

Now look at the other side. By keeping your place in the church, and doing nothing except in Gospel order—

- 1. Will you be in any way damaged?
2. Will anybody else?
3. Will you be setting a bad example?
4. Is it not Christ's command that you overcome evil?
5. Is there any way to overcome evil, but by doing good?

The Lord help you back into the path of peace?

Christian Messenger

HALIFAX, JUNE 14, 1866.

The Western Baptist Association commenced its Annual Session on Saturday last, at Milton, Queens Co. The Rev. Henry Angell was chosen Moderator, with the Rev. Jos. H. Saunders and Rev. J. M. Parker as Secretaries. Full particulars of the various meetings will be given next week.

ACADIA COLLEGE ANNIVERSARY.

ALTHOUGH we were prevented from participating in the "feast of reason and flow of soul" at Wolfville, on Monday and Tuesday of the past week, we are glad to learn that every thing passed off well, and gave great satisfaction to those present. The Rev. Mr. Munro's Oration, we learn from Rev. Dr. Cramp, was an excellent one. The weather was most propitious, and the attendance at the several exercises of the occasion was very large.

The following accounts of the proceedings have been supplied by two brethren well able to appreciate the productions of the several speakers, and will be read with pleasure by the friends of our Institutions at Horton:

MR. EDITOR,

I have just returned from a brief visit to our educational Institutions at Horton, and drop you, at this early opportunity, a line or two on our Anniversary exercises. The Fathers and Founders well comprehended the influence of natural scenery upon character, when they selected a spot whereon to found a College. Those veteran pioneers of education had not been bred in the lap of luxury and refinement, but they had, nevertheless, an eye for the aesthetic in nature; they loved, as all noble souls love, picturesqueness of scenery. They planted our College amongst the richest fields of Nova Scotia, on a gentle elevation, bounded by mountain, prairie, bay and grove; their wise foresight selected a spot where the finest features of nature might aid the efforts of art and science, in developing to a wholesome maturity the thousands who should seek those halls in after time. It was unspeakably pleasant to renew old associations, and to revisit never-to-be-forgotten scenes. As I walked about those old grounds, the words of Thackeray, in Peadennis, on College days, with the remnants of its written memorials, its friendships and pleasures, were ever in my mind;—How strange the epigraphs look in those half boyish hands, and what a thrill the sight of the documents gives one after the lapse of a few lustres. How fate, since that time, has removed some, estranged others, dealt awfully with all. Many a hand is cold that wrote those kindly memorials, and that we pressed in the confident and generous grasp of youthful friendship. What passions our friendships were in those old days; how artless and void of doubt; How the arm you were never tired of having linked in yours under the fair college avenues, or by the river side where it washes Magdalen Gardens or Christ Church meadows, or winds by Trinity and Kings, was withdrawn of necessity, when you entered presently the world, and each parted to push and struggle for himself through the great mob on the way through life.

I arrived at Wolfville on Monday in time to be present at the examination of the young ladies of the Seminary in the Academy Hall. The large room was thoroughly crowded. Decorations of flowers and evergreens, tastefully arranged in festoons and bouquets, relieved the usual sombre appearance of the good old Hall. Fragile fairy forms in white embowered in spruce and roses, personated with no bad effect the wood nymphs they were reading of in the Latin text. Two young ladies, Misses Woodworth and Bishop, having completed the usual studies of the course, received diplomas. Previous to the presentation of the diplomas these young ladies passed a rigid and severe examination in Moral Science. Miss Townsend conducted this examination in an easy yet most skillful and scholarly manner; and the deliberate and thoughtful way in which her questions were

answered showed that the answers were not a matter of rote, but were framed in their minds from well settled principles and sound ethical conclusions. Rev. A. S. Hunt presented the diplomas in a short but appropriate address, after which brief addresses were made by Rev. Dr. Dewolf, Rev. G. M. Grant, of St. Matthews Church, Halifax, Mr. T. A. Higgins, the Principal of the Academy, and the Superintendent of Education, when the proceedings were brought to a close. The demand for more suitable provisions for female education in connection with our Seminary at Horton, is reaching an intensity and force that can no longer be overlooked. The Baptists of these Provinces can no longer with any regard to their position and their wants, do without a large and well-appointed Female Seminary. We are glad to learn that the Governors of the College at their last meeting adopted measures which will probably eventuate in a practical scheme for supplying existing wants.

At half-past 4 o'clock the "Associated Alumni" held their fifth annual meeting. The Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were presented. The balance in the Treasurer's hands after paying incidental expenses was voted to be paid over to the Treasurer of the College. The new constitution as adopted last year, requires the Annual election of all the officers and directors of the society. Upon the ballot being taken, the following persons were elected:—President, Dr. D. McN. Parker; Vice President, Rev. A. S. Hunt; Secretary, John Y. Payzant; Treasurer, Brenton H. Eaton; Directors, Rev. Dr. Pryor, Rev. S. W. Deblois, Rev. E. M. Saunders, S. Selden, Esq., and Dr. W. N. Wickwire. Mr. Selden and Dr. Cramp were appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions at the Western and Eastern Associations, and Rev. A. S. Hunt at the Central Association.

At half-past 7 in the evening the Annual Oration of the Society was delivered in the Baptist Church by Rev. A. H. Munro, on—"The Characteristics of our age, and the duties of the educated classes as suggested by them." This was a chaste and scholarly production, well conceived in design, rich in illustration and thought, and cogent in argument, creditable alike to the orator and to the intelligent society before which it was pronounced. I had intended to have given you an outline of Mr. Munro's line of thought, but as I heard the wish generally expressed among the Alumni that this Oration should be put in print, I presume that with Mr. Munro's concurrence you will have the pleasure ere long of reading it in a form thus permanent.

On Tuesday morning at 11 A. M., the procession of students, graduates, professors and visitors was formed at the College and marched to the Meeting house, which was already crowded in every part, except the platform and reserved seats. As soon as these were occupied by the persons who had joined in the procession, the Choir sang—"Wake the song of Jubilee," accompanied by Mr. Saffry on the Harmonium. After prayer by the Rev. Mr. Grant, the orations of the undergraduates, interspersed with music, were delivered in the following order:

- The Thinker, H. Clifford Creed, Rawdon.
Christian Conservatism, Joseph Murray, Brookfield, Queens.
The Design, Charles T. Andrews, Bridgewater.
Music....."The earth is the Lord's."
Charity, Thomas A. Blackadar, Hebron.
The Consecration, William B. Boggs, Stewiacke.
Music....."Wake, Isles of the South."
"To be or not to be," Thomas E. Corning, Yarmouth.
The Silly, Seth D. Shaw, Three Rivers, P. E. I.
The Prime Agent, Eliakim N. Archibald, Stewiacke.
Music....."Songs of Praise the Angels sang."
Speculation, Silas MacVane, Bothwell, P. E. I.
The Issue, D. Allan Steele, Halifax.
Music....."Heavenly Rest."

The general character of these orations was unusually good. They were all remarkably free from the common faults of such performances, crass pretentiousness and wordy declamation. They were marked by a maturity and independence of thought that was a pleasing surprise. The impression they created was that they were the compositions not of boys but of men, who had begun to think for themselves and had the manliness to say what they thought. We can conceive of no higher compliment that could be offered to such productions; and in connection with it, we may do no harm by hinting to our young friends who pleased us so highly on Tuesday morning, that in most cases their delivery might be improved. Probably the occasion was an unfavourable one for judging

upon this point. Essays committed to memory and recited before a large audience and many strange faces, are seldom delivered with much effect. It is unwise of the undergraduates to submit themselves to such an ordeal. It would be much better to read what every one knows is written, and in the hands of a prompter sitting in front of the speaker, who by taking the manuscript into his own hands, would relieve himself from much nervous anxiety and be able to deliver his thoughts with a distinctness, the absence of which was the only defect in the present instance.

The orations having been all heard with unflagging interest, their authors who had successfully passed through the examination for degree of B. A., had it conferred upon them by the President of the College in due form. Honours for extra studies, were then conferred upon the following gentlemen:

- SENIOR CLASS, (now graduated).
H. Clifford Creed, William B. Boggs,
Silas MacVane, David A. Steele,
Charles Andrews,

- JUNIORS.
Leander Morse, James Norton.

- FRESHMEN.
William Elder, Isaac Wheelock,
John McDonald, Robert C. Douglas,
Enoch Spinney, Freeman Fufts.

The students who had completed their College course having been addressed by the Rev. Dr. Cramp in a brief valediction of kind congratulation and judicious counsel, the proceedings closed with the National Anthem and benediction.

At 3 P. M. the Associated Alumni dinner took place in the gymnasium, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion. At the close a public meeting was held, at which Dr. McN. Parker, of Halifax, President of the Associated Alumni Society, presided. The Rev. Mr. Grant, of St. Matthews, being called upon, addressed the meeting with much fluency and force, his remarks chiefly referring to the benefits conferred upon religious interests and progress, by educated men, in all past ages, and therefore the wisdom and duty of religious men's promoting education. The Rev. Dr. DeWolf, of Sackville College, followed, in a warm and discriminating eulogy upon the orations of the morning. The Rev. Mr. Welton, of Windsor, then spoke upon the necessity of the denomination doing more for the Female Seminary,—a subject of which we hope to hear at our associations. Dr. Hea, of Horton, in reply to repeated calls, rose and bore testimony to the devotion of the Professors of Acadia College to their duties, and also to the wonderful improvement effected in the intellect and deportment of the students during their four years course. The Rev. Mr. Desbrisay was the last speaker called upon, and made grateful reference to his own college days and the benefits he had derived from them. The chairman, in conclusion, made some very touching and appropriate remarks upon the difficulties some students had had to encounter, and by the most noble efforts surmounted. The meeting then closed by the benediction being pronounced by the Rev. Dr. Pryor.

THE FREEDMEN IN THE SOUTH.

The question as to what is meant by the abolition of slavery is agitating the south; and is likely to cause considerable irritation for some time to come. Whether the colored population shall be entitled to exercise electoral rights is at present undecided. A deputation of colored clergymen recently waited upon President Johnson who besought them to impress upon their people, "that freedom simply means liberty to work and enjoy the product of a man's own toil, and how much he may put into the stomach and on his back;" and that the kindness lately exhibited to them must not be understood as absolving them from labor.

The following letter from "Viator" (Rev. Chas. Corey,) to the Ch. Visitor, indicates somewhat the difficulties which surround the people, white and colored, in the south.

Charleston, May 12, 1866.

MR. EDITOR.—Some persons may desire to know about business prospects in this, the Palmetto City. At present, trade is very dull. There is no money, except what is brought here by Northern people. The citizens have no money, their all was invested in Confederate Bonds, so great was their faith in their so-called Government. It is too late to plant cotton and rice for this season—a little, and but little planting has been done. There will be, therefore, nothing to produce money. The citizens, for months to come, must be supported by charity to a great extent.

There seems to be an increasing and deadly hate between the Southern whites and the negro. The slaveholder cannot bear to see the negro entering upon the new relationship which his freedom has conferred upon him. He can no longer oppress him with impunity. This galls the sons of the chivalric South. It seems to me that blood must inevitably flow. Mat-

ters seem to grow worse every day. A day or two since a meeting of the citizens of Charleston was called to deliberate concerning the restoration of the State to the Union. A few colored men and soldiers were quietly sitting as spectators, waiting for the opening of the meeting. The colored men were asked by a Federal officer to leave the Hall. This they did, and the audience of whites applauded their ejection. The colored people soon found that the U. S. Government recognized them as citizens, and they came back cheering. The most of the whites then left, adjourning sine die. At one time I thought a row inevitable. When I saw the guards fixing their bayonets, and every one looking desperate, I looked for a window through which to tumble when they should begin to shout and stab. The most of the citizens went away sullen and chagrined. A few remained and passed resolutions. Had it been in the night, there would have been a most desperate row, is the opinion of many. I think the storm that is evidently gathering, will soon inevitably culminate in something horrible. Many are anxious to get away before it bursts. Woe to secessionists when it does.

The more I see of the colored people, and the more I learn respecting the wrongs they have suffered, the higher opinion I have of them, and the less sympathy with secessionists. I am astonished at facts that I learn almost every day concerning that accursed system, blasphemously pronounced divine, and which was avowedly to be the corner-stone of their phantom oligarchy. The free colored people were ground down almost as badly as slaves. They could not ride in a coach without permission, they could not have a little family party without getting all their neighbors to sign a petition or statement that their neighbors had no objections. A free man could not sleep in his own house without "a sleeping ticket" as it is called. If he built a house too large, it would be torn down. Sometimes when I hear good old men and women talk of the past my blood boils, and the narratives of oppression and outrage arouse all the indignation of my nature. At others, their sublime patience and marvellous faith amid great wrongs affect me to tears; and when I learn of their heroism in secreting and feeding our sick and imprisoned ones, when hanging was the penalty if suspected of such crimes, I cannot withhold my admiration.

The Great God, I feel, has this matter in hand—it seems to me, and has all along—that He has taken upon Himself the righting of their wrongs. He does not go to sleep on His rusted thunderbolts. He will not let a nation travel peacefully along down the ages, dragging at its heels in clanking chains four millions of His own creation.

The Watchman & Reflector remarks that, "colored Men at the South are, apparently, not likely to become citizens, but will, we fear have to content themselves, as well as they can, with the rank of freedmen, which is less than they hoped for, and less than they had the right to expect. It has been suddenly discovered, since the close of the war this side of the Mississippi, that it remains for the people of each Southern State to decide who shall be citizens in it; and we know enough of the South to be aware that there is hardly one of its States in which the whites are ready to admit the blacks to the condition of citizenship. If the people of the once rebellious and now conquered States, are alone endowed with both the right and the power to say who shall become citizens within their borders, this was just as well known a fact three years ago as it is to-day, and we ought not to have held out hopes to those whom they hate, and whom we must have known were not likely to be allowed to become men by their old masters and oppressors. But it is mere hush to talk of State rights in connection with this business. The Confederate States that were, are a conquered community, and it is a truism that it lies with conquerors to say what disposition shall be made of those whom they have subdued. Conquerors are despotic. There is no limitation to their power. The laws and practices of the vanquished to them are nothing. We are by no means disposed to insist upon the extreme application of this right in the present instance, but would have the South treated with great mildness. We would deprive none of the Southrons of their rights under the law, but would restore every Southern State to its old condition, less slavery and its consequences. Thus far we would be gracious; but certainly we would not carry grace so far as to recognize the prejudices of the conquered, and we would not base action on those prejudices. In return for allowing the Southrons to retain all their rights, we would insist upon their admitting their colored people to the enjoyment of equal rights before the law. There would be no tyranny in that, but quite the reverse of it; and it would be but to redeem our pledges to the colored race thus to insist, we being bound by every consideration of honor to place the freedmen that are in the state of free men in the fullest sense of the words. Further, if State rights are so very precious, by what right do we demand that the Southern States shall abolish slavery? It was an old position of the State rights men, that the Federal government could not interfere with the local institutions of any State, and that position we profess to hold in so much respect, that we think of allowing the conquered States to dictate the political condition of their colored population, while we shall dictate their social condition! Surely there is a strange inconsistency in such conduct as that which we are expected to pursue. If we have not the right to say that the blacks shall be men, neither have we the right to say that they shall not be slaves. Upon what does our right to dictate the abolition of slavery rest? Simply upon force. It exists solely from conquest."