

housie, so long unfortunate and desolate, is now aspiring to outshine all the Colleges in the land, and to illumine still more brightly the domain of higher Education in Nova Scotia.

If other Colleges are to maintain existence and individuality, and are to be known as active powers in educating future generations, their friends must put forth energetic and well-sustained efforts to make them thoroughly efficient, and equal to the work demanded of them by the growing intelligence of this age, and by the ever enlarging circle of human knowledge.

This they must do, or be prepared to see their Colleges submit to disintegration or absorption. Who is prepared for this? Are the friends of Acadia willing that she should become extinct? Are the Baptists of these provinces, who have sustained her through storm and sunshine for the last twenty-five years, prepared to see her consigned to the cold shades of oblivion, or to let her sink into insignificance? If they would not act a part so injurious, so almost suicidal to their own interests as a denomination, they must labour and make sacrifices to uphold, improve, and perpetuate the College they love, and that is worthy of their love.

This they are fully competent to do. The Baptists of these three Provinces form a large and influential denomination. In numbers, wealth and influence it has largely increased during the quarter century just closed. The founders and early supporters of Acadia College did well—they acted wisely and liberally. But the measure of their liberality should not be ours. *Duty demands more from us; for our ability and therefore responsibilities are much greater.* We ought to raise an *Endowment* sufficient to free Acadia College from embarrassment and anxiety, and to make her permanent as a living, active, and progressive educational power to affect generations to come. Should we fail to make suitable provision for educating the young men of our denomination, who, in numbers, increasing every year, are thirsting for higher mental training, we would greatly damage our educational interests and much diminish our general influence as a denomination. For if Baptist youth cannot be supplied by their own College, with Education as solid, thoroughly liberal and comprehensive, as other Colleges in the country afford, they will perhaps resort to the latter, or from very shame seek in a foreign land what they desired, but could not obtain from us.

Having so fine a position for usefulness, and for exerting a powerful influence for good to the end of time, and possessed of ability equal to the task required, we must not think of falling back, and thus lose in great part the advantages already gained. Shall we as a denomination prove ourselves unworthy of these advantages, and be compelled to yield them to others who will prize them more highly and use more wisely and faithfully? Methinks I hear the Baptists of these Provinces answer unanimously and most decidedly,—"No; Acadia shall neither die, nor languish; we will handsomely endow her as soon as possible; our sons thirsting for education shall drink abundantly from the deep and pure fountain which she supplies; our sympathies shall surround, and our prayers shall bless her!" Such being, as we anticipate, the response of those most deeply interested in the matter, I may venture to say that Acadia, thus sustained, will prove herself as worthy of their confidence and regard in the future, as she has shown herself to be in the past.

The exigencies of these times, while demanding education of a high order, demand also that such education be deeply baptized in true living Christianity. Otherwise, the highest culture and the most extensive knowledge will fail to benefit the individual, and society in the measure desired. There is an intrinsic value in education, and in proportion as a human being is educated, there is an increase of power; but it is only when education bows to *Religion*, and becomes her willing disciple and faithful servant, that the student reaches the highest good, and, by the grace of God, exerts a powerful influence to promote, in the highest and best sense, the happiness of his fellow-creatures. Religion alone reveals the way of true happiness, and conducts man to enduring honor. Amid all the glories of the creation, the angels behold no object more interesting, lovely, and beautiful, than a thoroughly educated and sanctified human mind. Knowledge makes us acquainted with the Almighty,—in his works and in his word, in Providence and in Redemption. And holiness is the reflection of the Divine image impressed on the soul by the Spirit that seals to the day of the Lord. Some think that Colleges must of necessity be irreligious; others think it best not to have too much religion connected with them. Our conviction is that there cannot be too much religion in College or out, if it be only of the right kind. Never are Colleges so safe in their operation, or so secured from overthrow, as when they are sanctified and upheld by true piety. I would, therefore, have Acadia College distinguished, not only for the learning, acumen, research, and diligence of her President and Professors; for the high scholastic attainments and the success of her students; for the intelligence, liberality, energy and prosperity of her patrons and supporters; but we wish her to be distinguished for a more precious and enduring glory,—the predominance of the religious element—a high and reverential regard for the Bible, profound knowledge of its divine doctrines, for faith in God, for prayer, spirituality, for christian holiness, large-hearted benevolence, inflexible and incorruptible integrity, and earnest labour to benefit and bless the people of this country and the world. In short, we would have her sons distinguished for the highest intellectual cultivation, and for the closest imitation of the Great Teacher,—our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Such a union of knowledge and piety would exert a powerful influence in favor of Acadia. It would attract

students of the best and most promising kind to her in increasing numbers; it would commend her to the church as a most powerful auxiliary to the *Truth*, and perpetuate and make her to the church and the world, a rich and increasing blessing in all coming time.

The address on "Our Future," read by Rev. D. M. Welton, was a very superior one, and commanded the rapt attention of the audience. We hope to be able to place it before our readers next week.

The meeting was one of intense interest, and afforded all present a rich treat by the varied talent brought together, and the presence of so many of the early friends of Acadia College. We trust that the friends of education will afresh rally around this monument of combined and continued effort, until at the end of its next quarter-of-a century, it may be seen to have made advances in a geometrical ratio, and to have extended its blessings over the whole land.

The following letter from the Hon. Judge Johnston was read by the President at the College Anniversary:

DARTMOUTH, 30th May, 1864.

My Dear Sirs,—It gives me great pain to be obliged to forego the pleasure of meeting my brethren and friends at the approaching Anniversary,—but the state of my health forbids my attempting the fatigue and exposure. It is more than a fortnight since I have been confined to the house; and, although convalescent, I am weak and unequal to the exertion of travelling, and of attending crowded meetings, &c.

I regret much this disappointment, as, for many reasons, I particularly desired to attend on an occasion so interesting as the 25th Anniversary.

My earnest desire is, that the meetings may be as agreeable and as full of good results, as the best friends of our Institutions at Wolfville can desire.

Believe me, my dear friends,
Most faithfully yours,
J. W. JOHNSTON.

To the Governors of Acadia College, &c.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JUNE 15, 1864.

THE WESTERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Time hurries us on, from season to season, and from year to year, carrying us on through the stages of human life and bringing us nearer and nearer the completion of our probationary state. Each of these returning revolutions of the earth in its orbit, seems to become more and more rapid, and to hasten more speedily on after its predecessor, gathering up one after another of the travellers to the Zion above.

The leafy month of June invites us to again go forth and bask in its delicious perfume, and enjoy its new beauties for a brief period. This month too, calls upon christian brethren again to seek a renewal of fraternal association with those of the same faith and order, for purposes of combination and co-operation in the service of the Divine Master.

The first of these gatherings of the associate churches in Nova Scotia—the Western Baptist Association—was assembled on Saturday last at Paradise, a misnomer surely, for, unlike the Paradise above, those who are permitted to enter here, have shortly to depart, and, unlike the first Paradise, no barrier is placed against our again paying it a visit. Still it contains much that is "pleasant to the sight and good for food" and many of its inhabitants are such associates as one would wish to have for friends, through the days of mortal life, and, when fully prepared for translation to the upper Paradise, throughout eternity. This place appears to have derived its name from a tributary to the Annapolis River so named by the early French settlers.

With varied emotions, but "with one accord" a large number of the Delegates assembled at the large Baptist Meeting-house at Wilton—sanctified by the associations of forty or more years, and by gatherings of the fathers who are now among the "just men made perfect."

The rain of the previous day had refreshed all creation, and given a bright and cheerful aspect to the whole valley. The sun shone forth smiling and beautiful, and nature called for songs of praise to the giver of all good.

At the hour appointed the Rev. N. Vidtore called the meeting to order. Prayer was offered by Rev. W. Hall, and a hymn sung. The election of Moderator resulted in the choice of Rev. Isaiah Wallace to that office; Brethren J. Melbourne Parker, and Joseph H. Saunders, clerks; and Brethren Asa L. Morse, and Samuel Brown Treasurers.

About thirty of the Letters from the

churches were read at the morning session by Revs. Angell, Martell, and D. O. Parker. These letters shewed additions of about 150 members by baptism, and others by letter &c. A spirit of harmony and interest in the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom appeared to be existing in the churches.

We shall be obliged to defer the remainder of our report till our next, seeing that the mails will not wait for us to obtain more for our present issue.

CELEBRATION SOIREE.

Each of the meetings in connection with the late celebration at Wolfville had its own peculiar interest, and presented a feature not embraced in any other.

The evening of Thursday was occupied by a Soiree held in the Gymnasium. A large company assembled and partook of the provisions—material, intellectual, and musical—evidently with much satisfaction. After tea, brief speeches were given by a number of gentlemen. The Rev. Dr. Cramp noticed some of the subjects which called for congratulation and thanksgiving to Almighty God on the occasion, and asked Dr. DeWolf, President of the Methodist Conference of Eastern British America—an alumnus of Acadia College—to address the meeting.

Dr. DeWolf expressed his deep interest in Acadia College. Although connected with another denomination and another Collegiate Institution, yet he did not forget this one, but had watched its progress from year to year, and rejoiced that it had now attained so respectable an age. Notwithstanding all the calumny and enmity that had been raised against it, it was plain that a Divine Hand had protected it from all the shafts of its enemies. He rejoiced in its giving religious education to its students. He fully sympathized with the friends of Acadia, that education to be valuable must be in connection with religion; whilst at the same time the fullest liberty was given, and it was very evident that there was no necessity to place improper restrictions upon students to secure religious teaching. He believed that there might be a Methodist, an Episcopalian, a Presbyterian, or even a Catholic admitted to the benefits of Acadia College, without any force being used to press religious opinions upon them.

Rev. I. E. Bell looked upon the College as a source of happiness to the people. It had thrown its beams across the different parts of these provinces, and to some extent over the world. Besides the ministers who had there been trained for their work, numbers of other persons, by the imparting of spiritual life, as well as intellectual cultivation, had been prepared to take a high stand in various professional occupations.

T. H. Rand, Esq., Superintendent of Education, had experienced much pleasure in coming to the present anniversary. Like other good Baptists, he had undertaken the journey to their Mecca. He felt that the Baptists had done a great work, not only in positive benefit to the people, but also in convincing their own friends that education was not, after all, the work of the devil. There was yet much to do, and now was not the time to slacken effort, as if the work were already completed. The temple is not yet erected. The past years have been but as the laying of the foundation. He believed it had been well laid, and now it was for the people to build upon it an edifice worthy of the cause. It is for us to prepare for fresh conquests; complete victory would belong to those who should succeed the present generation.

J. W. Bars, Esq., entered into the financial condition of the College, and shewed that whilst there had been, on many former occasions, times when serious debt had embarrassed the governors, and there was still necessity for enlarged contributions, yet there was now no debt upon it. Means were necessary, however, to meet the demands for salaries and repairs. A good beginning had been made of the Endowment, and he was most anxious that it should be completed. He believed they were well able to place the College in a position above difficulty in this respect.

Dr. Parker, Rev. Geo. F. Miles, and Rev. Mr. Thomsen spoke briefly. Good music, under the direction of Mr. Saffery, was given at intervals, and the meeting closed about ten o'clock.

ASSOCIATED ALUMNI DINNER.

The Annual Dinner of the Alumni of Acadia College and their friends, was held on Friday afternoon. About eighty sat down soon after 3 o'clock, to a very superior repast, got up in good style in the Gymnasium. After discussing the viands which were in good variety and great abundance, the feast of reason and flow of soul came forth, and here we must again regret that our space is so limited, and

that we were not more aware of the turn which would be given to the speeches, so as to have prepared ourselves to do them more justice.

Dr. Piyor, the President, in the most loyal manner called on John King Esq., of Onslow for a speech. Previous to Mr. K. consenting to be the first speaker, the Rev. S. T. Rand arose at the call of the President, and in a few remarks expressed his reverence for Dilworth, his first book of instruction. He then noticed the necessity for union among the Baptists. They required all their strength and could not afford to be divided. They were doing a great work in sustaining Acadia College and should be in earnest in sustaining it. After this

Mr. King responded, and in a very practical manner noticed that wherever civilization had secured a high position, much attention was given to higher education. In Great Britain, immense revenues were appropriated to this work. Whilst we in these provinces have the advantage of being free from any ecclesiastical establishment, and have no desire that public money should be granted for theological purposes, yet it is but just that aid should be afforded towards the encouragement of institutions which give instruction of a superior character to the people. He thought there should be an equal distribution, as near as possible, to all denominations. And here he noticed the position in which Dalhousie College stood before the country. He did not charge the present government with initiating the Act, and did not think it wise to allow all the blame to rest on them for its continuance, nor did he think we should be benefited by making it a party question, or denouncing the government for what they had not, as a government, sanctioned.

Dr. Parker noticed some of the defects there had been in the schoolmasters of a few years ago, and thought there had been a vast change since then. He was glad that religion reigned supreme in Acadia College. Prayer had been connected with its inception, and all through its course there had been a recognition of the God of Providence. This had been the secret of its success. He spoke of several of its early friends with whom he had been acquainted. Amongst them all, he believed one of the earliest and most constant, was his friend—now almost an octogenarian—Mr. Nutting. He, with Mr. Ferguson, had been untiring in their labors and attention to its interests. The Hon. Mr. Johnston had also done much to defend it from the attacks of its opponents, and was still its warm friend. Whilst the College had cost much of anxiety, labor and money, yet it was therefore all the more dear and valued. What can be had for nothing is but of little worth, but we estimate what we have difficulty in obtaining at a far higher rate.

Rev. Dr. DeWolf said that he was afraid the people would be tired of hearing him. He was not accustomed to give himself so much freedom in speaking, but he felt that the occasion might well allow it, if the audience wished. Much had been said by way of Jubilate Deo, and he was glad to join with them in such an expression of praise and thanksgiving. He conceived that Baptists and Methodists were men who knew what they were doing, and were not placed here, without its being intended that they should have to do with what was going on around them. The Baptists had attained an ascendancy of mind amongst their followers. Having such men amongst them as the Hon. Provincial Secretary, the Hon. Judge Johnston, and the Superintendent of Education, shewed that there was some respect due to the body. The denomination had been working in the rich deposit of mind, and by the cultivation of intellect had prepared themselves to take a high stand amongst their fellow-men. He had seen the changes that had taken place in students as he came home to his native place—Wolfville—from year to year. When they first made their appearance, they had often exhibited the great need of cultivation, but from year to year they had become more and more free from those characteristics, until they became such as we had seen to-day. With all his heart he said of the college, *Esto perpetua.*

Rev. Geo. Armstrong was then called on, as another of the earlier alumni, and said he thought that the reference which had been made to roughness in the earlier students of Acadia, must have been intended for him, for at that time he must have been very rough. He recollected the men of that day. Dr. Crawley, and several others were here named, as not only teachers to those who came, but as the kindest and best of friends, to whom they were indebted for much of their early desire for education. Much labor is required to get rid of ignorance. Education is power whilst ignorance is weakness, and it needs much long continued effort, before general intelligence pervades a people. Baptists are not yet alive to its value, but they were making