

that in 1803 he visited the spot where it stood, but found that it had very recently been entirely removed.—London Freeman.

For the Christian Messenger.

THE NEW ACADEMY BUILDING.

Dear Editor,—

I wish to inform the friends of the above object that the Committee are in great need of funds to carry forward the work, and to appeal to them still again for help.

A number of workmen are now at work upon the building, and money is needed every week to pay wages as well as to purchase material. Of the \$2000 subscribed only about one third has been paid in; the sending forward of the remainder so soon as it will suit the convenience of the donors will therefore greatly oblige.

The Committee also hope that those who have not hitherto responded to the appeals which have been made will kindly render some assistance and as soon as possible. Only about one sixth of the sum needed to complete the building has yet been subscribed. To allow the work to stop would be most calamitous. And yet all the available boarding accommodation on the hill—and I might say in the village also—has been appropriated. There will probably be next year one hundred additional applications for admission to the Academy, and if the new building is not completed not one of them can be granted. In that case many of the number would drift into other schools in or out of the Province.

The next academical term will commence four months hence. The new building can be ready for occupancy by that time if the means to carry it forward can be obtained. Please dear friends lend a helping hand.

I desire thankfully to acknowledge the receipt of the following sums:—

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes Jas. Gourley, Great Village (\$2.00), Bridgewater Church (6.00), Nictaux Church (5.51), Hon. J. Simpson, Cavendish, P. E. I. (5.00), Previously acknowledged (1989.74), Total (\$2,008.25).

For the Committee, D. M. WELTON.

GOOD ADVICE FOR MINISTERS IN TRIAL.—"Make good use of Isaiah xli. 10, it is a grand illuminator for dark days. Keep a good appetite, a good conscience and dry feet, and implicit faith in sympathising loving and faithful Redeemer."

Mr. Editor, having received the above valuable receipt, and knowing its worth, I ask for it a corner, believing, if the prescription is strictly followed, there will not be found many sickly among us, and that those of feeble knees will soon regain strength. J. F. A.

For the Christian Messenger.

ACADIA COLLEGE.

Mr. Editor,—

Permit me, through the Messenger, to call the attention of the friends of the College to the means for supporting the Scientific Professorship. It is some time since the special pledges were made for this object; and changes, which have since taken place, will prevent a few individuals from fulfilling their promises, but nearly all, who made such pledges, are expecting, I believe, to pay their subscriptions, if they have not already paid them. It will be necessary that these subscriptions, or others in the place of them, should be continued for a year or two. The projected buildings engross the attention of the communities from which additions to the Endowment were expected, and the present state of business in the province is not favourable for raising large sums of money.

It will be proper to state that a large amount of hard work has been performed in our Scientific Department during the present year, and we have a collection of materials for illustrating the different branches connected with it, that probably is not inferior to any other in the maritime provinces. This department is considered by all competent judges to be so important in a course of education that it must not be neglected; and its connection with the development of the agricultural and mineral resources of the land will commend it to the sympathy of every one who feels that there is a better future for our country.

I trust that individuals, or churches, will be found ready to make special donations or subscriptions for the

salary of the Scientific Professor, as application shall be made in behalf of this object during the next two months.

A. W. SAWYER.

Wolfville, April 23, 1875.

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N.S., APRIL 28, 1875.

NOTICE.

SPECIAL MEETING OF BAPTIST CONVENTION.

At a Meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island, held in the city of St. John, on Tuesday, April 20th, 1875, a Resolution was passed as follows:—

Resolved, That the President of the Baptist Convention of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island be requested to call a special meeting of that body at an early day as practicable to take into consideration the communication from our missionaries relative to the choice of a field of labor.

A copy whereof being forwarded to me by the Secretary of the Board, and the Church at Amherst, having through their Pastor signified their willingness that such Special Convention be held with them, I do hereby appoint Wednesday the 12th day of May next, at 4 o'clock, P. M., at Amherst, as the time and place when and where such Special Convention be held for the purpose aforesaid, of which all churches, delegates, members, and parties interested, are respectfully requested to take notice.

J. McCULLY, President.

Amherst, 24th April, 1875.

SPECIAL CONVENTION NOTICE.

Delegates to Special Convention to be held in Amherst, 12th of May, will send in their names at once to

D. A. STEELE.

THE DALHOUSIE COLLEGE QUESTION.

We mentioned in our last that letters on this subject had been forwarded to us, but not received. We have discovered the culprit, and are happy to find that it was no one connected with the Postal Service—but a boy in our office. The same thing will not be likely to occur again.

The following copy of said letter came to hand just too late for our last week's paper. As it was deemed desirable that it should appear without further delay we sent a copy of it to the Morning Chronicle, in which paper it appeared on Friday last. The members of the Legislature and others, will do well to give it a careful perusal:—

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger:

DEAR SIR,—The Governors of Dalhousie College have issued a memorial, asking for a liberal grant from the provincial revenue.

The Presbyterian Committee of Superintendence of Education have applied to the Government to take Dalhousie College off their hands, and assume the entire responsibility of its support, or, if they decline taking that burden, to make a grant from the public funds.

A bill is now before the House of Assembly, by which it is sought to confer upon Dalhousie College singular powers, especially the right to affiliate to it other Colleges, Schools of Arts, etc.

I request permission to offer a few remarks.

1. The petition for money comes with an ill-grace from a corporation which already holds valuable property, and a fund, bestowed by the Legislature, yielding a large annual income.

2. Three religious bodies, all Presbyterians, sustain respectively a Professor in the college. The memorial calls them three denominations, and asks for a Provincial grant equal to three grants to the other colleges; i. e. \$4,200. Who believes in the so-called three denominations?

3. Persons of other denominations, it is affirmed, send their sons to Dalhousie, therefore (such is the inference) those denominations patronize the college. The sons of gentlemen belonging to other denominations are found at Acadia; but we do not presume to say that those religious bodies patronize us.

4. The Governors say, "our teaching staff is seven in number," and they desire to increase the salaries, because every thing is getting dearer. Quite right. Our teaching staff is six in number, and we wish to increase their salaries, which are lower than those of the Dalhousie professors; but we expect to raise funds for that purpose among ourselves.

5. The bill now before the House proposes to confer on Dalhousie College the power of affiliating to it other Colleges and Educational Institutions (even Schools in Theology!). This is a very ambitious project. It will not affect the Colleges, because they will not consent to surrender their Collegiate powers and be absorbed in Dalhousie, which would be the result if they were affiliated. The only benefit accruing to Schools in Arts, &c., would be that their students might matriculate in Dalhousie, then study in their own Institutions, and go to Halifax at proper times for examination. To them Dalhousie would be only an examining body.

6. If this bill should pass other Colleges will, of course, claim the same privilege. Acadia will ask for its next session, for Acadia is as truly a University by its Act of incorporation as Dalhousie.

7. It is well to look into the history of this affair. They talk about non-sectarianism. Why, sir, Dalhousie was made sectarian many years ago, by the appointment of three Presbyterian Professors, other denominations being purposely excluded. Then, in 1863, when the other colleges had got into successful operation, they remodelled the institution, giving the right of nominating a Professor to any religious body or individual who would guarantee his support. Three Presbyterian bodies availed themselves of the offer, and Professors were appointed accordingly. Circumstances have now occurred which render a change desirable. The burden has become too heavy for the Presbyterians, and they ask the Province to relieve them. Is the request reasonable? Is it right? Have they not already more than their proper share?

8. Acadia College is as thoroughly non-sectarian in its collegiate arrangements as Dalhousie. No religious tests are imposed, either on Professors or on students. They are forbidden by the act of incorporation, and the act is strictly observed.

9. The title of this application is to swamp all the other colleges in the Province and to establish Dalhousie on their ruins. It cannot be done, gentlemen,—it would be a breach of faith, and Nova Scotia will not be guilty of it.

A SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF ACADIA COLLEGE.

April 10, 1875.

P. S.—Since writing the above I have seen to-day's "Presbyterian Witness," in which it is admitted that Dalhousie exactly suits them. "What they want is a non-denominational College for their young men." They have it in Dalhousie, and are satisfied. Good! The Episcopalians are satisfied with Kings, the Catholics with their two Colleges, the Methodists with Mount Allison, the Baptists with Acadia. So let it be. Let them all be content and happy, not disturbing one another.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

To all who have paid: Thanks.

To all who have not: Please pay without delay.

The effort of the Roman Catholics in Prince Edward Island to get a bill through the Legislature, to allow persons to teach in the public schools on certificates "from some educational establishment in Europe or America" instead of a regular license, has been defeated. The Catholic members voted for it, and the Protestant members against it.

Mrs. BIRT'S ADDRESS on Monday afternoon at Argyle Hall was a story of Christian work on behalf of destitute children, the most touching that we ever heard. Her pictures of the destitution of many of the poor creatures when brought to her, placed in contrast with what she had seen of the same children since they were taken by the kind friends in Nova Scotia, drew forth applause and tears of joy from the eyes of many stern men and noble women who were present. God speed Mrs. Birt in her philanthropic labors, and Colonel and Mrs. Laurie so devotedly engaged in this excellent work.

Mr. D. BANKS MCKENZIE addressed a crowded audience on Sunday night after the usual services on the work of rescuing inebriates and bringing them back to the paths of sobriety. He warmly advocated the establishment of a "Home" in Halifax on the same basis as the "Appleton Home" near Boston, of which he has charge. Upwards of forty Nova Scotians have been restored to their families by his instrumentality, and many of them have returned active, earnest Christians.

At a meeting on Monday evening, initiatory steps were taken towards the establishment of such an Institution in Halifax.

We are pleased to learn that the Hon. Provincial Secretary has withdrawn the bill for allowing licensed liquor dealers to have their licenses renewed without the recommendation from rate-payers in the district, as the law now requires. It had, we are informed, but one solitary supporter. An instructive lesson to the Halifax Justices who prepared the Bill.

DR. BURNS gave a lecture on David Livingstone on Friday last at Fort Massey church. A fine subject finely handled.

EDUCATIONAL RECORD.

Several questions concerning proposed changes in the relations of the Province to collegiate education have been suggested to us; but as yet we find no satisfactory answers. We state the questions and wait for light.

A clergyman of this city has publicly declared himself in favor of granting Separate Schools to the Catholics, but he makes use of every opportunity in connection with public meetings in the city to advocate the doctrine that there should be one non-sectarian college for the Province, and that it should be supported by taxation on all the people. How are these utterances in regard to different parts of the educational system to be harmonized?

What is meant by a non-sectarian College? The term has been applied to institutions about as dissimilar in their relations to religion, as it was possible to be. The colleges sustained by the British Government in India make no discrimination in favor of christianity as distinct from any of the systems of idolatry. Do the men who are pleading for a non-sectarian college among us, use the term to denote a college as free from religion as these are said to be? If the word is not employed in this full meaning, about how much sectarianism may the college have, in the judgment of parties against which its discriminations are made, and still be non-sectarian?

Three years ago, a member of the then existing Government proposed to incorporate a body, to be made up of representatives from the various colleges, and to have authority to determine all courses of study in the affiliated colleges and conduct all examinations for degrees in the same. It was understood at the time that the Governors of Dalhousie vigorously opposed this scheme, as not adapted to promote the higher educational interests of the country. Now these gentlemen appear before the Legislature and ask, that the power to receive other colleges into affiliation with theirs may be conferred on them. Were the arguments urged by them, three years ago, against the principle of affiliation, valid or not? If they were not valid, then the majority of the people will think that the method proposed by Mr. Garvie is much better than the one now before the Legislature. If they were valid as against Mr. Garvie's plan they must be decisive as against the one now proposed.

Again, one judging by the frequency and urgency with which the subject of a Provincial University is presented to the public in one way or another, might conclude that there is something like a popular, or at least a general demand for such an institution. But the fact is that all this advocacy proceeds from a few individuals, who are members of one denomination and are always found in the front rank of labor to advance the interests of that denomination. Why is it, that, while these men know that three-fourths of the people are willing to let collegiate education continue on the present basis, they, as representatives of the other fourth, are so persistently urging us all to come together in their College?

Professor Taylor Lewis, of Union College, defends so many old-fashioned ideas and ways, that the men of this generation can hardly comprehend him. Whatever may be thought of his opinions, he is a ripe scholar and a

man of clear and strong convictions. Most of us would think it a great retrogression to put our schools back to Webster's spelling book for their first reading lessons; yet Professor Lewis has some things to say for the book, that suggest the question whether the change to new methods of education, which we may be ready to admit are in many respects better than the old, has not been marked by the loss of a spirit that made the old and imperfect methods more effective than the new in producing some of the most precious fruits of education.

"Let it be pardoned, then, as an old man's prejudices, when I say that I know of nothing in early education to be compared to the spelling book of Noah Webster, and especially, in the first reading lessons, so perfectly meeting the child's mind, without any loss of their innate sublimity—so childlike, I may say, yet never childish—drawing up the young soul to their own height, without any lowering to a puerile standard, or to that flat nonsense presented in some modern specimens that might be cited as having the aim to lead a child to think for himself. Those first reading lessons of Webster's spelling book!—they are never to be forgotten. It is sixty-six years ago, but the scene comes up in all its freshness—the young class just standing upon the threshold of that mysterious art, that first introduction to words seen as well as heard—to words as objective things, bringing with them something of a higher spirit, or as representative of the universal intelligence. I see them again, those slender forms—their voices are in mine ears—the child's slow monotone, as he points his finger along the line, pronouncing each monosyllable with equal emphasis, and now and then looking up to the grave face bending over him, and so solemnly intent upon the momentous work in which he is engaged.

No-man-may-put-off-the-law-of-God.

That was the first line I ever read, and the second was like unto it:

My-joy-is-in-His-law-all-the-day. O-may-I-not-go-in-the-way-of-ill-men. He-who-came-to-save-us-will-wash-us—from-all-sin. I-will-be-glad-in-his-name.

It was the dawning of immortal truth. How much of precious meaning in these few words! How sublime they are!—how self-revealing! We did understand it. Men who caricature and talk about parrot-lessons, and pedants, without ideas, may declaim as they will. We did understand it."

Though the resources of the new Boston University are ample, as yet not a dollar has been expended on new buildings. Something besides fine building is needed to make a college or a university, and that something will make itself felt as a power for good, even in connection with a low order of architectural display.

The Superintendent of Education, in his Report for last year, presents the college question very fairly. Instead of lamenting the absence of what might have been, or expending strength in advocating some scheme that is impracticable in the circumstances, the existing condition of things is accepted as the basis of advancement for the future. It will be better, in the end, for Nova Scotia to have two or three strong colleges than only one. Monopolies are not in harmony with the spirit of the age. The college that meets the wants of the people will grow with the development of other elements of civilization and culture. We make no objection to the recommendation of a Dominion University; but it must be many years before such a university can be founded. If the Dalhousie property really belongs to the Province, as some claim, the best thing the Legislature can do, is to order the sale of the Building, add the sum realized, after all claims on the property are discharged, to the invested Castine Fund and appropriate the income to the foundation of five or six scholarships, which shall be subject to some just system of award, and the holders of which shall reside for the period of four or five years in one of certain specified foreign universities, such holder of a scholarship having first come under obligation to reside in Nova Scotia for five years after the close of a course of study in such university, or in default of such residence to forfeit a sum equal to two thirds of the amount received from his scholarships. In this way the property might be made to do vastly more than it can possibly effect in its present use, to improve the scholarship of the country and cultivate in the people a proper appreciation of literature and art.