshment, laid his tired body on the floor, and she sang him to sleep with one of those wild impromptu melodies peculiar to those natives.

So the little flower was not "born to blush unseen," nor did it "waste its sweetness on the desert air." It was a momento of God's presence and providence. It saved a precious life by its silent but impressive teachings. Who could have thought that so small a thing in so obscure a place, a thing so frail, so soon to die, could have been an instrument in God's hands of saving man's life? Yet that was its mission.

So the weakest and the frailest may do something for God and man. Let the flower preach to us, as it did to Park. It will tell us never to despair, never to "despise the day of small things." It will rebuke the feeling which says, "I am nothing. What good can I do in the world? I am so obscure, so neglected, so unnoticed, that my influence is nothing." Ah, but listen to the flower. So said not that tiny plant hid far away in the desert. It waited its opportunity. It was willing to bloom and breathe without any eye save God's to look upon it. When the opportunity came, it spoke; and what words of comfort and encouragement it uttered.

Be like that flower in your patient waiting in your accepted obscurity. What though you bloom not in the grand garden of some rich man, where many eyes come to admire and many tongues to praise your beauty. If you are where God has planted you, stay there in meek endurance, and shed your odors to his praise. Should some poor sufferer cross your path and cast a dejected look upon you, be ready with some cheering word. Speak to him of God's love and mercy, and thus send him on his way rejoicing. Never say that you are too small or too obscure to do any thing for God or man.

Remember too that He who made the flower and cares for it, cares also for you. Have you thought of this? Have you acknowledged your dependence and been thankful? Like that flower, you flourish in the morning, but are cut down in the evening. Have you laid this to heart, and made due preparation for eternity?

This tiny flower rebuked the despair of the sufferer, and taught him to put his trust in God. How often have we been tempted to exclaim, "God hath forgotten us." But how often has he appeared for us when deliverance or help seemed impossible. The little flower seems to say, "If God so clothes me, will he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith."—American Messenger.

Conscience is God's spy in the bosom, and as a scribe, a registrar, sits in the closet of our hearts, with pen in hand, and makes a memorandum of all our secret crimes, which are above the cognizance of men.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THE DALHOUSIE COLLEGE ADJOURNED DEBATE.

As we are desirous that our readers shall understand fully how this matter has been treated in the House of Assembly, we have given up a large portion of our space this week to the report furnished during the past week by the official reporter. Our acknowledgements are due to that gentleman for his accommodation. There is abundant material for remark and animadversion on the statements of some of the speakers, but we shall refrain from further noticing them at present, seeing that we have already so much space devoted to the speeches themselves.

TUESDAY, March 29th.

The debate on the Dalhousie College Question was resumed.

DR. HAMILTON said that he only arose for the purpose of proposing an amendment, and that he would not delay the House with any lengthened observations. After some references to the early history of Dalhousie College he went on to say that the funds connected with it were the property of the people of Nova Scotia. He was not prepared to give as many facts on this subject as was desirable, but nevertheless he thought he was safe in stating that no successful attempt had yet been made to establish Dalhousie College agreeable to the purposes for which it was originally founded. He found on looking at the original act that it provided that the Chief Justice, the Speaker of the House, the Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia, and two or three other official gentlemen should be the Governors of the Institution. When that act was changed he was not prepared to say, but it was obvious that the gentlemen who are now Governors were not the ones which the law, as it originally stood, intended should hold the position. He took it for granted that there must have been some change in the law in regard to the trust of Dalhousie, and he would like to be informed as to the fact. He referred to the establishment of the system of denominational colleges, some years since, and said from that time up to the present day the different denominations had rallied around certain colleges, and the success that had attended their efforts was shown by the returns that had been presented to the House a week or two ago. He was not aware if any attempt had been made to show that this system had been injudiciously carried out, and that it was necessary to change it. He believed himself that the evidence was to the very contrary—that it went to show that these denominational colleges had worked well and been productive of incalculable benefit to the whole country. After some allusions to certain expressions in an article in the Presbyterian Witness, which he considered were suspicious, he went on to say that he had never heard that there was any communication of any kind made to any one of the different religious denominations asking them to unite with the Presbyterians for the purpose of opening Dalhousie. Something like 220,000 persons interested in the cause of Education ought to have been but were not consulted in respect to a movement which was likely to place Dalhousie in active operation once more. He could not but consider the fact that six out of the nine Governors—and four out of five Professors—were Presbyterians, was very suspicious of its character; and it might be fairly presumed that all the students were Presbyterians since the Secretary of the Institution, in the return presented to the House, was silent on the point.

Under these circumstances, he would ask if Dalhousie was not Presbyterian to all intents and purposes. He did not wish to say a single word to the prejudice of the Presbyterians as a body, but he contended that it was unfair to give them superior advantages to other denominations. He believed that it was now too late in the day to alter the system that had been adopted in this country—the several denominations had concentrated around and given all their affections to their respective institutions, and it was absurd to expect that they could now desert them for a mere experiment. He then alluded to the manner in which the act had been passed through the Legislature last session, and to the petitions that were now lying on the table as unequivocal evidence of the great dissatisfaction it had created among the intelligent men of all classes and sects. He asked if it was not reasonable to yield to the just claims of the people of Nova Scotia, especially when they came forward, as they had done in the present case, and asked for redress. It made no difference as to the value of the petitions, if they were printed. As long as they were signed by bona fide persons, they were worthy of every respect and confidence from the House. There was hardly a district in the country that had not signed them, and under these circumstances it was the duty of the Legislature to pay every attention to the prayer of the petitioners. If they did not receive that consideration to which they were fully entitled, he was much afraid that most serious consequences would ensue ere long, which would be hazardous to the public peace. The hon. gentleman then concluded his address by moving as an amendment to the motion of the hon. Provincial Secretary, that Dalhousie College with one-fifth of its revenues be given to the Presbyterian bodies and the remaining four-fifths of the funds held by the Governors be equally divided between the Episcopalians, the Baptists, the Wesleyans, and the Roman Catholics.

HON. MR. SHANNON said that he stood in a peculiar position in respect to this question. He was an alumnus of King's College—an institution which he believed was doing as good service as any in the country. In the next place, he belonged to a body who had exerted themselves to the utmost to establish an institution which was doing great service to the cause of education; and he was also a governor of Dalhousie College. But he did not think that these positions were at all inconsistent with each other. His affections might linger around the halls of King's College;

he might feel a deep interest in the institution connected with his own persuasion, and at the same time be justified in bringing up Dalhousie College to the position it ought to occupy in this country. He felt in doing so that the interests of education would be served, and that in no respect whatever could any injury result to the other collegiate institutions already in existence. In reference to the petitions on the table he would say that if a man had a paper laid before him, fully acquiesced in all it contained, and signed his name to it, he made it his own; but it was not long since that he had had a conversation with a gentleman from a distant part of the country, who told him that he was connected with these petitions. From what transpired during that conversation he learned that there had been a great deal of what he considered gross misrepresentation in connection with this very question. The gentleman alluded to stated that the reason why these petitions were got up by his friends was, the supposition that Dalhousie College was going to sweep out of existence the several colleges now so flourishing; but when he was informed that there was no possibility of any such contingency—that Dalhousie was in reality a scheme to assist in the education of the middle class of the city of Halifax—that there was no way in which Acadia College or any other institution could be injuriously affected—he withdrew his opposition at once, and seemed to be surprised that any such idea as prevailed in the country could have arisen. He must say that he was never an advocate of denominational colleges, and there was a period when he hoped that the institution in which he was specially interested might have become a provincial university, but that time had passed, and we must now accept things as they are.

It had been said throughout the country that Dalhousie College belonged to the Province of Nova Scotia; but he believed such was not the case. To whom did the money arising from the Castine fund belong? Not to this Province, nor to New Brunswick, nor to the Imperial Parliament; but it was the sole property of the Crown. When this large sum was raised, to whom was it given by the Crown? It was given to the Earl of Dalhousie to do as he wished with it. Mr. Shannon here referred to the Earl's letter dated 14th Dec., 1817, in which he alluded to this subject. There was not a single word in this letter about the money belonging to the Province, and therefore it was obvious, in his opinion, that Nova Scotia had nothing whatever to do with the original funds. There was no question that Dalhousie owed the Province five thousand pounds, but as to the original funds, and the building, he contended, they did not belong to the Province but to the Governors. As a citizen of Halifax he had always taken a deep interest in the institution, and he saw with regret the attempt that was being made to destroy it at the moment there was a prospect of its being put in order. For forty long years it had stood a disgrace, doing nothing, perfectly useless; and the moment it was in a position to do something an effort was made to destroy that which would be a benefit to the citizens of his native city.

Mr. Shannon then went on to refer to the various attempts that had been made to establish Dalhousie College—to the effort at union with Kings College—and especially to its organization with the late Dr. McCulloch, at its head. He alluded especially to the difficulty that arose in connection with the Rev. Dr. Crawley, a gentleman of the very highest attainments, who had been promised a chair in the institution. The Governors, instead of this gentleman, appointed Rev. Mr. McIntosh. Previous to this step there had been a hope that the different denominations would have rallied around Dalhousie, but after this, such a result was rendered impossible. The denomination with which Dr. Crawley was connected, were naturally incensed, and exerted themselves until to their honour, he said, they raised that noble institution, Acadia College, which had done so much good, and he had no doubt would long continue to prosper. Subsequently, Dalhousie College languished, and after a time, Dr. McCulloch being dead, and Mr. McIntosh having received a better appointment elsewhere, it died out. What had been the fate of the institution latterly, under the auspices of the celebrated Hugo Reid, and the eccentric D'Utassy, it was needless to say. Such was the condition of things up to 1862, when some gentlemen thought it might be made a most important acquisition to the collegiate institutions of the country. A proposition was made to the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, who had an institution in full operation in Truro, and doing good service, and to the Kirk of Scotland, who entertained such strong views as to the necessity of a higher education for their clergy. It was not asked to amalgamate Dalhousie with the institution at Truro, or with the Kirk body, but simply that they might bring in all the influence they might have, and supplement the college just as an additional bulwark to the institution. The offer was made, and for a long time it was doubtful if it would be accepted. The Presbyterian Church had a great deal to lose if they gave up their institution at Truro, and anything occurred to break down Dalhousie. They brought their own money into the institution to assist in its organization—and the Kirk body did the same. They each appointed Professors, to which they were entitled, and the Governors took their own funds and appointed Professors irrespective of the others. It was urged that Dalhousie was a Presbyterian College. Well, if it were so, all he could say was, that he, for one, would not remain connected with it for a single day. The Provincial Secretary, Mr. Ritchie, and himself, representing three different denominations, were appointed Governors, and the first idea they had in common with him, was that in no one way would they be a party to make it a Presbyterian college. The very position they held gave them more influence than the other Governors, and it was only right to state that no desire whatever had been exhibited to make the college subservient to Presbyterian influences. Now all the arrangements had been made and it was most unjust to attempt to disturb them. The students and professors that had been at Truro had come down. A most competent man had been obtained from Aberdeen as Professor of Mathematics. Advertisements were inserted everywhere in order to obtain the best men possible, and they had nearly succeeded in obtaining the services of one of the most eminent Baptists in the Province, Dr. Pryor, if he had been willing to

give up his charge. Laymen, not clergymen, had been appointed. Two most competent gentlemen were obtained from Canada—one of them possessed a very high reputation, and was already doing a great deal of good in the way of teaching the young men in the various drug stores, that most useful of sciences—Chemistry. Was he (Mr. Shannon) to be the means of upsetting arrangements which were calculated to produce so much good? A professorship was still vacant, but when it was filled up there would be a curriculum, equal if not superior to any in the Province.

He felt it was a great pity, when an institution had been languishing for forty long years, and had come at last to an apparently satisfactory result, that such an effort should be made to deprive it of the funds belonging to it. Could he believe that there was not a feeling still prevalent, arising out of the refusal to appoint Dr. Crawley to a chair in the institution? He remembered when he stood, some years ago, beneath the soft Italian sky, on the banks of the Grand Canal at Venice, in whose eventful history was told the story of a Venetian nobleman who suspected that his father had been poisoned by one Foscarei. Loredano, who was engaged in commerce, (as were most of the nobles of Venice at that time,) went into his counting room, and there in his ledger he inserted the name of Foscarei as one of his debtors for the death of his father; on the other side of the book he left the page blank, so that he might enter the payment of the debt when the hour of retribution, which he determined to leave no stone unturned to bring about, should arrive. Vengeance, so potent in the bosom of the Italian, prompted him from that hour to commence a series of persecutions against the object of his suspicions, but they all failed. Foscarei rose higher and higher until he became Doge of Venice, but his very elevation proved the means of his downfall. Gradually the old man was dragged down to the lowest depth of degradation, and at last he died. Then his vindictive opponent went back to his counting room, and in the same ledger where he had inscribed Foscarei's name he wrote *L'ha pagato*—"He has paid the debt!" And as he recalled this story, the thought arose, did not the same spirit that animated the Venetian of old burn in the breasts of those who would now see Dalhousie a heap of ruins?

HON. MR. JOHNSTON said that he would be failing in his duty if he permitted the views held by his hon. friend who had just spoken to pass without expressing his entire dissent from them. He could not understand how his hon. friend had fallen into such an error as to state that Dalhousie was the property of the Governors. It was not given surely to the old Chief Justice or the other Governors as money to go into their pockets! They were simply trustees—the disbursers of a fund for certain purposes. It was not the property of Earl Dalhousie; for his Lordship could not have touched a pound of the funds. Any one who had the pleasure of knowing that distinguished nobleman would feel that such an idea would have raised the deepest indignation in his heart, for a more high-toned, elevated nobleman never existed. It was intended solely for the benefit of the people of Nova Scotia, and the purpose for which it was to be used was the Education of the people. The Earl of Dalhousie was nothing more than the instrument through which this benefit was to flow to the Province of Nova Scotia. Mr. Johnston next referred to the remarks made by Shannon in the close of his speech, and said that the hon. gentleman had committed a great injustice. The feeling that had arisen in consequence of the course pursued towards Dr. Crawley, had long since been forgotten, and no such spirit, as far as he was aware, animated the bosom of anybody, who was active in the present movement. His hon. friend should bear in mind that he must deal with this subject fairly—that there were important interests and prejudices that were largely at stake in the matter.

Various denominations in the country believed that in the appropriation of the funds in question an injustice had been done them—that whilst Dalhousie was called Provincial it was in reality sectarian—that it was largely Presbyterian in its character. He (Mr. Shannon) should remember that not only the Baptists, but the ministers of his own denomination, the Wesleyans, were warmly interested in this debate. The *Wesleyan* newspaper took the same view as did the petitioners, and condemned the legislation of last year with great ability. His hon. friend should feel that there was no little reason for the sentiment that had grown up. Every one was aware at great labour and sacrifice the various denominational colleges had been built up, and it was but natural that their friends should feel the sentiment they did when they saw another institution suddenly starting up, possessed of funds of so large an amount and acquired with so little trouble. Mr. Johnston then went on to refer to the petitions and read a number of names from one he had himself presented to show that they were signed by men of all classes and creeds. He repeated the reasons he had given on a former day why he was unwilling to repeal the legislation of last year, and concluded by expressing his belief that the several collegiate institutions of the country need not fear the re-establishment of Dalhousie. He was of opinion that they had their own separate and proper work to do—and that was more particularly to afford facilities for education to those large masses of our youth in the country who could not be brought to attend a College in the metropolis.

HON. MR. SHANNON explained that he did not mean to convey the idea that these funds belonged to the governors for their own personal benefit.

MR. ARCHIBALD said he felt, after the elaborate speeches that had been delivered on this subject, that it was unnecessary for him to say much. He would say to the hon. member for Kings (Dr. Hamilton) that if the Presbyterian body were to accept his resolution, they would be false to their trust and their principles. It was because Dalhousie was not a Presbyterian college that its friends came forward to ask the Legislature to support it in the present emergency. The rejection of Dr. Crawley, he did not deny, was an insult to every member of any body outside of that particular one that managed the government of the Institution at the time; and that it should have been felt from that day to this, and tended to give a direction to the present movement, no one could doubt. He was surprised to hear the large amount of observa-