

channels for God to pour it in. They prepared for a blessing, and the blessing came.

This is the pithy and practical truth that we find by lifting up this text and looking under it. It is a suggestive one to hundreds of our churches, which have long been languishing in spiritual drought.

The first trench that ought to be opened in some churches is a deep, broad channel of mutual confidence and brotherly love.

When Christians grow cold and neglectful of their own duties, they grow censorious toward each other. As love declines, the critical temper increases.

All along the eaves of a cold church hang the sharp, icicles of criticism and censoriousness. Then everybody suffers. The pastor catches his share; his most honest efforts are the most censured.

The officers of the church are blamed roundly, and those who happen to be unpopular are made the luckless scapegoats on which to load the failures of the church.

Each blames the others; but no one goes down in the dust of contrition and blames himself. Sometimes this censoriousness is born of the very impatience at the want of success.

Sometimes good men and women, vexed that things do not go better, fall to hitting right and left their fellow-members, their officers, the pastor.

getting a blackened eye among the rest. It is as if a rifleman on the battle-field, seeing the fight go badly, quits firing and takes to battering his comrades with the butt of his rifle.

Whereas his own example, in just standing firm and taking sure aim at the foe, would do more to restore the battle than all his disorderly assaults on his fellow-soldiers.

compass of seven days' journey." God's command to you is to prepare for blessings, or they will never come.

When your trenches are ready, the currents of spiritual power will flow in. If you want water, dig for it!—Independent.

For the Christian Messenger.

OUR COLLEGES.

The politicians are at work preparing for the day of decision. The subject of Education is especially dear to them just now, particularly University Education.

The state of the country is suddenly found to be quite deplorable and efforts are to be made at once to bring about a more favorable condition of things. Here is a specimen of the recent utterances on this important subject:

"The attitude of the Nova Scotia Government to Colleges has been rather an extraordinary one all along, though it was perhaps forced on it by circumstances, and there are now symptoms that it is attracting their attention and that reform may soon be looked for.

The Province has now a complete system of unsectarian schools, and a fair provision for Academies outside of Halifax. The cost is enormous, but the people do not seem to grudge it.

Any attempt to break up the system would be fatal to a politician. But with the base laid so broad and deep, and with the second story not so very inadequate to the plan of the first, what kind of a top story have they? Only an apology for such in the shape of four or five ecclesiastical doves.

There has been no attempt made by the Province to establish a University, and had it not been for the re-organization of Dalhousie by a few zealous friends of unsectarian education, the very idea of a college where all the best intellect of the Province could be trained in Arts and Sciences would probably have died out of the minds of the people."

This is a very remarkable paragraph. In the first place our "complete system of unsectarian education, in the opinion of many competent judges, needs careful revision at many important points; and the system of county academies is likely to prove a delusion.

The first story of the writer's ideal structure is by no means as substantial and complete as could be desired, the second scarcely shows signs of existence, except on the paper plan, and surely there is no need of haste in putting on a "top story."

What the last sentence of the extract means is not clear; but if the intention is to say that, if it had not been for the reorganization of Dalhousie College, we should probably hear nothing now of a Provincial University, this is probably correct.

propose to withdraw the Dalhousie Funds from the company now controlling them, sell the incommodious Building overlooking the Parade, secure ample grounds in some suitable locality, expend two hundred thousand dollars in the erection of proper edifices and in laying out and ornamenting the grounds, a hundred thousand more in furniture, libraries, apparatus &c., and then to appropriate at least twenty thousand a year for professors' salaries and other expenses, place the whole under the control of a Board of Governors representing the various interests in the community and appointed by some branch of the Government of the country for a limited term, and who shall be competent to determine the form and character of the various departments of a University,—let them come forward with some such scheme and we will agree to give it a candid and generous hearing.

But if the plan should be to concentrate appropriations on the institution now existing as joint-stock property between the Government and whatever religious bodies or individuals may choose to join the partnership, it will be considered as some politician's hocus-pocus. Between our brethren in the Church of Rome, on the one hand, who will demand, as they always have, that they should have their share of the money appropriated for higher education to be expended under their own control, and, on the other hand, the friends of the existing colleges, except Dalhousie, who can command no small influence in the country, if once they are roused, the situation of the political aspirant is just now quite interesting.

If it were only a question whether one party should stay in or the other get in, we could afford to be amused. We call attention to another extract from the article under consideration.

"And so it happens that Dalhousie, which is the only Provincial College in Nova Scotia, and which has more students in Arts than the other five put together, gets £250 a year from the Province that was it, while the others get £1,750 from the same Province that does not own them and does not appoint one of their Governors."

We are decidedly of opinion that the payment of a large part of this money is an admission on the part of the Government that they do not own Dalhousie. The writer is evidently ignorant of the history of the Province for the last seven years. His statement about the attendance at the different Colleges is quite as unsatisfactory. Any one who will take the pains to refer to the reports of the Education Office, will see that Acadia has had nearly as many in attendance in the Arts course as Dalhousie.

There has been considerable exaltation of this quasi-provincial institution by its friends of late; and this may have resulted in some accession to its numbers; but it hardly compensates with good sense for its friends to talk and write as if there were nothing like it in the country. The article from which the above extracts are taken contains, also, unjust allusions to Kings and Mount Allison. The former of these institutions may be suffering a little temporary depression, but the old life is in it and it will yet be worthy of its fame in the past.

And every lover of learning must rejoice in the enterprise of the friends of Mount Allison, and be encouraged by the purpose they have set forth to make a College deserving of the name.

We may add that the above extracts have been taken from a communication in the St. John Telegraph. It is to be hoped that the correspondence of that paper is not generally so untrustworthy as the specimen we have been examining.

Dec. 18, 1871. THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER. Halifax, N. S., Dec. 27th., 1871. THE LAST WEEK OF 1871. How full of suggestion is this simple announcement. Days succeed days and week follows week, one month goes and another comes, making up year after year, and hurrying us on from infancy to youth, from youth to mature age, and from mature age to decrepitude and dissolution.

same orbit as it did five or six thousand years ago, and is passing on through the boundless realms of space, under the guiding hand of its Almighty Ruler. And while it, in common with the innumerable hosts of heavenly bodies, is directed and sustained in its course, every individual inhabitant of this speck of creation is working out his destiny and approaching his state of permanent good or evil.

In taking a look over the world we may perceive evident indications of progress, and in many things manifest improvement. As we approach nearer to the close of another of these greater periods, we can but think more about the past and the future than on ordinary occasions. One week may be to us very much like its predecessors, and it may be regarded as more in imagination than in fact that the last in the year is more suggestive than the others, yet the changes brought to mind by its approach prove that it is one of the shadows which coming events send on to direct our thoughts towards the end of our years in this life.

If we have a firm footing and secure resting place on the "Rock of Ages," the passing on of the years will not injuriously affect us, but will only bring us nearer to our "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens"; but if, there be any doubt on this point, and if on a review of the past year, it appears full of broken promises and unfulfilled good intentions, there is still opportunity of letting the year 1871 be the last one of such a character, and of commencing its successor with higher aims and nobler purposes. To secure this we need less of confidence in human ability, and more dependence on strength from on high—even from Christ the Lord of Heaven and Earth.

Good wishes and the compliments of the season, as they are called, are the order of day on the first of the year. As therefore it will be too late for us to do this in our next, we embrace the present opportunity of tendering our warm greetings to friend and foe, and wish to all A Happy New Year.

Many of our readers were acquainted with the REV. ALBERT PORTER, before he left Nova Scotia for New Zealand a few years ago. We have received the following extracts from a letter to one of his friends. They will be read with interest by many sympathizing friends. Other items concerning our unfortunate brother and family, are received and will shortly be forthcoming:—

EXTRACTS OF LETTERS FROM NEW ZEALAND. Martin's Bay, Aug. 8th, 1870. We have, I think, in other letters mentioned our intention of returning to New Zealand.

On the 8th of April we, with two other families, left Victoria, and in six days arrived in Dunedin; there we remained some time, preparatory to going to the New Settlement at Martin's Bay. We had expected that the Government would provide a steamer to convey us hither, but were disappointed, so we chartered a small vessel, and set out on the voyage; the distance is only about 300 miles, and we of course expected it would be performed in a few days, imagine then our discomfort when it was prolonged to the astonishing length of nine weeks and three days.

Several times we had nearly gained the desired harbor and then were driven back by head winds; but as all things, whether pleasant or otherwise must have an end, so this miserable voyage had an end on Sunday the 10th of July. They attempted to run the vessel into the river at low water, but instead of running into the river, on account of the strong current and low tide she ran on the rocks, and only through the mercy of God do any live to tell the tale—for had she struck a few yards farther down we must all have perished in the foaming billows.

The most of the harbors on the west coast are barred harbors, and so it is this. We had heard much talk during the passage about crossing the bar. Well, when we came to this, the women and children were all sent below and the door fastened to prevent the water coming down, as a vessel is liable to take in heavy seas crossing a bar. Our feelings, when we felt her strike the rocks, I leave you to imagine—at length one of the men came below and said to his wife, come Ann you may go ashore now. I hastily gathered up a few carpet bags and went to the deck, when lo! what a scene met my eye, the vessel dashing against the rocks, the wind blowing a gale, and the waves rolling and breaking at a tremendous height, and we expected every moment that the vessel which was already breaking would go to pieces. What was to be done? They lowered a boat which almost immediately filled. A rope must be thrown ashore, but who on this rocky desolate place, will come to catch it? Truly God is good, and in our distress sends help. A gold-digger in travelling from one diggings to another, had just the day before pitched his tent opposite our wreck. He sees our

distress, and comes to our relief. To him they threw the rope, and then by means of ropes and pulleys, with ropes fastened round our waists, the women and children are swung ashore and find shelter from the drizzling rain in the gold-digger's tent, while the men are busy trying to save something from the ship. They worked at this as long as prudent, then gathered round a large tent fire, where prayer was offered and thanks returned to God for saving us from a watery grave.

At the next low tide the men went again to the wreck and got out a good deal of the stores, but mostly in a wet state. The next day tents were erected out of the sails of the ship, so that by night every one had shelter—poor enough it is true—but we were thankful for this when we considered how much worse off we might have been.

A. PORTER. THE WINTER EXHIBITION OF ACADIA COLLEGE was held on Thursday last, 21st inst., in the Baptist Meeting house at Wolfville.

The stormy weather interfered with the attendance and rendered the audience smaller than usual on these occasions. The President and Faculty were present and occupied the platform. The chair was taken by the Rev. Dr. Crawley the Professor of Rhetoric, &c.

After Music by the Choir and Prayer, Orations were delivered by the members of the Sophomore Class, as follows:— "The Majesty of Mind," by Mr. G. F. Currie, of Fredericton, N. B.

"The Grand in the Minute," by Mr. G. N. Ballentine of Wilmot. "The Spirit of Inquiry," by Mr. J. I. DeWolfe, of Wolfville. "The Unseen," by Mr. I. M. Longley, of Paradise. "Conquest of the Inductive Philosophy," by Mr. W. G. Parsons, of Kingston.

We learn from a gentleman who was present that they indicated careful culture and independent thought. At intervals the choir gave some choice pieces of music which afforded a pleasant variety, and aided in making it a profitable evening.

At the close Dr. Sawyer gave a brief address expressing his satisfaction with the productions of the class, and offered some excellent advice and suggestions, encouraging the speakers to continued labor and study to enable them to attain high excellence in their work. The National Anthem was sung at the close.

The American Board of Foreign Missions is the principal Protestant Missionary organization in the United States. The President of the Board recently made a somewhat disparaging remark with reference to Baptists, which has induced some of our Nova Scotia brethren to institute a comparison between the work being done by that Board and that of the Baptist Missionary Union. The comparison is given under the following items:

Table with 4 columns: No. or Missions, Stations and Out-Stations, Missionaries, Assistant Missionaries, Native Pastors, Native Assistants, Churches, Members, Aided last year. Rows show American Board of Missions and Baptist Missionary Union data.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?—We find the following paragraph in the Philadelphia National Baptist: A peck, by measure, of silver coin, was collected for missionary purposes, at the Nova Scotia Free Will Baptist Convention.

We should be glad to know when and where the said Convention was held, and what is the authority for this statement.

Our readers who take an interest in the Foreign Missionary work, and especially the members of the Women's Missionary Aid Societies will be gratified to read the letter on another page from Miss Norris to the Secretary of the Central Board. Her remarkable facility of acquiring languages appears to have been turned to good account, in rendering her able so soon to take charge of the Seminary at Bassein. Our Sisters will feel that their labors have hereby become very effective, and of much value to the mission there.

VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE FOR 1872 is a combination of the useful and ornamental, which renders it worthy of the profession to which its author belongs. It is one of the most beautifully got up pamphlets we ever saw, and all it contains is adapted to be of service to those who have any opportunity of cultivating floral beauties or useful vegetables. See advertisement.