

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College.

My Dear Sir,—

The Class in Acadia College were examined on Tuesday and Wednesday last. The Examination included the Latin and Greek Classics, various branches of the Mathematics, Intellectual Philosophy, Rhetoric, History, the Evidences of Christianity, the Hebrew Language, Ecclesiastical History, and Theology. I understand that the students acquitted themselves creditably.

On Wednesday Evening there was a Rhetorical Exhibition in the Baptist Meeting House. Orations were delivered by the members of the Sophomore Class, in the following order:—

IDEALS.—John McDonald, Uigg, P. E. I. SUGGESTIVE DISCOURSE.—Isaac R. Wheelock, Aylesford.

PREJUDICE.—Albert Coldwell, Gaspereaux. "STEP BY STEP,"—Hector E. Munro, Onslow. THE DIRECTING POWER.—J. W. Johnston, Wolfville.

ORIGINAL THINKING.—E. C. Spinney, Wilmot. EFFORT.—J. F. Tufts, New Albany.

THE SEARCH AFTER TRUTH.—Robert E. Douglas, Amherst.

"THERE'S A GOOD TIME COMING."—John Wallace, MYTHOLOGY.—Lewis Hunt, Cornwallis. THE GRECIAN CLASSICS.—H. C. Messenger, Falmouth.

RONCESVALLES.—Daniel Eaton, Cornwallis. "DURATE ET VOSMET REBUS"—William Elder, SERVATE SECUNDIS, (a Poem), Hantsport.

There was a large congregation. The singing was excellent. Mr. Saffery presided at the Melodeon, in his usual good style.

The Rev. R. G. Sommerville, I am told, has rendered very efficient assistance in the College during the past Term. Dr. Crawley is expected to enter on his duties as Professor in January.

FIDES.

Wolfville, Dec. 22, 1865.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 27, 1865.

CHRISTMAS WEEK.

Since our last issue the time-honored festival of Christmas has come and gone. Gone, did we say? No, it can scarcely be gone so soon! Yes; the day has passed, but the season of good wishes and kind remembrances may be considered as still remaining. We doubt not our young friends in many families have found the last to be the best Christmas time they have ever enjoyed. We trust the day has borne away with it pleasant associations, such as will be recalled for many subsequent years with satisfaction.

Many persons, by their efforts to increase the joy of others, make these seasons occasions of special enjoyment to themselves. We doubt not many of our readers have, during the past few days, called up a number of such red-letter days, which, by the happy influences in connection with them, have been imprinted on their memory, perhaps for many years past.

We need not assure our friends that although our present number of the Messenger will not reach them before Christmas-day has passed away, and gone with its predecessors, yet that they, one and all, had a place in our heart, and were remembered with best wishes amongst our absent friends on that auspicious day. Christmas compliments and congratulations are commonly mingled with meditations of passing time,—that season coming to us in the last week of each year. We have now nearly completed another cycle of the brief portion of existence allotted to us in this world. Another of Time's milestones is nearly reached, and we shall in a few days commence another circle of the great maelstrom of human life. Each successive circle we make seems to be growing shorter than its predecessor, as we approach the last one, which will shatter our frail bark, when its inhabitant must pass away into the new state, where days and years will no longer be known.

The past year has been fruitful of events which might afford food for reflection. When the year commenced our neighbours were in the midst of the hostilities of their fratricidal war—shedding each other's blood, with but little prospect of a peaceful cessation. Our own quiet was then far less assuring than now.

We have reason to be thankful that during the year our province has had a peaceful experience. Whilst war's rude alarms, and the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and the cattle plague, with other scourges have visited many lands, ours has been spared all such causes of distress and sorrow. Let each of our readers say, "Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all his benefits!"

The record of 1865 will soon be closed, and another must shortly be begun. The coming year like a field of spotless snow, pure and untrodden, lies before us; nothing

of sin has yet made its mark, mercifully we are ignorant of what are to be its revelations. We have no power to change the aspect of the past, but, with strength from above, we may commit our future way to our never-failing Friend; and may rest assured that He who once came as a little child, for our redemption, and whose nativity is celebrated at this season, will befriend us in the new period, if permitted to enter upon it, and make it to us all a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

CONFEDERATION.

IMPORTANT DESPATCH.

The Royal Gazette of Wednesday last contained the following important despatch from the Imperial Government.

DOWNING STREET, 24th Nov., 1865.

NOVA SCOTIA, } No. 10.

SIR,—I think it right to acquaint you that I have been informed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Representative at Washington, the necessity of having to submit a Treaty of Commerce to the separate action of the various Provincial Legislatures would be a serious difficulty in his way, and that the Union of the Provinces would afford the best hope of obtaining such a Treaty.

It is evident that if the gentlemen who are now about to proceed to Mexico, the British and Spanish West Indies, and Brazil, for the purpose of ascertaining in what manner the trade and commerce of those countries with British North America can be extended, shall bring their journey to a successful conclusion, and shall be able to suggest to Her Majesty's Government, on the part of the British North American Provinces, any new arrangements with the countries in question, for the benefit of these Provinces, a similar difficulty may be expected to arise in every such case,—and, on the other hand, the Union of the Provinces would, in every such case, afford the best hope of bringing such arrangements to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient, Humble servant, (Signed) EDWARD CARDWELL. Lieut.-Governor Sir F. WILLIAMS, Bart., K. C. B.

It is not difficult to understand that the isolated condition of the several provinces of British America must and do interfere with negotiations for Reciprocity with the neighboring States and with South America.

The connection between these provinces and the Home Government too would be vastly simplified by an Act of Confederation. The mass of legislation now required to be overlooked at the Colonial Office in Downing Street might be very materially diminished and more attention therefore be given to the great leading matters affecting our commerce and our connection with other countries, and our relations with them and Great Britain.

At the recent preliminary meeting of Baptist Ministers in London for the formation of a Baptist Association for the City and suburbs we learn, from the London Freeman, that:—

"The brethren assembled represented well-nigh every shade of opinion amongst us, although, if any party predominated, we should say that it was that of our strict communion brethren. Still, it was most apparent that the ruling wish of all present was to give as little place as possible to differences of opinion; and rather to find out the common basis on which they could practically agree."

Further, our contemporary states:—"The great prayer meeting at the close of the Conference was a wonderful and unique expression of christian union between the churches and of sympathy with the object contemplated."

"AS OTHERS SEE US."

Rev. A. W. Caldwell of Dundas, Canada West, has been giving a series of "Inklings of an Eastern Tour" in the Canadian Baptist, since his return, after visiting these "Eastern" provinces.

We formed a pleasant acquaintance with Bro. Caldwell at our Convention at Berwick and afterwards in Halifax. His visit on behalf of the Bible Union appears, if we may judge from his "Inklings," to have been a very agreeable one to himself. He gives his opinion very freely about our scenery, people, mode of doing business, and the religious and mental character of our ministers, &c., &c. In the last of these inklings he writes:

"Having spent two months delightfully and profitably to mind and body, made many acquaintances whom I hope to meet where there is no more parting, and formed a far higher opinion of our Lower Provinces than I ever entertained before, I took my departure by the same route as that by which I entered, and in a few days found my family in the possession of better health than when I left them. Before I conclude these 'Inklings,' I would

mention a few things in connection with my journeyings which present themselves to my mind with all the force of contrasting so strongly with the state of things in other quarters.

One of these was the deference paid to the senior brethren in the ministry in all their public gatherings. There appeared to be no effort on the part of the younger men to elbow them out of the post of honor."

"The veneration in which some of those now passed away are held is cheering. The remembrance of two especially—"Father Harding" and "Father Manning"—is green in the souls of thousands. Go where you will among Baptists in those Provinces, you see the likenesses of those apostolic men looking down on you, alike in the cottage of the poor, as in the drawing-room of the rich. You see them in the college halls of Acadia, in the study of the city pastor, in that of the country parson, the lawyer, the physician, the senator—all agree in doing homage to their excellence.

Another item worthy of observation, and which strikes me as laying at the root of a great deal of their spiritual prosperity, is, that long pastorates seem to be the rule among them, rather than the exception. Take this item for as much as it is worth.

Their mode of transacting public business also attracted my attention. Ostensibly, it is the same as our own; Practically, it is somewhat different. No man appeared to foist himself on any committee to get himself appointed for this, that, or the other service, or to dictate to them that they should nominate such a preacher for such a post "because he did the like for me when I was at the association to which he belongs." I watched the movements rather narrowly and saw none of those things.

"Thus end my inklings of a tour which I shall long remember with feelings of devout gratitude to God and love to the brethren in those regions. Let us hope the day is not far distant when greater numbers of our brethren of all these Provinces shall mingle in our religious anniversaries."

School Matters.

Amherst, Dec. 18, 1865.

My dear Sir,

There have been in operation in this Section since the first inst., the County Academy, comprising Elementary, Preparatory, [and High Schools, besides a Common School in each end of the section.

On the 15th inst. the Board of Examiners convened a meeting for the purpose of announcing to the Trustees and friends of Education generally, the result of their examination of the head master, Mr. J. T. Mellish.

C. E. Ratchford, Esq., having been called to the chair, and the Secretary of Trustees to act as Secretary, the object of the meeting was succinctly stated by the chairman.

The great care and skill evinced in the selection of the questions by the District Examiners, Revs. Christie, Thompson and Jarvis,—extending over sixteen different branches, as read from the Examination papers, were highly appreciable.

The result was announced by the two first named gentlemen, who had conducted the examination, as highly satisfactory, the candidate having scored the highest number of marks attainable, in all the branches except one, and in this the Examiners believed that the requirements of a few minutes more time, was the only cause of deficiency.

Rev. Mr. Christie, the Chairman of Board of Examiners, then formally presented Mr. Mellish with the parchment, conferring the License of Head Master, which he received with appropriate acknowledgement.

After remarks by Messrs. Huestis and Robb, Trustees, also by Rev. C. Stewart, and the Chairman, votes of thanks to the Chairman and Secretary were passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

I may add, that the Trustees intend proceeding with the building of the County Academy at once, and I trust that the new Era in the education of our country, which has been inaugurated, may be marked with that continued success to which a cause involving interests so invaluable, is justly entitled.

I am, dear Sir, Yours respectfully, J. ALBERT BLACK, Sec.

We learn from various sources that the above is a specimen, somewhat favorable perhaps, of what is being done in many parts of the province, in respect to school matters. New School-houses are being built or greatly improved in almost every District—in some quite a number will be ready early in the Spring, and we may look for a large addition to the school accommodation in the country.

In Halifax the change effected by making the schools free is very marked. The very moderate taxation for this purpose, which must be considered, as yet, but as a commencement, we learn from good authority is cheerfully borne. Although the city rates are so heavy as to be a serious burden, yet the School tax is accepted with scarcely an objection on the part of the citizens.

THE FENIAN QUARREL.

We have had various features of the Fenians brought before us from time to time. It has sometimes been a "convention," then a "bugbear," then a "scare," then a "swindle," now it is a "quarrel." The following is one

of the briefest and best accounts we have read. We copy it from the New York Examiner and Chronicle:—

The most amusing event of the past week was the quarrel between the "Fenian Senate" and their President, Mr. O'Mahony. Instead of fighting England, or invading Canada, and still spoiling for a fight, they have fallen out among themselves, and by mutual criminations justify all that was ever said against them by their severest critics. In spite of the warnings of the press, these fellows had gathered, it is said, over a million of dollars into their treasury, by the sale of their "bonds"; and as it was evident that this fund would never be used for warlike purposes, the disposal of it became a matter of some interest to the parties concerned. President O'Mahony and his assistants had it all their own way for a time. But, after allowing them full swing for several weeks, long enough to dispose of an immense amount of Fenian obligations, the "Senate" passes resolutions declaring that the present issue of the bonds of the Irish Republic is "invalid and illegal," and a "fraud on the organization." "President O'Mahony" rejoined by denouncing the "Senate" as "dishonest persons," and "enemies of the Fenian Brotherhood." To this manifesto the "Senate" replies by impeaching and unseating O'Mahony, and calling a new Convention of the order.

We think this ridiculous farce must now be about played out. The utter failure of the attempt to create a revolution in Ireland, combined with the quarrel between the President and the Senate of the Order in this country, must convince even the Irish that the "Emerald Isle" has nothing to hope for from their efforts. But we question whether the authorities ought not to interpose at once, and close up the concern. The dismal joke has been carried quite far enough. An "Irish Republic" has no right to exist, even in name, in this country; and it is not only an absurdity but a source of danger. Any number of annoying complications with Great Britain may arise from permitting them to carry on their scheme. The act of raising money to assist in revolutionizing Ireland may be very laudable in an Irishman, but it is an offence against our laws, and ought to be punished as such. Their financial operations, too, should be subjected to rigid scrutiny; and if it be true, as they say of each other, that money has been procured on false pretences, let them be punished according to the laws provided for such offenders. At any rate, let us have no more of it. It would be absurd to suppose that the Fenians could ever drag us into a war with England; but permitting the Order to have any foothold here at all must be a source of vexation and embarrassment to the Government in its negotiations with that country. The nuisance ought to be abated without delay.

There were great rejoicings over the escape of Stephens from Dublin jail. The fact of his escape is attributed by the U. S. Fenians, to rottenness and decay in the British Government! The leaders will probably therefore continue to dupe their followers and get hard earned cash for their bogus bonds.

Death of Rev. W. H. Humphrey.

We learn from a letter received by a friend a few days since, that our friend Rev. W. H. Humphrey, formerly the beloved pastor of Granville Street Church, died on the 6th Inst., at Hastings, Minnesota, aged 43 years. His end was peaceful and happy. We deeply sympathize with Mrs. H. and family in the sad loss they have sustained.

Rev. Dr. CRAWLEY.

It will be seen by a communication in another column that the Rev. Dr. Crawley is shortly expected to resume his connection with Acadia College. The return of one so long known by his indefatigable labors on behalf of the Baptist denomination in these provinces, may be regarded as highly auspicious; and will be hailed with satisfaction by the students of the College, and the friends of higher education generally. His profound scholarship and ripe experience are a guarantee of Acadia's being largely benefitted by this acquisition to its staff of professors. We trust that the addition of one whose christian character is so in harmony with his rare mental endowments will be a source of encouragement to the present staff, and an indication that the respectable position which the College has already secured will be fully maintained.

We doubt not this will also be an inducement to many of our rising young men to avail themselves of the provision made at our institutions for their mental cultivation, and preparation for life's duties and responsibilities.

The advances made in the Common School arrangements of this province call for a large increase in the number of men having well cultivated minds, to perform the duties of Trustees, Examiners and Commissioners, as well as Teachers. We know of no effectual means of supplying this demand but through our Colleges. The importance of this matter can scarcely be over estimated and should be well considered by all who occupy positions of influence. We hope to hear of a large increase in the number of friends and supporters of the College. A little more effort on the part of those in our churches having his matter in charge, would, we believe greatly enlarge the subscriptions, as well as benefit the donors and promote the cause of education and general enlightenment.

We learned of Dr. O. and family arriving at Boston last week. We fear they have been put to some inconvenience by the Express not making her last trip, as proposed, to Windsor. It is probable they are coming via St. John and Annapolis.