

the sea shore, or the hills of the country, as the fancy may dictate; the great object being to go *somewhere away from home*. All over New England hotels are crammed, while nearly every farm house is extemporized into "a summer boarding house," each one accommodating from two or three, to twenty-five guests. The poorer the accommodation and the higher the prices charged, the more fashionable and eagerly sought for the place. Discomforts, which if called upon to endure *at home*, would drive *Paterfamilias* partially insane and perhaps lead his better half to seek for a divorce on the ground of cruelty, are not only submitted to with cheerfulness, and paid for at exorbitant prices, but are joyfully welcomed if they only bear the stamp of fashion. And in these extravagant expenditures, this bowing down blindly before the mandates of the god of fashion, the line between the Church and the world is so faintly drawn as to require very careful examination to discover it.

EDUCATIONAL.

July and August are the months when the annual commencements of most of our Colleges and Seminaries, and the exhibitions of the graduating classes of our Public Schools, take place. These are the occasions of the most pleasant reunions, when the children of a generation or more, gather around their *Alma Mater* and rehearse the scenes of bye gone years; tell of their own successes or failures in life and "devise liberal things" to carry forward the great work of education to its highest results. Never before have all our institutions of learning been so prospered as during the past year; and they now give promise of still more enlarged usefulness in the future. Endowments are being increased—amounting this year to more than one million of dollars—the standards of instruction are advanced still higher, yet in some respects simplified so as to be more available to the masses; additions are being made to the corps of instructors and judicious and comprehensive plans of extension and general improvement are adopted. The work of education, in the interests it holds in the community, and the provisions made for its support—from the Primary Schools to the noblest Scientific Institutions—is second to no other subject that engages the attention, either of our Government or people. As an example—perhaps above the average—take the city of Boston with its 250,000 inhabitants. The last year the current expenses for public schools were \$982,677.00, and for new school buildings \$346,610.78; making a total expense for schools of \$1,329,287.78. The school buildings and land owned by the city, and exclusively devoted to schools, cost \$2,546,862.64. Every child, resident in Boston, without regard to race or color, has an *equal right* in all our public schools free from any expense, and can secure the very best education attainable outside of a Collegiate course of instruction. This is as it should be every where—the school house and church should be open and free to all—education and religion should be indivisible, for they are our present strength, and glorious hope for the future.

RELIGIOUS.

Our Baptist Churches in Boston are not quite so strong in some respects as in former years, but whatever loss has been sustained in the City, has been made up four fold in the surrounding towns. We have now fifteen churches and two mission stations, with a membership of a little over six thousand. Four of these churches are destitute of Pastors. Rev. Baron Stow, D. D., who has been a leading man in our denomination for a third of a century, and is perhaps as widely known and as greatly beloved as any other minister in New England, has retired from the pastorate and is devoting his time mainly to the Foreign Mission work and literary labors. Rev. Wm. Hagué, D. D., another of our city pastors for about the same length of time, and whose intellectual strength and pulpit ability is unsurpassed, certainly by any one among the Baptist clergy; and who is greatly loved by his people, and most highly esteemed by all others who enjoy the pleasure of his acquaintance, has just accepted a twofold call to Chicago—first, as Pastor of the University Place Baptist Church, and second, as Professor of Homiletics and Pastoral Duties in the "Baptist Union Theological Seminary." While his departure from New England will be most deeply regretted, yet all will recognize the special adaptation of the man for the place, and rejoice that such a devoted Christian, and one who combines so admirably the qualities of the perfect gentleman and genial friend, with those of the accomplished scholar, the positive theologian, and the

Catholic spirit of the true philanthropist, is to occupy so important a position in this grand centre of commercial and religious enterprise and of widely extended influence. Four of the ablest men in our denomination are now needed for Pastors in this city. While numerically the supply of ministers in Massachusetts exceeds the demand, by nearly one hundred, yet as each prominent church desires to have a man that shall at least equal what Peter, John and Paul would have been, combined, it is easily seen that there is considerable difficulty in meeting the expectations thus cherished. The present plan seems to be, that, when a minister becomes fairly settled and acquainted with his people and field, so as to labor with a good degree of success and with the probabilities of exerting a wide influence in the community, then some wealthy church gives him a "call," and generally offers the temptation of an increased salary. If this does not succeed then committees are appointed to visit and annoy him; and to persevere in this fraternal (!) kind of labor until they succeed in disturbing the hitherto friendly relation between pastor and people and thus accomplish their object. Those who lead off in these raids upon happily united pastors and people, are generally the very ones,—who after the first excitement attendant upon their success is over,—to criticize and underrate the efforts of the very men whom they have seduced away from their important and prosperous fields of labor; and at no distant day succeed in again unsettling them, and then make new forays upon their quiet and unoffending neighbors.—There is no one thing from which our churches are suffering so much, and which is proving so disastrous to all efforts for the extension—at home and abroad—of the work of evangelization, as these frequent changes in the pastorate. Churches instead of engaging in the great work committed to their hands; devising ways and means for reaching the largest results, cultivating wisely the fields around them and then exploring and ultimately occupying new territory, are obliged to expend a good portion of their time and efforts in settling and dismissing pastors. Where the greater responsibility rests in this matter it is not our province to even conjecture, but there is one fact patent to all, that may throw some light upon the question. In our cities—and larger towns there seems to be a morally insane ambition to build costly and extravagant churches. Spaciousness, durability and convenience do not content people at the present day; but they must have ornament and fancy work, and to obtain these frequently sacrifice light, and comfort, and burden themselves with a heavy debt. Then the interest of the debt must be added to current expenses until it is paid. Now comes the practical part of the business. There are plenty of pews, but not half of them are filled, and the anxious enquiry is, how shall we secure a large congregation. Two ways are generally selected—quartette, operatic singing, and a sensational preacher, or popular pulpit orator. The first can readily be obtained by paying the price demanded—the latter is not so easily secured. But if it is ascertained that a pastor is pleasantly settled, engaged in doing a good work, has a reputation in the community, and that he and his people are happily united, then the work commences, first to covet, then to tamper, and ending with a bold determined effort to obtain in any way *right or wrong*, the party sought for. The church thus despoiled is perhaps divided by the operation, its labors in the past to come extent unfavorably affected, its present condition rendered critical and its plans for the future completely suspended. The only course that seems left to it, is to make war upon some other church, take its minister and break down its prospects for present usefulness;—and thus the work goes on, and as before stated, churches have but little time to attend to any other service, than to secure, settle and unsettle pastors. This is not either a fancy sketch, or an exaggeration, but is less than the truth of what is constantly occurring in our Baptist Churches.

Fraternally Yours,
N. P. KEMP.

For the Christian Messenger.

ADDRESS OF THE ASSOCIATED
ALUMNI OF ACADIA COL-
LEGE TO THE REV.
DR. CRAMP.

Mr. Editor,—

Dear Sir,—At a public meeting held immediately after the evening Session of the Convention on Tuesday evening last, the following address was presented on be-

half of the Associated Alumni of Acadia College to the Rev. Dr. Cramp on his retiring from the Presidency of that Institution. Would you have the goodness to publish the same with the reply thereto.

Yours &c.

EDWIN D. KING,
Sec'y. Asst. Al. A. College.

Halifax, Aug. 30th, 1869.

To THE REV. J. M. CRAMP, D. D.

The Alumni of Acadia College cannot allow the occasion of your resignation of the Presidency of that University to pass without attempting to express some of the feelings which they entertain towards you.

Many of us have been your Students. Indeed, the most of us; for, of the 108 Students who have graduated since 1838, when the College was founded, 83 have graduated since you commenced your labors in the Institution. But all of us, as well those who were before your time, as those who had the privilege of attending your lecture room, join in this expressing of regard.

Acadia College was fortunate in securing the services of one who brought to his work a large mind and attainments, and ripe experience; and one whose fame, as an historian and a scholar, had gone before him.

We review with gratitude your eighteen years of abundant and useful labor. In the College, we all know with what unceasing activity and ability you have toiled; how you have fired lagging Students with enthusiasm, and engendered love of study and thirst for knowledge; and with what patience and kindness you have dealt with the rough materials put into your hands. Be assured the Alumni speak from the heart, when they thank you for all the past.

We thank you, too, for the part you have taken outside of the College. In many of the great questions which have come up for discussion and settlement, you have contributed your wisdom in guiding public opinion to right issues.

You have united the parts of a professor and a public man in happy proportion. You have not allowed your interest in public matters to interfere with the important duties which your profession required, nor, on the other hand, have you permitted your devotion to literary pursuits to so engross your energies, as to keep you aloof from the discussion of the important topics of the day. In thus uniting the public with the professional, you have done inestimable service to all, and have contributed much to foster sympathy between the people and the College. With such presidency as yours, the College could never become isolated or alienated from the affections of the people. Though now resigning your presidency, we sincerely hope that during the years which may yet be given you, you may be permitted to aid in still further promoting the welfare of the Institution which has so grown in favor and efficiency under your hand.

On behalf of the Alumni,
E. M. SAUNDERS, President.
E. D. KING, Secretary.

REPLY.

Dear Brethren,

Your kind Address has excited powerful emotions. I thank you for the warm expression of esteem for myself in which you have indulged. And thank you the more heartily because I feel assured that they are not words of compliment or flattery, but sincere utterances of the heart.

Let us unitedly acknowledge our indebtedness to God, both for the grace and strength imparted in the discharge of duty, and for the success which has crowned the efforts that have been employed. The difficulties through which we have passed during the last eighteen years have been many and great, and the trials sharp; but hitherto the Lord has helped us.

The Alumni of Acadia College now occupy important posts in various parts of these provinces, both in the Christian ministry and in other professions or occupations. It cannot be doubted that their influence will be constantly exerted on behalf of their *Alma Mater*, and that they will labour for the wider diffusion of a higher education by its means. That influence may be exerted in many ways. Every Alumnus of the College will feel it to be his duty to support the Institution and extend its usefulness. By persistent and systematic endeavours, by a healthy moral example, and by earnest prayer, how much may be accomplished!

A great work is before us. Much more is yet to be done by the instrumentality of Acadia College. You are girding yourselves for the labour. Allow me to express my satisfaction that I expect, during the brief remainder of my life to be able to co-operate with you in certain respects. Dwelling in the vicinity of the College, I shall continue to feel deep interest in its welfare, and may have the opportunity of rendering aid to some extent to those who are pursuing their studies there.

In conclusion, dear Brethren, let me repeat my grateful acknowledgments for your testimony of respect and affection. It cheers and comforts me. May the Great God bless you all! May you be growingly happy in the Lord, and permanently useful in his cause! May we all meet at length in the better land!

Halifax, Aug. 24, 1869.

J. M. CRAMP.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 1, 1869.

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION.

We fear that our readers received a very imperfect and unsatisfactory impression respecting the Baptist Convention from the account we were able to give last week. Having to go to press whilst the Convention was sitting, and the session not half through, we were obliged, in the midst of the hurry of the business, and other matters demanding our attention, on Monday and Tuesday, to do the best we could; and not as we would have done, under other circumstances. The list of Members had not been corrected, and, subsequently to publication, we learned that there were two or three names given who were not in attendance, and two or three others present whose names had been omitted. The latter were Rev. B. Scott, Brethren F. Webber, J. A. Church and George Hutt. The large number of ministers in attendance, enabled the Convention to supply all the churches in the city who had sent invitations. The following friendly recognition of their services is from the *Witness*:

BAPTIST CONVENTION.—A large and important Convention of the Baptist Churches was held here during the present week. Among the most important things determined upon is the sending of a Missionary, Rev. Mr. George, to the heathen in Burmah. Eminent Baptists from the United States were present at the Convention. Most of the Presbyterian pulpits were supplied by Baptist ministers last Lord's Day—with much acceptance.

It was stated by the morning and evening papers that "the pulpits of all the Evangelical churches in the city and Dartmouth were occupied by Baptist clergymen." This statement was made we believe with no intention of a rigid application of the term "evangelical," and we would not interpret its use here strictly. Persons in several of the congregations of the other denominations have spoken in high appreciation of the acceptableness of the services, and we trust that good was done by the faithful proclamation of the gospel in so many places.

The meeting of the Board of Governors on Saturday evening, and adjourned to Monday morning, was one of much interest. The proposal to invite the Rev. Dr. Cramp, the retiring President of Acadia College, to an *Emeritus* Professorship was heartily concurred in. The devising of Ways and Means for the ensuing year was an important object before the Board and caused much anxiety amongst the friends. A committee was appointed to devise some mode by which the amount required might be secured. The said Committee subsequently brought forth some suggestions, as follows:

Your committee on the financial condition of the College for the year 1869-70, find that our expenses will be, besides the support of Professor Elder—
For Professors' salaries.....\$3900
" Other expenses same as last year. 650
— \$4550

INCOME.
From Interest on Investment & Notes
of Hand.....\$2145
" Provincial Grant..... 400
" Other sources..... 650
" Balance in hand..... 35
— 3230
Deficiency..... 1320

The deficiency last year was about \$850, and was met by donations from individuals to the amount of \$431, and donations from the churches to the amount of \$453.

The working expenses of the College last year were about \$4050. Next year they will be \$4550, just \$500 greater than last year.

But the income from individuals was \$400 greater last year than we as yet have any hope for this year, making the deficiency of means by which the expenses of the College are to be met, \$600 greater this year than last.

To meet the above deficiency your Committee would recommend that the usual appeal be made to the Churches, from which it is to be hoped from \$500 to \$600 may be realized.

Besides this we recommend that a subscription be opened at this Convention to raise \$900, and that it be passed forward, under the direction of a suitable Committee, until the whole sum is raised.

THE CONVENTION SERMON.

The arrangements in the city for the reception of Prince Arthur on Monday morning, seemed to be an obstacle against the Convention Sermon being preached at the usual time, and it was therefore deferred till Tuesday morning; when it was given by Rev. G. M. W. Carey, from 1 Corinthians i. 24: "Christ the power of God." It was a finely illustrated discourse and secured close and marked attention from a large audience.

EDUCATIONAL MEETING.

We should be glad to give the several excellent speeches delivered at the Educational Meeting on Monday evening, but must content ourselves with a brief general notice of the meeting.