

of the clergy on the island revenues is entirely destroyed, and the connection of the State with the Church abolished.

The mischievous practice of encouraging the labourers to work by giving them rum, is likely to receive a check by the increased tax about to be levied upon it whether the rum is consumed on the estate or in the grog-shop.

Address to Bishop Binney.

The following documents speak for themselves. The address cannot but prove gratifying to the Bishop. It is resolved to present the Bishop with a CROSIER, or PASTORAL STAFF.

To THE RIGHT REVEREND FATHER IN GOD, HIBBERT LORD BISHOP OF NOVA SCOTIA.

We the Dean, Archdeacon and Clergy of the Diocese of Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, approach your Lordship with profound veneration for your sacred office, and with much respect for your person.

We have read with astonishment and sorrow the letters recently addressed to your Lordship in which grave charges, as to Doctrine and practice, are preferred against you.

We desire, while acknowledging the obligation of obedience to your office, to record our testimony to your wise and consistent teaching, and your abounding labours throughout the whole term of your Episcopate, and also to assure you of our entire confidence in your administration.

- (Signed.) WILLIAM BULLOCK, D. D., Dean of the Cathedral of the Church. GEORGE McCAWLEY, D. D., Archdeacon of Nova Scotia. EDWIN GILPIN, D. D., Canon. JOHN AMBROSE, Rector of St Margaret's Parish. J. S. SMITH, Rector of Sackville. DAVID MOORE, Incumbent of New Foss. THOMAS MATYARD, Rector of Christ's Church, Windsor. JOHN ABBOT, Curate and Minor Canon, St. Luke's, Halifax. GEO. EDW. WENTWORTH MORRIS, Retired Miss of S. P. G. F. J. G. EDGHILL, Chaplain H. M. Forces. CHARLES BOWMAN, Rector of St. Paul's, Rawdon. GEORGE W. HOBGSON, Curate of Falmouth. CHARLES CROUCHER, Curate of St. Margaret's Bay. J. BREADING, Missionary at Falkland. O. M. GRINDON, Missionary at Three Fathom Harbour. W. H. BULLOCK, Missionary at Bridgewater. J. FORSYTH, Rector of Truro. H. WILLIAMS, Curate of Truro.

You are requested to return this Circular either signed or not before the 21st of December.

—Witness.

EDWIN GILPIN.

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College Annual Prizes.

The Directors of the "Associated Alumni of Acadia College" have had under consideration the desirableness of offering a number of annual prizes "for the better encouragement of Education in connection with the College."

I. MATRICULATION PRIZES.

FIRST PRIZE, (Donor's name withheld,) \$20.00. To the matriculate who shall pass the best examination.

SECOND PRIZE, (The B. H. Eaton Prize,) \$10.00. Open to Candidates from all Schools and Academies. Prizes to be awarded by the Examiners, and publicly distributed at the opening exercises of the College in September of each year.

In case there shall be less than ten matriculates in any year, the money offered as a second prize shall be expended by the Faculty, to procure gowns, caps, and hoods, for the occasional use of non-resident Alumni.

II. SCHOLARSHIP PRIZES.

FRESHMAN CLASS...Prize \$20. For the best Scholarship on the regular Curriculum of study, (honor studies excepted.)

Open to the members of each class respectively.

Each class of ten or more members to award, at the close of the scholastic year, its own prize. Ungentlemanly conduct shall render any student ineligible for the prize.

If there shall be less than ten members in any class, the Faculty shall award the prize, if they deem any member fairly entitled to it; otherwise they shall appropriate the money to the College Library.

Prizes to be publicly presented, through the Alumni Association, at the Anniversary Exercises of the College.

III. ELOCUTION PRIZE.—(READING AND SPEAKING)

THE AYARD LONGLEY PRIZE, \$20.00 To the best Elocutionist.

Open to all Undergraduates. Prize to be adjudged by the Faculty, and publicly presented, through the Alumni Association, at the College Anniversary.

IV. MONTHLY ESSAY PRIZE.

THE H. N. PAINT PRIZE, \$25. For the best series of Monthly Essays during the College year.

Open to all Undergraduates. Prize to be awarded by the Faculty, and presented at the Anniversary of the College. The list of subjects to be read at the same time. No Student shall be eligible whose Essays contain five misspelled words, or five errors in diction.

V. ALUMNI PRIZE.

ALUMNI SOCIETY PRIZE, \$40.00. For the best original Essay.

Open to all Undergraduates. Subject to be chosen by the Executive Committee of the Association, and announced by Christmas in each year. Competitors to forward their papers to the Committee, by the first of May. Papers bearing evidences of plagiarism shall be rejected. Prize to be awarded by Examiners appointed by the Executive Committee, and publicly presented during the Anniversary of the College.

Prize Essay to be read by the writer if requested by the Association.

VI. CRICKET PRIZES.

1. THE LEWIS PAYZANT PRIZE, \$20.00.

Open to members of Horton Academy and Acadia College Cricket Clubs.

One Match, between the clubs, to be played at the close of the cricket season in the Autumn of each year; and another during the Anniversary Exercises of the College. Umpires to be approved by the Faculty. Prize to be taken by the member of the winning club making the highest aggregate score in the two matches; but any member not attending at least three fourths of the regular practice of his club shall be ineligible for the prize.

In case of a tie, prize to be awarded to the one who has attended play most regularly. In case of a tie between the Clubs, an over of four balls shall decide.

The day for playing the final match shall be determined by the Faculty.

Prize to be adjudged by the Umpires and publicly presented, through the Alumni Association, at the College Anniversary.

If in the judgment of the Umpires the playing is below what might reasonably be expected, the prize shall not be awarded.

2. CONSOLATION PRIZE, (Donor's name withheld,) \$10.00

To the best player on the losing side, provided his aggregate score is higher than that of any player on the winning side.

NOTE.—Three of the "Scholarship Prizes" are secured. The Prize for the "Freshman Class," however, is yet to be provided for. It is announced, in the confident hope that some friend will make the offer his own.

The subject for the "Alumni Essay Prize," to be awarded at the next Anniversary, is—"The claims of the Natural Sciences to occupy a prominent place in the Curriculum of a College"

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 26, 1866.

Valedictory to 1866.

"Time is short" is a truth of which we have daily illustrations. The rapid flight of Time is noticed each year more and more as we advance from childhood to age. To the young, all buoyancy and hope, its wheels appear to move slowly as they look forward into the uncertain future, eager to grasp the supposed good in prospect; but, those who have realized some of the disappointments which arise from the great expectations cherished in earlier days, have learned that there is alloy in the brightest visions; and that whatever of evil they may anticipate that there will be some compensations—that life is neither all brightness nor all gloom;—but that its path is chequered, and it is wise to give heed to present duty, and make use of present advantages, rather than to waste time in lamenting over the mistakes of the past, or in indulging desires of knowing the uncertainties of the future before they are revealed.

And yet we do look forward and calculate on the probabilities of what is yet to come on the

morrow. Unless we did this to some extent we should place ourselves on a level with the lower animals, guided only by instinct.—Our time is given us only by moments, but we place them in larger groups of hours, days, weeks, months, and years.

A YEAR.

And what of year? Is not one about the same as another? It is but a fragment of Time,—a drop from the great ocean—Eternity,—one of the periods marked out by the great orbit of the earth's motion around our central luminary.

The year 1866 of which so many things were anticipated, and during which such marvellous changes were predicted, has come, and has nearly gone, and now at its close we are led to enquire if it has brought forth all that was expected of it.

The would-be prophets have again had to change their ground and admit that they were not quite correct in their calculations. The figures of which the date is composed was supposed to portend something remarkable. Perhaps a glance at the history of the year will shew that although we have seen the days and nights come and go about as they have done in other years, yet that there have been nevertheless a few remarkable changes during that year worthy of some notice. Some of these have been looked forward to for centuries, and have arrived at their climax during the year.

The war between Prussia and Austria may be regarded as having changed the aspect of the European nations more than any political movement which has taken place since the Reformation. A professedly Protestant nation becomes virtually the dictator of the Germanic confederation. In the train of events consequent on this is another, that of the Pope's being left to his own resources in his contracted dominions, and holding his temporal sovereignty only by permission from an excommunicated son of the Church. The age when the Papal Church can dictate to nations is now past, and the year 1866 will be held in remembrance in connection with this remarkable change.

Then again the great problem of the union of the two continents of Europe and America by electric telegraph, has been effectually solved, and the greater question of the possibility of picking up the broken one is decided. What had been heretofore regarded by many as chimerical and foolish, has been successfully effected—a triumph of human effort and scientific skill. Whilst some great plans may have arrived at maturity we doubt not, others have been initiated or promoted, which will in due time be brought to a climax, so that future years will shew that in this respect the year has been more fruitful of results than any of the preceding ones. We might go on to any extent indulging in speculation on the probabilities of the future, but in so doingshould perhaps encourage a spirit which has wrought great mischief to men and communities.

With regard to our own country, we may remark that British America has during the year been somewhat disturbed, as might have been expected, by the dregs of the great army thrown off by the neighbouring Republic, as a useless incumbrance, after the South had been devastated and crushed. The prompt action of our fellow subjects in Canada, in harmony with the Imperial authorities has reassured us of no very serious injury being inflicted by the cowardly Fenians on our political institutions. The disturbance caused by them has been sufficient to shew that we who rejoice in our connection with Great Britain are one at heart, and are disposed to cultivate more intimate commercial and political relationship than heretofore.

Whatever changes may be in store for us we doubt not they will be peacefully effected. As one of the offshoots of the great British family we are but in our youthful days and must expect to have demands made upon us according to our strength and capabilities. With a firm reliance on divine Providence and adherence to the cause of right, we may hope to make advances in the path of progress, so as to bring no disgrace on the name we rejoice to bear.

Each year will witness new developments in government, in education, in morality and religion. And as each man brings his influence for good to operate on these several departments, so will he be blessed, and so will the country rise and shine on its darker surroundings, thus bringing the world more and more under the reign of righteousness and truth.

The Year 1866 must shortly write its last sentence, and remove from the stage to make room for Time's younger daughter—1867. Farewell, then, fair Almoner of the Divine bounty. Thy days are numbered. Thy race is nearly complete, and with thy faithful record thou must retire to the great library of Eternity there to remain with thy volume

of the book of God's remembrance, and await with thy predecessors until called forth at the judgment to bear witness; when men shall be judged according to the deeds done in the body, whether they have been good or bad.

Rev. George A. McNutt.

A short paragraph has appeared in the Messenger, as well as in several other papers, concerning the change of sentiment of the Rev. Mr. McNutt of St. John, N. B. After we had gone to press with our last issue we received a letter from a friend in St. John, giving us an account of the change. Although it is an uncommon thing for a clergyman of the Church of England to become a Baptist minister, yet it is not an unprecedented or unaccountable circumstance.

Our readers will be interested to learn something of the history of his change of views.

It appears that Mr. McNutt has been the assistant of the Rev. Dr. Gray for the past four years or more, and received Episcopal ordination from Bishop Medley. He has for a good while past had doubts on the subject of baptism as practiced in the Church of England. The Christian Visitor states that:

"When the subject first suggested itself to his mind for investigation, he rejected it, and sought to quiet his conscience as best he could with the idea that it was not a matter of vital interest; but some twelve months ago he became so seriously impressed with the importance of giving the question a careful examination, that he resolved to do so. Consequently for the last year he has been a most diligent and prayerful inquirer after truth, and the result is a radical change of sentiment regarding the subjects and mode of Christian baptism, and the nature and discipline of the Christian Church. Having become a thorough convert to the Baptist faith, he lost no time in tendering the resignation of his position in Trinity, and in offering himself as a candidate for baptism."

It appears that Mr. McN. had contemplated leaving St. John after he had published a pamphlet setting forth his reasons for the course he had taken. However, as the Rev. W. V. Garner had just accepted the invitation of a Baptist church in Boston, the Leinster Street Church in St. John was shortly to be without a pastor, and the Deacons waited on Mr. McNutt to enquire if he would take charge of the pulpit until he should ascertain what might be his path of duty. He did not anticipate such visit, and could not reply at once, but subsequently accepted the invitation for a time.

It is gratifying to learn that the pious portion of the members at Trinity Church speak in the kindest manner of Mr. McNutt.

We learn from our contemporary that:

"(On Wednesday last he was baptized by Rev. W. V. Garner, at the Ballast Wharf, in the presence of an immense congregation, among whom were many of his Episcopalian friends. Hymn read by Elder G. Garraty, and sung; appropriate Scriptures read by Rev. G. M. W. Carey; prayer was offered by the Rev. I. E. Bill. The season was one of very great interest."

Our Bro. Bill further states: "Our brother has accepted a unanimous call from the Leinster Street Church, to supply the place vacated by the resignation of their late beloved pastor, and will enter upon his ministry there next Sabbath. It seems indeed a very marked providence that when the members were exceedingly anxious, not knowing how they were to be supplied when their pastor should leave, that God should give them one from a very unexpected quarter. "As the heavens are high above the earth, so high are his ways above our ways." We most cordially welcome our brother as a member of the Baptist family, and trust he will find amongst us not only a comfortable religious home, but a sphere of great spiritual usefulness."

Rev. John Francis.

The following letters published in the San Francisco Evangel will be read with interest by many of the friends of the writer in this province:

Sacramento, Oct. 24, 1866.—DEAR BRO—The meetings still continue to be interesting; the ordinance of baptism will be administered again next Sabbath. I may be obliged to remain over the following Sabbath, to give the hand of fellowship and administer the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.

A telegraphic despatch was received yesterday from Bro. Charlton. He left New York on the 20th inst.—the day the despatch was dated—via Panama route. I am glad to hear that the interest in San Francisco is unabated. May this whole coast, and the world, be filled with the Redeemer's glory! Amen.

Affectionately as ever.

JOHN FRANCIS.

Sacramento, Oct. 26, 1866.—DEAR BRO. HILTON.—We had a meeting of ministers and representatives of churches and noon-day prayer meeting to-day, and passed resolutions cordially and earnestly inviting Bro. Earl to Sacramento. The pastors will meet at Bro. Dwinell's study on Monday, to prepare the memorial,