

rained by the specious self-deception. "I will do it just this time but never again." Observe how sharply the Bible puts it: "Let him who thinketh that he standeth, take heed lest he fall."—*Rev. T. L. Cuyler, in Evangelist.*

Educational Record.

Whatever difficulties the study of prayer may suggest to a mind whose range of views is hemmed in by the operation of natural laws, men who believe in the existence of spiritual forces and feel their freedom from the mechanism of dead matter, will believe in prayer and will pray. Thousands can testify that they find it as necessary for the supply of the wants of their higher nature, as food is for the body. They testify that it aids them in accomplishing the noblest purposes of life, and that these are not accomplished without prayer. All of the recent discussions of the subject have affected the christian's faith just as little as controversies on the theory of vision affect his belief in sight. Perhaps at no former time has the efficacy of prayer been more wondrously illustrated than now, when proud leaders of thought are speaking of it with scorn. The accounts of revivals and extraordinary religious movements among christians in various parts of the world, give great prominence to this element of the religious life.

Discerning men in our churches have long felt the importance of sanctifying education into christian uses, and have earnestly sought this in prayer. They have not sought in vain. Acadia has an unwritten history in this respect, which, if it could be known, would thrill all christian hearts. Its officers and guardians have toiled on amidst great discouragements and with lamentably inadequate means, assured that there must be a brighter future for an institution to which so many pure and noble souls were attached, and for which fervent prayer was offered from so many believing hearts.—These prayers have brought needed gifts; they will bring more. Men who have the Lord's money will be led to feel that the right use to which it is to be put, is to help the Lord's servants in their great work. The remarkable religious history of the College can be explained only in connection with this living sympathy with it on the part of christian men and women. In answer to prayer, scores of its students have found there greater wisdom than they came to seek, and have gone out to be leaders in various departments of christian labor. And again, in answer to prayer, the College and Academy are witnessing the operation of spiritual forces that have raised the whole body of students to a higher sphere of life, and the effects of which in the prevention of evil and in the good to be accomplished, are incalculable. Thursday of this week is the day especially observed in this province for prayer in behalf of these and kindred institutions. In view of the history of the past and the facts of the present, the observance cannot be a heartless form.

Mention should be made in this department of the death of T. R. Patillo, Esq., of Liverpool. For more than twenty years he has been a firm and generous friend of Acadia College. He has given freely for its support, and his words of hearty cheer have inspired courage in times of adversity. A few such men have really sustained the college hitherto. Their loss will be felt. The past year has witnessed the death of several of them, and the number of the survivors is not large. Their example ought to be earnestly commended to the young men in our churches, that they may learn to meet the responsibilities of their day as wisely and generously.

About \$50,000 of the \$60,000, proposed to be raised for Mount Allison College, has been secured. This is doing well. The balance will be obtained; and the work will probably go on until the amount reaches \$100,000. The friends of this College are deserving of praise for the energy and perseverance with which they push on the enterprise. To some there may seem to be a needless multiplication of Colleges; but certain principles of association will assert their power in a free country, and it will be best in the end to let them have their natural way. Besides, it should not be forgotten that the country now containing a population numbering three quarters of a million, may be expected to have three millions, and that we are building for the future. The friends of Acadia should consider that, according

to the numbers reported in the two denominations, they should raise \$100,000, for their college, as often as \$60,000, is raised for Mount Allison. Phillips Academy, at Andover, Mass., in twenty-eight years sent over 1000 students to college; while it took forty-six years for the Boston Latin School, the pride of the city, to send 600.

Foreign Missions.

WESTPORT, Feb. 16th, 1874.
To the Secretary of the W. M. A. Central Board for Foreign Missions.

DEAR MRS. SELDEN,—
I am happy to inform you, even at this late day, that a Woman's Missionary Aid Society has been organized at Westport.

Some of us had long felt that our church here should be doing something for Foreign Missions, as well as our sister churches in the Province.

At length through the efforts of our Pastor, a few assembled themselves together on Christmas day last, to see what could be done towards the formation of a Society. There were not more than 20 persons present, of whom 16 volunteered to band themselves together, and do what they could for the missionary cause. Out of that number the following officers were chosen.

- President—Mrs Chas. Hicks.
- Vice Presidents—Mrs. Rockwell, and Mrs. Andrew Coggins.
- Secretary—S. A. Dakin.
- Treasurer—Matilda Denton.
- Auditor—Mrs. Hannah Rice.

Though the beginning was small, we were not discouraged, knowing the cause was a good one, and would prosper. Our number since that has increased to 50. We have held two prayer meetings; both were quite well attended and a considerable interest was manifested. We hope it may increase.

With regard to our finances we have in the Treasury \$30, which I will forward to you, and hope that soon we may have more to send. Out of the sum mentioned, \$9.00 were obtained by monthly collection from the Church, \$4.00 donation received, and the remainder from the Society.

May God bless our Society, our missionaries, and all engaged in this glorious work is our sincere prayer.

Truly yours,
S. A. DAKIN, Sec'y

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N. S., FEBRUARY 25, 1874.

The miracles of the present day are those of grace and mercy, rather than those of a physical character, or of the material world. We do not expect at this day to see unaccountable interruptions of the course of Nature and marvellous changes in the relations of the earth and man, as evidence of the work of God in the church and the world. We have more convincing evidences of God's wonderful working in the changes wrought by divine grace on the hearts of men. We rejoice over the evidences of christian life as seen in revivals of religion in any place, and amongst any people, but amongst none so much as on those who are just setting out on life's journey, and who are preparing to occupy prominent positions among their fellowmen. Scepticism is the devil that often lodges itself in the minds of those who are pursuing literary and scientific enquiry, and there is no more melancholy sight than a sceptical student; when to that parent sin of unbelief, a resistance to clear conviction, he adds a want of moral principle, a readiness to join with others in drinking and swearing, gambling, and other profligacy, in such case the probabilities are that such student will afterwards become a moral pest instead of a blessing to the community; but when instead of this we hear of a radical change taking place, by the reception of the truth, and obedience to the commands and ordinances of the Lord Jesus, follows, and these become the ruling influences in their lives, then we must admit that the work is of God, for how can a clean thing come from an unclean? Then must we give God the glory. By a miracle of grace it is that such changes are effected.

We say not these things because we have known anything respecting the former character of the students at Acadia College, who are now making a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus—far from it—we believe they have been most exemplary, but there have been, formerly, as great changes as those

above referred to, even among students at Acadia College. Some of these are now bright ornaments of the Church of Christ, and doing good service for the Master. We rejoice in the evidences of the presence of the Divine Redeemer as seen during the few past weeks, and trust they may be multiplied abundantly, so that the prayer long offered, that the Lord of the Harvest would send forth laborers, may be speedily answered, and Christ honored by multitudes being gathered into the Church of the Lord Jesus.

These thoughts have been awakened by the reception of the following letter from "A Student":

THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST AT ACADIA.

The friends of the institutions generally, and the Baptist Denomination particularly, will be gratified to learn that the Lord has wrought a great work amongst us. Its magnitude will be more manifest when the condition of the institutions for the last two or three years has been considered.

True, they have always had a band of praying students, but of late years these have seen very little of the work of the Spirit in the conversion of souls.

The present senior class had considerable apprehension lest they should leave the College without seeing the work of God revive. They, with the other students of both departments, prayed and wrestled and worked; and the Lord, at last, has made bare His arm to save.

The first indication, that this untiring perseverance, both in prayer and effort, was blessed, appeared at the opening of the present term. At the second Sabbath-morning prayer meeting, the hearts of the praying ones were rejoiced by hearing one of the students express a new-found hope in Jesus. This incited to greater faith and more intense earnestness. Extra meetings were then held in connection with the institutions in which the presence of the Master was manifest by the deep solemnity and the depth of feeling which seemed to pervade every mind. Throughout the whole series, the impelling motive was the great love of Christ; and perhaps no meetings were ever more remarkable for the entire absence of anything like excitement.

This quiet deep work of the Spirit was also effectual, for during the space of 24 hours, on Saturday evening and Lord's day 7th and 8th insts, no fewer than 15 persons found peace in Jesus. The little spark, above referred to, has kindled into a flame, which has continued to spread until it now glows in every room. Nearly all in connection with both institutions are rejoicing in the consciousness of sins forgiven; and very soon we confidently expect to be one unbroken band in the service of Jesus.

The number which profess conversion exceeds 30, among which are both the children of our highly esteemed president.

In the case of so many conversions, it is difficult to discern whence the first convictions originated; but it can be confidently averred that the plain, pointed, and earnest preaching of the village Pastor, Rev. S. W. DeBlois, was blessed to many by the Holy Spirit.

Need I add that this glorious manifestation of love and power has increased our confidence in God and intensified our love for the blessed Jesus. Surely praying fathers and mothers shall have their hearts gladdened by the thought, that their loved ones are not only saved, but also being prepared to replenish the ranks of the faithful, when they shall have laid down their armor; and confident we are that the sentiments of this happy band are expressed in the following lines:

Dear fathers and mothers when your toils and tears are o'er,
And Jesus calls you home to the ever verdant shore.
When won is life's battle, and you've laid down sword and shield,
We'll gird on the armor that you leave upon the field.

O yes we are coming, we are coming in our youth,
We will try to fill their places as we battle for the truth.
And stone after stone in the temple of the Lord,
We will lay when in glory you are reaping your reward."

A STUDENT.
Wolfville, Feb. 21, 1874.

Since the above was in type we have received other and further accounts of this revival. We have now space only to say that on Lord's Day there were thirty-five received into the church. Thirty-four had been baptized in the morning, and one was received by letter from another church. Of the above number seven were College students, ten students in the Horton

Collegiate Academy, ten students in the Ladies Seminary, and seven residents of Wolfville.

We must reserve further particulars for next week.

Rev. Dr. Cramp remarks concerning the reception of the candidates at the Saturday's Conference, "It was a very impressive scene;" and of the Lord's Day service, "The meeting house was crowded. It was a grand sight. There will be more next Lord's Day."

Our United States exchanges are filled with cheering accounts of renewed christian life. Converts are coming forward in almost every place, the preaching of the gospel is being made the power of God to the salvation of men from every class and station. Truth is daily receiving new witnesses, and God is visiting his heritage, and causing his people to rejoice. More successful efforts are of late being made also in the cause of Temperance. Christian men, and especially women, are pleading effectually with the sellers of intoxicating beverages to give up their deleterious business, and to cease doling out that which brings sorrow and ruin unto their families, which drags down their sons to the drunkards' grave, and their daughters to poverty and shame. Some very nice people find fault with this mode of attack. Where good is done we are not very particular about the way in which it is effected. Blessings on those who labor and pray for the expulsion of this demon from their midst.

EDUCATIONAL MEETING.

The Public Schools Meeting on Friday was very large and full of interest. Temperance Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity. His Worship the Mayor occupied the chair, and D. Henry Starr, Esq., was appointed Secretary.

After a few appropriate remarks from the chairman he called upon the Rev. Mr. Lathern, who in an able speech moved the first resolution. In doing this he expatiated on the value of education, and stated what he had witnessed of the benefit of Public Schools in the United States. He referred to the geographical position of Halifax, as offering to her sons fine opportunities in commercial and professional life, and thought this should be a stimulus to improvement in its educational institutions and arrangements. He drew comparisons between the geographical advantages of Halifax and some other places in this province, and believed the change contemplated by the resolution an essential one to any permanent improvement. He moved that:

Whereas, We feel that the best interests of Education are seriously injured in the city of Halifax, by having a Board of School Commissioners holding office, to which the citizens do not elect them, transacting their business virtually in secret, and disbursing the public taxes without being responsible to the people,

Therefore Resolved, That this meeting consider it highly expedient that the Parliament should be petitioned at its session, to make such an amendment in the law as shall give to the citizens of Halifax the right of electing their own trustees, a right accorded to every other school section in the Province.

Rev. G. M. Grant arose to second the resolution and said, he had received a letter from Bishop Binney, which he read, shewing how far he was in sympathy with the movement. An extract or two will shew its general character. The Bishop says,

"I understand the objections to the present system to be;

1st. That the majority of the Board of Commissioners nominated by the Government, are virtually irresponsible, and that the minority appointed by the City Council have such a brief tenure of office that their influence must always be weak.

2nd. That the meetings of the Board are secret, at all events, not open to the public, not even to reporters.

3rd. That from these, and other causes, the citizens finding themselves powerless to remedy defects, or to procure improvements in the schools, have ceased to take any lively interest in them.

In searching for a remedy for the present objectionable state of things, our attention is naturally directed to the English Education Act, and we suggest a School Board for the city of Halifax, to be elected by the rate payers.

In referring to the R. C. Bishops' Pastoral, Bishop Binney said:

"Another objection may be mentioned, since the R. C. Bishops have mooted the question, that under the present system, one portion of the community has had an advantage over the other, and that the spirit, if not the letter of the law has been violated by allowing 12,000 Roman Catholics to have schools entirely under their

own control, maintained out of the rates collected from a population of 29,000.

The separate school system, if practicable, would be doubtless preferred by us all; but it is absolutely unattainable, &c., &c."

Mr. Grant proceeded to state what the meeting had not been called,—that it was not in the interests of any denomination but for the citizens as a whole. And, as the price of liberty is eternal vigilance, he thought every man should be prepared to secure that which was of so much value for himself and his fellow citizens. It was not called in the interest of any class, for all grades of society would be benefitted by improvement in the administration of our school law. It was not in behalf of any political party that this meeting had been called—one party is as bad, or as good if you like, as the other, Education should be free from party influences but should be for the good of all. The great object of the meeting was to shew that Halifax has not the same privileges as all other school sections in the province, and, the schools were not in a satisfactory condition and it was to seek for a better mode of managing its own public schools. He shewed that the schools in several places in the province were superior to those of Halifax. When first enacted, the law provided that the whole Board should be appointed by the government. Under this arrangement the City Council at first refused to levy the tax, but it was subsequently arranged that six out of the thirteen members should be appointed by the City Council. But the Aldermen were elected to administer the city government not to do the work of School Trustees and the most suitable men for that service, were consequently not in the Council. Then the seven members appointed by government were permanent, whilst the six Aldermen are appointed for but one year, and so could have but little knowledge of the working of the law or power to serve the schools.

It might be said the government appoints the Boards of Commissioners all over the province, and why not in Halifax? He (Mr. G.) showed that the Halifax Board were Trustees, and the City was but one Section, and it is the business of the people in all other Sections in the province to elect their own Trustees, and the government dare not interfere to deprive them of that privilege. The expenditure of \$66,000 a year is now in the hands of this Board, and such a trust should not be held by an irresponsible body. Education it is, more than climate, race or any other circumstances, that controls the character of cities and countries. He believed that the doors of the Board should be open so that like the other disbursements of the civic finance, the people may know how their money is spent. He would not charge any with maladministration but there was much dissatisfaction in the community with the results. The fact that Halifax has not one Grade A teacher in its schools was not creditable to the city. True the superior Teacher must have a higher salary, but then is the article not worth the price. It is economy to employ the best teachers, it could be easily done, if the \$1000 now received by the Commissioners were divided between four teachers it would pay them without increasing the tax. Good teachers have been driven away from Halifax by the small salaries paid to them, and the schools consequently suffered. Because of there being no school here in which a boy can get instruction in the classics, parents have to send their children to Margarets Bay, Hubbards Cove! Pictou, Horton, Montreal or to Scotland. This should not be. We ought to be able to provide for the wants of our youth without sponging on other cities and countries. He seconded the resolution.

Mr. James Thomson, the chairman of the Halifax School Board, wished to make a few remarks. He thought there was a disposition to find fault without occasion. He challenged any one to shew that there was any maladministration or wrong expenditure in our school affairs. He had observed that if a public man spent all his life in serving the people and committed but one error that would be remembered whilst the good would be very soon forgotten. (This sentiment was strongly dissented from by the meeting.) He said he was quite willing to retire from the position he held if the people desired it. He believed the election of Commissioners would be attended with many practical difficulties, and would not after all secure the best men, and the taxes would

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