

For the Christian Messenger.

ACADIA COLLEGE.

Mr. Editor,—

A Foreign Mission without the means of educating the Missionaries, so far as education is required is not in our case to be tolerated. The actual work of the missionary demands this. His great business is to deal with hoary-headed heathenism. Not with mere infidelity, or even atheism, for many who are in the darkness of heathen idolatry are nevertheless great religionists, educated therein, shrewd, cunning, artful. Boasting an antiquity and theology demanding the most powerful reasoning and the clearest logic for its overthrow. The self-existence, personality, omniscience, of an unseen Divine Being manifested in Jesus Christ the Son of the Eternal God, as the only Saviour, through the agency of God the Holy Spirit in the regeneration and sanctification of the soul, is a theme, the acceptable presentation of which demands the most thorough acquaintance possible with the Divine oracles in their original tongue, together with all the light derivable from all other sources. Reasoning from the material to the immaterial, from the known to the unknown except by faith, is no work for novices. These who have listened to the accounts given by Missionaries, or read their letters with attention will perceive the truth of the above remarks.

And now let me ask Can any substitute be found for that culture and training obtained by a collegiate course of study? Let then the fact of an Independent Foreign Mission, now inaugurated, awaken the feeling of the necessity of renewed and greatly increased effort and benevolence in the support of our Institutions of learning. Much depends, from what we read and know, on the prompt and generous action of the churches at the present time.

It may be, that a little caution is needed by some, lest their contributions for benevolent purposes should be too exclusively appropriated by the donors to Foreign Missions direct, while the preparatory means, education, is unprovided for. The education of Missionaries for their labor, is really a part of missionary work, and the first part in the order of time, and cannot be neglected with impunity.

In view of these facts it really appears as if the time had fully come to complete, for a season at least, the endowment of the College. I hope that there are many who will agree with the writer, that the suggestion of your Yarmouth Correspondent is in point. Certainly "\$100,000" should be aimed at and secured. I fear we sight sums, instead of measuring them, since we have dollars and cents now instead of pounds, shillings and pence. \$100,000 is only £25,000 old style, and I would like to know if there are not twenty-five men in the Baptist denomination of the Maritime Provinces that could give the whole sum, so far as their ability to do so is concerned? It might be, yea doubtless would be, much better to have it divided among the fifty thousand of the denomination. Nothing helps a man to an interest in an object, or makes his interest more permanent than giving freely to it.

It is pleasing and very encouraging to see the interest taken in the College by the Baptists of Yarmouth, at their late Thanksgiving meetings. This looks as if all was not lost by not pressing matters at the late Convention.

If the development of growth has been slow, yet it will come, and when it comes, then add to the staff of Professors, to the building, library, &c., &c., and if you please to existing degrees, that of Bachelor in Science.

REVERA.

For the Christian Messenger.

ONTARIO CORRESPONDENCE.

SEVERE WEATHER. CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. OPERATION OF NEW ELECTION LAW. NEW PROFESSORS IN TORONTO UNIVERSITY. NEW THEORY OF PERCEPTION. PROGRESS OF BAPTISTS IN TORONTO, &c.

Winter is upon us in right good earnest. His visitation is as persistent as his coming was unceremonious and abrupt. Long weeks have already elapsed since the last flowers and other forms of out door vegetation were ruthlessly nipt; and the jingle of the sleigh bells have been a familiar sound for at least a month, and yet we are but now at the threshold of our stern Canadian winter, with Christmas cheer still a few days ahead. Well, without

subscribing to the dreary creed of the believers in the omnipotence of blind and purposeless natural laws, we still may have faith in the correlation of physical forces sufficient to enable us to look hopefully forward to a time when the ice-king shall have been exhausted by the fierceness of his onset, and he will be fain to put on a milder mood. Meanwhile we may congratulate ourselves that the Russian Grand Duke who is just now making us a flying visit, may find Ontario and Quebec fully sustaining the resemblance in certain features to his own country, which seems to have gratified him on his first coming to the Dominion Capital.

Politics are just now in a state of ferment in Ontario. The Opposition of yesterday are to be the Government of to-morrow. The struggle for the privilege and honour, and shall we add, emoluments, of directing the legislation of the flourishing province of Ontario, has been sharp and somewhat protracted. The Ins that were, held on to the position of which they were in possession, with a pertinacity and vigour surpassed only by those exhibited by the Outs in the struggle for their turn. Truly party politics, albeit they are probably the best kind of politics for such as we, are not a thing of beauty, and we hope may not prove, at least with their present characteristics, a joy for ever. In connection with our politics in Ontario there is one new feature which is not without deep and merited interest to all. A vigorous and, we trust, both sincere and well directed effort has been made by both political parties, to secure a nearer approach to purity of elections. The new election-law, with its stringent provisions against bribery in every shape, bids fair to do much towards securing this end. Following the lead of Great Britain, the decision of contested cases has been removed altogether beyond the province of parliamentary committees with their partisan predilections and placed within that of the judges. The result of the numerous trials under the new statute has been thus far the unseating of six members, in most cases, be it observed, through the fault of their too ardent supporters. One or two cases are yet undecided. This is of course vexatious and expensive, but the examples will be salutary and we hope for good fruit in the future. The complaint has been loudly made in Ontario that men of high moral and religious character have too often held themselves aloof from political and municipal duties. There has doubtless been much ground for the complaint as there is much justice in it. There certainly is no law, human, or divine, which exempts a christian man, as such, from his obligations to society and the duties of citizenship. The deplorable effects of such a state of things could easily be foreseen, without the sad illustrations which are so abundantly supplied all over the continent. May we not hope that one first step in the direction of a more excellent way is taken when a vigorous effort is thus made to purge electioneering agencies of the debasing bribery and corruption and dissipation by which they have been too often befouled. But I hope I have not been writing politics. I certainly am not sufficiently enamoured of the tactics of either of our present parties to be strongly tempted to betray any personal proclivities. At the same time I rejoice to believe that in the ranks on both sides are to be found at least a few men, good and true, patriotic and christian.

Turning my thoughts for a moment to educational matters, I am reminded that our leading university has lately added two distinguished names to its list of lecturers, Prof. Nicholson has crossed the Atlantic to take the chair of Natural Science vacant by the decease of his predecessor, and Dr. Beaven's retirement on pension from that of Metaphysics, has made a place for Rev. Prof. Young. Both these appointments have been well received. The latter who is a Canadian by education, and I think also by birth, has been highly complimented by the press of Ontario, and the justice of his elevation vindicated on the ground of his being the "first metaphysician in the Dominion." This distinction may be well merited, though I have thus far failed to ascertain the proofs. His inaugural lecture upon "Perception," has been highly spoken of. I should be glad to indicate Prof. Young's views upon this vexed question and should venture to do so, but for one unfortunate circumstance. I find myself utterly unable to get any clear conception of his theory myself, and hence

could only be sure of doing justice by giving the report *verbatim*, which I fear would be making rather larger demands upon your space than the interest of the question would warrant, at least in the eyes of some of your correspondents. I shall therefore content myself with simply stating, that Prof. Young condemns alike all forms of *Idealism* and of *Natural Realism* and proceeds to propound a theory which is to avoid the weaknesses and errors of a Brown and a Reid, a Fichte and a Hamilton. The gist of his theory is that both matter and mind being accepted "the two terms alike enter as factors, or constituent elements into the perceptive consciousness." Perception is "a union in the act of taking place between a real Self and a real Not-Self; the objective factor being just as essential an element as the subjective." The Not-Ego "enters equally with the Ego, into the consciousness. It is not something lying outside of the consciousness, but a constituent element thereof—a factor, by the absence of which the consciousness would *ipso facto* cease." He categorically denies "the existence of a world of particular definite material objects, in juxtaposition to one another, outside and independent of a stream of consciousness." The italics are his. All knowledge of objects is knowledge of a "synthesis of qualities." "If such objects" says he, "be, as I maintain, nothing but the synthesis of phenomena; if they have no existence, under the determinations which render them the objects they are, apart from such synthesis; and if, finally, it be only through a process of discursive thinking that such synthesis is effected; then the existence of material objects apart from a process of thinking, is a contradiction in terms." I trust the non-metaphysical readers of the *Messenger* will pardon me for submitting this little nut in Mental Science, to its many other readers who will, I know, take pleasure in trying to crack it. Let them not forget that the really able and learned lecturer is not an *idealist*. Perhaps they will be able to think it through. We wait for more light and hope the Professor will soon give it to the public, as he has already, I presume, to his classes.

I have previously, I think, alluded to the progress of the Baptist cause in Toronto. The church recently erected on Parliament Street at a cost, exclusive of site, of \$5,600, has been opened and Rev. S. A. Dyke, the pastor elect, has entered upon his labours. The following from the *Baptist* is interesting:—

"The Baptist cause in Toronto occupies such a position to-day as it never did before. The church in Alexander Street is prosperous and promising under the ministry of Brother Munro. The new church in Yorkville has made a very auspicious beginning, under the ministry of Dr. Poyer. Bond St. Church is not only flourishing financially and numerically, but it has a young and thriving mission station in the West End of the city, in addition to this new Chapel in Parliament Street where Bro. Dyke will chiefly labour."

In closing permit me to make a tardy correction of an error in my last. The amount collected for Foreign Missions during the last year was nearly \$5000; instead of "over \$6000. J. E. W.

For the Christian Messenger.

ACADIA COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING.

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 28th, 1871.

Editor of *Christian Messenger*:

DEAR SIR,—At the meetings of the Board of Governors of Acadia College, held on the 20th and 21st inst., there were certain matters brought up for consideration, which were deemed of sufficient interest to the Denomination to call for publication in your columns.

It appeared from statements made, that a misunderstanding existed, in reference to the "Circular" issued by the Board, in October last. An impression has, one abroad, that the contribution asked for, was to be an extra donation, and that this "Appeal" would be followed by another, in the spring of 1872.

This is not correct, only one Circular will be issued during the financial year, from August 1871, to August 1872. The present "Appeal," was sent out a few months earlier than usual, in order to give the Churches time to think the matter over, and make arrangements for a very favorable response.

It appeared from the statement of the Treasurer, that unless the

Churches should manifest far greater liberality than in previous years, and contribute far more largely, it would be imperatively necessary to close the College, at no distant period. Suggestions were made, in reference to diminishing the number of professors. This was plainly shewn to be suicidal in its tendency. It seemed clear to the Board, that in the present state of Educational effort in these provinces, a reduction in this respect could not be thought of.

In order to bring the financial needs of the College more fully before the people and urge on the work of more complete endowment, it was proposed that a deputation of the President and Faculty, visit all the Associations during the ensuing summer, with these objects specially in view.

A plan was also proposed, and the Faculty invited to consider it, whereby the same Deputation, without interfering to any very great extent, with the Curriculum, might be employed for a month or two, during the summer, in visiting the Churches—with a special reference also to the Endowment of the College.

It appeared from the report of the Endowment Committee, that the services of a suitable Agent could not be obtained, though every effort had been made. It seemed therefore advisable that so far as it was possible, Educational meetings be held with the churches—and the Agency Committee were instructed to continue their work for the Endowment in such way as they might judge best.

The Board cannot but feel that affairs in reference to our College are in a critical condition, so far as finances are concerned; otherwise, the prospects are bright and cheering. The number and character of the students will compare most favorably with any former period of our history. The course of study is liberal, and well adapted to the requirements of the age. We cannot but feel that the churches will come forward at this juncture and free the Board from this pressing weight of responsibility.

By order of the Board,
STEPHEN W. DEBLOIS, Secy.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., Jan. 3, 1872.

WELCOME TO 1872.

Perhaps there was never a year in which greater changes, political and religious, have taken place than those of the one just come to a close. On the continent of Europe events have followed each other almost every week which we need not now recapitulate, some of which had been in progress for years before, but apparently without being known to the world, until they culminated in sudden tumult, war and revolution. On entering upon a new period we may well wonder what will be evolved by the new turn now being given to Time's wheel. It is not for man to direct his steps, much less to discover what is in the storehouse of God's providence. We may form conjectures and, watching the dissemination of principles of good or evil, may suppose certain results will follow, but it is often seen that the great Author of good distils blessings for mankind even out of the evil he permits the world to experience. As great oaks from little acorns grow so we may expect the labor of the present on behalf of others to eventuate in corresponding fruits. Regrets over the misspent past are unavailable unless they lead to an improved future. If then any are hoping to have a better record at the close of 1872 than is shewn of 1871, let them not fail to commence the better service early in the days of the present year. Whatever may be our position, it is of more consequence to each one of us to consider how we shall use our own time than to know what is done by all the world beside.

We live too much as enduring a sort of inevitable fate, and so pass on from one year to another without the thought that it is a privilege even to live, if we may labor for Christ.

The world is to be benefited more by individual christian labor than by combinations for any inferior purpose. The Church's work is to bring men—as individuals—to Christ, rather than in masses, and if its members should enter upon the year with a determination to aim at this, so that every one should become successful in but one case, it would at its close prove to have been a glorious year. This is the most noble object at which we can aim, and one that yields the highest hap-

piness of which man is capable in this world.

With these suggestions to our christian readers, we welcome the year of our Lord 1872, and most earnestly wish for all A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

There being so large a portion of a week before the first Lord's Day of the New Year makes it appear almost as if the WEEK OF PRAYER is not the first week of the year. This is perhaps well, the days of this week will have afforded opportunity for making the friendly visits and greetings so as to enter upon the devotional exercises of the coming week without distraction. It is hoped that the appointed meetings for prayer will be largely attended by earnest worshippers, in Halifax, and other places. As we gave the list of subjects some weeks since we need not repeat them. The places of meeting may however, be again noticed as our city readers may not be able to refer to them readily:

ON LORD'S DAY AFTERNOON, in Temperance Hall, at 4 past 4 o'clock.

Every week-day morning at 9 1/2 o'clock, in the new Hall, opposite St. Paul's Church in Argyle street.

Evening Meetings from 7 1/2 till 9 o'clock, as follows:

MONDAY: Grafton Street Wesleyan Church; and the North Baptist Church.

TUESDAY: St. Andrew's Church, and St. John's Church.

WEDNESDAY: St. Matthew's Church, Kaye Street Church, and Chalmers' Church.

THURSDAY: Fort Massey Church, and Brunswick Street Church.

FRIDAY: Granville Street Church, and Poplar Grove Church.

SATURDAY: Salem Church, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

There is some danger of this Week of Prayer becoming a sort of crystallized institution, and so falling into the ordinary routine of annual celebrations. Practical benefit should be sought, and its services made a season of laying the case of the world and the church before the Most High, and thus a stimulus to effort in each individual church, seeking strength and grace for believers to fulfil their high destiny in behalf of the world.

The revivals of religion which have heretofore followed these meetings should be regarded as indications of the blessings they are intended to convey to the church of Christ. Never was salvation so much needed by perishing sinners. Never was it so evident that "none but Jesus, can do helpless sinners good."

THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.—Amidst the rigors of the wintry blast it is fit and proper that there should be the manifestation of genial warmth amongst friends and neighbours, so that their approaches to the fireside may be productive of kindly fraternal feeling. Advantage is often taken of this season also by those who are less nearly associated, to interchange pleasant courtesies and kind wishes. Even those who have been open enemies often at such times enjoy a truce which has resulted in an improvement in social relations, to the advantage of all concerned. That heart must be sadly out of tune that would refuse to receive such approaches, and make an agreeable return. Alienations arise from various causes—commonly from mutual misunderstandings. The beginning of the year is a favorable time for the removal of these causes of estrangement, and turning over a new leaf. If men were willing always to take the more favorable view of the acts and words of their fellowmen, they would be relieved from much of the inconvenience that comes to themselves from a contrary course, and there would be fewer mountains of difficulty to overcome to enable them to make a settlement, and take a fair start at the commencement of the year.

Our contemporary the *Witness* has fairly stolen a march upon us in this direction. In its last issue the editor takes a general look over the press connected with the Presbyterian body in the United States and other places, and after doing so glances at his nearer neighbours in the following terms:—

"Coming to this city we are gratified to see signs of increasing prosperity among our contemporaries of the religious press. So valuable is the continued existence of a denominational paper considered by our Episcopalian friends that very liberal gifts have been made in aid of the *Church Chronicle*;" and we are glad to see that that paper is to be continued another year. We would like the paper better if it kept somewhat further away from the "High" wing of the Church, but we greatly prefer to see a "High" organ than to see