

of youthful sins be traced upon the tablet of the life when it has merged into old age,—tracks which it is bitter and sad remorse to look upon, and which call forth many a bootless longing for the days and months which are past.—*Rev. Arthur Mursell.*

REV. THOS. BINNEY ON IMITATION.

Mr. Binney is a sage and far-seeing man.—The other day he attended the annual conference of the pastors and students of Mr. Spurgeon's College, and gave a very characteristic address. After telling Mr. Spurgeon a piece of his mind as to what he *once* thought of his preaching, and what were the ideas he *now* entertained of the man and his sermons, he went on to warn the students against imitating Mr. Spurgeon, or, indeed, any other man. In doing so, he said:—"Mr. Spurgeon might multiply a certain class of men until they would be too numerous; and he hoped, therefore, that the young men would not try to be mere imitators of Mr. Spurgeon. He knew that the young men at Bristol imitated Robert Hall, and one day Mr. Hall spoke of one who so closely followed him, that he even imitated the pain in his back. He (Mr. Binney) heard of a young man who preached for a certain congregation, and who satisfied them, but he made so many pauses in his preaching that the people kindly remonstrated with him on the subject. 'Don't you like them?' said the young man, 'why, they are the great secret of Mr. Binney's popularity.' The worst was, such persons generally imitated those matters which they should never copy." The habit here condemned is one that cannot be too severely spoken against. And yet, in certain cases, at a certain stage of development, it is impossible to avoid falling into it, it placed in certain circumstances. A powerful original mind will make an impression on the sensitive souls of young ardent students. Such a one is sure to have his imitators; but this will only be so long as those who admire them are in their immature condition. If it continue longer, evil will be the result. A man, to be a true man, must be himself. He can never be himself if he borrows largely from the modes of thought, speech, and action of even his superiors. Of all men, preachers should be, to the extent of their capacity, original men. Unless they are such, they never will be able to represent the thoughts and feelings of God to their followers. This originality can be reached by studying the Bible for one's self, and not taking its truths second-hand.—Imitators are second-hand men at best.—*Glasgow Christian News.*

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JUNE 17, 1868.

N. S. Central Baptist Association.

The Nineteenth Annual Session of this religious organization was commenced on Saturday last at the Baptist Church in Gaspereaux. The beauty of this locality has been known by comparatively few, seeing that it is not in the direct route of travel through the Province. It extends from Lower Horton five or six miles westward, and comprises the sloping sides of the Horton mountains, about one mile in width, with a fine river winding its way along the centre of the valley among the drooping willows, and elms, and other trees, which in many parts hide it entirely from observation. Throughout the whole extent of the valley are finely cultivated farms, with numerous white farm-houses dotting the declivities, and giving the scene in every direction a most picturesque and romantic appearance.

The showers of rain that fell on Friday and early on Saturday, rendered travelling very difficult, and although it ceased to some extent during the morning, a thick fog had settled over the valley, so as to shut out its loveliness from observation at any distance, and prevent many from coming to this centre of attraction. Soon after the time appointed however the brethren had assembled in sufficient numbers to commence the preliminary business of the Association.

The Moderator of last year, Rev. Jas. Parker, opened the meeting with devotional exercises, and the Secretary Rev. E. O. Read proceeded to prepare from the Letters a list of the Delegates. On this being completed a ballot was taken which resulted in the election of Rev. Dr. Cramp for Moderator. The Rev. S. B. Kempton was appointed Secretary and Bro. Andrew Shaw, Assistant Secretary; Brother Charles F. Eaton was chosen Treasurer, and Brother M. A. Davidson, Assistant Treasurer.

The Committee to examine Letters was the Rev. J. Stevens, Rev. J. Chase, and Professor D. F. Higgins.

The Committee to read the Letters from

the Churches, was the Revs. D. M. Welton, J. E. Balcom, and Isaiah Wallace.

A Committee of Nomination and Arrangements was appointed, comprising the pastors of the several churches in the neighbourhood.

A number of Letters were read giving the usual variety of experience amongst the various churches. Times of depression had told severely on many of them, but some brought forth notes of rejoicing over reviving grace, and saved sinners. We are as yet unable to give any approximation as to the results.

On a motion to appoint a Committee on the *Christian Messenger* a warm discussion arose. Eventually an amendment was offered by J. W. Bares, Esq., seconded and supported by a number of brethren, and carried by an overwhelming majority, as follows:—

"Resolved, That this Association wishes to express its continued confidence in the general management of the *Christian Messenger*, and in the general tone of its articles. Although they do not feel called upon to endorse all its contents, still they sympathize with the Editor in his endeavours to faithfully present the truths and doctrines held by the Baptist denomination in this Province, and therefore recommend its continued support to the members of the churches forming this Association."

At the request of Dr. Crawley and Judge Johnston, Monday afternoon was appointed to consider matters relating to Granville St. Church.

Two sittings were held on Saturday, and continued till after 7 o'clock.

Various appointments were made for preaching on Lord's Day in all the neighboring churches extending from Hantsport to Canning.

Sunday was clear, bright and warm, and everywhere people were out, and going to the various places according to the minister they wished to hear, or the people with whom they wished to worship.

Monday morning opened auspiciously and spread a charm over the whole face of Nature. While gazing over the beautiful scenery we can-but exclaim

"Here every prospect pleases
And only man is vile."

Nevertheless the spirit of Christ is dwelling in many hearts and producing from the seeds of the kingdom sown by his servants, joy and peace and blessing, which will expand and spread until completed in glory.

Acadia College Anniversary.

The past week has been one of much interest to the friends of Collegiate Education in connection with the Institutions at Wolfville. Some of these had come from parts at a considerable distance—from Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and several different counties of Nova Scotia.

An early start on Wednesday morning in company with a number of friends from Halifax, with a bright clear sunshine was most charming, and gave an auspicious commencement to this visit to that delightful part of our province. Although the season is a backward one, yet after leaving Windsor we soon came to the region of lovely apple blossoms.

THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNI OF ACADIA COLLEGE.

On Wednesday afternoon the annual meeting of the Associated Alumni of Acadia College was held in the Vestry of the Wolfville Church. The President, T. H. Rand, Esq., called on Rev. Dr. Cramp to open the meeting by Prayer.

The Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were read by B. H. Eaton, Esq., the Treasurer. This document showed that two members had been added to the list, and the finances indicated a healthy condition of the Society.

Arrangements were made for the granting the Prizes the same as last year. And an intimation given of another one—a gold medal—being added to the list by a friend of the College at New York.

The officers of the Institution for the ensuing year were elected as follows:

President—Prof. D. F. Higgins.
Vice President—Avar Longley, Esq.
Secretary—J. Y. Payzant, Esq.
Treasurer—B. H. Eaton, Esq.
Directors—T. H. Rand, Esq., Rev. T. A. Higgins, M. A., Rev. E. M. Saunders, M. A., E. D. King, Esq., M. A., and Rev. S. W. DeBlois, M. A.

THE ORATION.

In the evening a large audience assembled in the Baptist Church to listen to the Annual Oration. Professor Higgins was surrounded by a number of friends invited to seats on the platform—T. H. Rand, A. Longley, and S. Selden, Judge Johnston, Revs. Dr. Cramp, Dr. Crawley, E. M. Saunders, W. S. McKenzie, I. E. Bill, G. Armstrong, A. S. Hunt, Isaiah Wallace, and D. M. Welton.

After a hymn had been sung, the President

introduced the Orator John Y. Payzant, Esq., by a few appropriate remarks and announced his subject, "The scope and design of a University course of Education." The advantages arising from an extended course of mental cultivation were shewn, and the experience of those who are receiving such training dwelt on with much minuteness. The present facilities were described, and the necessity of enlarged equipments in our Institutions depicted. The importance of securing more aid for those undergoing a preparatory process in Theology and Law were dwelt upon at some length, with the difficulties which bar the first steps of the student when entering on his professional career. The necessity of having provision made for a course of law studies in a University curriculum was shewn.

At the close of the Oration Mr. T. H. Rand in a few appropriate remarks, referred to the great importance of the Natural Sciences in the University course—as noticed briefly by Mr. Payzant—anticipating the time at some distant day, when the full demands which had been laid down, would be attainable in Nova Scotia. He moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Payzant for his able Oration. This was seconded by the Rev. W. S. McKenzie.

The Hon. Judge Johnston expressed his assent to much of what he had listened to with great pleasure. Having been himself somewhat concerned in the early difficulties to which allusion had been made, he could but feel gratified at the result in the instance of the Orator for the evening. The time, however, that it would be found necessary to wait for the advantages sought in a University course need not, he thought, in our altered circumstances, be so great as was supposed by some. A wider field had already been opened, from which he believed great advantages would be derived in this respect. The Rev. George Armstrong spoke in commendation of the sentiments of the oration, and the benefits of an extended course of higher education for men in every walk of life.

THE COLLEGE ANNIVERSARY.

Thursday morning opened with the promise of a day of the greatest imaginable splendor. Nature had put on her most charming robes, and the scenery in every direction from the College hill was that of unsurpassing loveliness and beauty. The mingling of land and water, the distant river and Basin, the bold promontory of Blomidon, and the extensive plain of Grand Pré and Cornwallis, all combined to afford delight and call forth the exclamation, "The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord."

The British standard is floating from the tall flagstaff, and all is animation. Students and friends are passing to and fro on the grounds, and exchanging pleasant greetings on the auspicious occasion.

At ten o'clock the College bell rings out its full sonorous tones and calls together from far and near delighted friends, who have come to witness the debut of a class of ten who having completed their course of four years diligent student-life, are to-day to be recognized as men of culture, and come forth to take their place in the ranks of the refined and educated.

The Faculty, Students in their College costume, the Governors, Scholarship-holders, Graduates and friends, appear on the grounds in front of the College, and are marshalled in procession from the College to the Baptist House of Worship, where is already assembled a large company of ladies and gentlemen to participate in the mental festivities of the day.

On the platform are the President, Rev. Dr. Cramp; Rev. Dr. Crawley, Professors Higgins and Jones, Revs. I. E. Bill, A. S. Hunt, W. S. McKenzie, D. M. Welton, E. M. Saunders, G. F. Miles, James Parker, G. Armstrong, E. C. Cady, S. W. DeBlois, and Judge Johnston.

The opening Anthem of welcome having been sung, the Rev. E. C. Cady is called upon to offer Prayer.

The Orations of the Under-Graduates are then called for in the following order:

"The Better Way," by Mr. Hector E. Munro, of Onslow—a neat, chaste production, showing the importance of pursuing life in its various phases, along the narrow path which leads to joys on high.

"Now," by Mr. E. C. Spinney, of Wilmot—a vigorous call for a life of activity, shewing that present action is necessary if we would accomplish any good for ourselves or for the world.

"Creation" by Mr. John Wallace of Wolfville—an able exhibition of the various modes by which man co-operates with his Maker in creating new forms of thought and matter, thus making continual additions to the original creation.

Here an anthem, rendered with fine effect

by the well-trained choir, under Professor Spinney, enchaind the attention of the audience.

"We make thee, Fortune, a goddess," by Mr. Lewis Hunt of Cornwallis. It was shewn that men too much depend on Fortune as an overruling deity, and by doing so fail to realize the benefits which self-reliant and diligent labor would otherwise secure.

"The End not yet" by Mr. Daniel Eaton of Cornwallis—a chapter of consolation to those who become discouraged at seeing the present unsatisfactory state of things; and of inducements to look beyond.

"The Practical" by Mr. John F. Tufts of New Albany—a comparison instituted between the mere theorist and him who applies his powers to the bringing forth of results, and making what he does contribute to the purposes of life, and the good of his fellow-men.

Music was here again brought in to give pleasure and relief from the closer mental application required by the essays.

Then "The Agent of the Age," by James W. Johnson of Wolfville—Commerce was shewn to be that which makes the human race one great family, each country contributing towards the necessities of all the rest.

"The Mediterranean," by Mr. H. U. Messenger of Falmouth—the historical associations of this 'centre of the world' were brought out with much vividness. A rapid sketch was given of the countries on its shores—Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Greece, Rome, &c. The material and living treasures this sea has received into its depths were noticed, and the time anticipated when at the resurrection the sea shall again give up its dead.

"Mental Equipoise" by Mr. John Macdonald of Uigg, P. E. I., and "Farewell" by Mr. William A. Mackinlay, of Charlottetown, P. E. I., were omitted in consequence of sickness.

These orations were all necessarily brief, but were of a high order, and indicated superior mental cultivation, reflecting much credit on the members of the classes as well as the professors under whom the speakers had been pursuing their studies. The examinations had been previously conducted, and now that they had passed through their graduating exercises, the Class of ten Under-Graduates were presented by the Rev. S. W. DeBlois the Secretary to the Governors, to the President for their diplomas. These being handed to each with the usual, "Admittimus te, Domine, ad gradum Baccalauri in Artibus, et ad omnes ejus honores et dignitates, &c.," they retired for investiture, and appeared again with their Bachelor's hoods, and received from the President the following

ADDRESS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS.
Gentlemen,—

Where shall we be fifty years hence?—The speaker will doubtless be in another world. Many of this congregation will also be in another world. Where will you be? It may be supposed that some of you will have finished your pilgrimage ere the close of the period indicated: others will have lived all that time here on earth, and will then be grey-headed men. What will be the review of those fifty years? How will you look back upon the past?

Your earthly lots may be very diversified. I see one commencing the journey of life with firm, steady step, and at a pace which he will be able to sustain. He does not rush along with railroad speed, as though he were impatient of the time and toil required, and thought of nothing but the end. He pursues "the even tenor of his way"—calculates—plans—compares—husbands his strength and economises his resources—and ever seeking to use and apply to the best advantage the opportunities placed in his hands. He gains wisdom by experience. He fathoms character and scans motives. He looks all round a subject before he forms a decision, and so his judgment is rarely at fault. If he is engaged in commerce, he adopts a safe policy. Others may be beguiled by showy speculations, and incur heavy risks in the hope of securing unnatural profits; but prudence saves him from rash ventures. "Slow and sure" is his motto—a good one, always supposing that he who chooses it is not too slow. He is like the righteous man, who "holds on his way" and "waxes stronger and stronger." The projects of that man are successful. Prosperity rewards and encourages him. He gets a name among men. And what he gets, he holds. Fifty years hence, his career will be drawing to a close. It will not be long before he will descend into the valley, amid the congratulations and plaudits of his compeers:—if it shall also appear that he lived as "under law to Christ," he will hear the voice of the Master, saying "Well done, good, and faithful servant, Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Very different will be the history of a second. His is a life of struggle, varied only by new checks and disappointments. The voyage is stormy all the time. Baffling, adverse winds hinder his progress. What he gains one day he loses the next, and every now and then a sudden blast assails him with crippling force, and he is driven at the mercy of the elements. Year