

of lead-light glazing with cathedral glass. Mr. Brown read letters from Mr. Spurgeon, Sir Robert Lush, and others, apologizing for their absence, the former explaining that ill-health prevented him, and read a list of subscriptions—proceeded to the formal ceremony. This concluded, he called upon the Rev. J. P. Chown, who offered his congratulations upon the very auspicious circumstances under which they were assembled. They had been in the north district and the south, and now they had come into the east, and rejoiced that in coming they had every assurance of the Divine blessing upon the work.

After the open-air proceedings, the friends were invited to adjourn to a spacious marquee for tea, which they did to the number of about 1,500. A public meeting followed in the evening, under the presidency of Mr. W. Fowler, J. P., when encouraging addresses were given.

**BAPTISM OF A PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER.**—The Rev. Mr. Stevens, Presbyterian minister, of Berwick-upon-Tweed, was baptized at Highbury-hill Chapel on Monday evening last week by the Rev. Dr. Culross. Having been asked by Dr. Culross to say a few words, Mr. Stevens said he should have preferred not stating anything on that occasion. The truth which had been impressed upon his mind that night was union with Jesus—through faith we died with Him, we were buried with Him, and were raised with Him, and thus made partakers of unspeakable benefits. The ordinance of baptism reminded him that Jesus Christ was condemned to death that we might go free. The Master had said to his disciples that he had a baptism to be baptized with. He would say "all thy waves and thy billows have gone over me," and now we by faith in that Substitute might go free. As a minister of the Gospel he had preached, as many of them knew, something quite different to believer's baptism, but having studied the Word of God, he felt the views he then held were without any warrant, and he waited upon Dr. Culross, and sought the ordinance of Baptism at his hands, believing that as it was administered by him it was in accordance with God's will.—*Freeman.*

For the Christian Messenger.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger.

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly grant me a corner for the correction of an error in regard to a matter which, though of the least public importance, reflects somewhat suspiciously upon my individual modesty?

In assigning the authorship of a recent article, for whose faults, (save the numerous and glaring typographical errors for which the mails which miscarried the proofs should bear the blame), I am responsible, the excellent editor of the BAPTIST QUARTERLY, under the influence of some mental hallucination, the source of which is a profound mystery to this deponent, appended to my name the formidable initials "L. D." Against the Quarterly I have, I suppose no resource. But as you in a kind notice in your issue of Nov. 28th, have overweighted my short name with the same heavy letters. I beg leave to reassure my personal friends in Nova Scotia by explaining that I am entirely innocent in the matter and that to the best of my knowledge, and belief I can claim no higher academic distinction than that represented by the two letters which my *Alma Mater* was pleased to append to my name fourteen years ago. With those I am still quite content and have only to wish that they were better merited.

I am Sir,  
Respectfully yours,  
J. E. WELLS.

Canadian Literary Institute,  
Woodstock, Ont., Dec. 1st, 1877.

For the Christian Messenger.

Home Missions.

Dear Brother,—

The Board of Home Missions met for the transaction of business on Monday, the 3rd inst. Eleven brethren were present, nine of whom were members of our Board.

The first news that reached our ears was that our time-honored College building at Wolfville had been burned to the ground on the previous evening. The sad intelligence produced a profound sensation not only among the members of our Board but throughout the town of Yarmouth. Earnest prayer was offered that our God may

overrule this disaster for good. We deeply sympathize with the Faculty and Students in the loss and inconvenience which they must necessarily suffer; whilst we cannot but admire their courage and energy in determining to continue their regular course of studies. It is our earnest hope that a larger and more commodious building may be speedily erected upon the ashes of the fallen edifice.

The Home Mission outlook is still encouraging. But we need more enlarged liberality. The receipts of the past month have been very small. It is hoped that the half-yearly collection will at once be made in all our churches. Among the actions of the Board the following may be mentioned:—

1. Bro. Geo. Starratt, licentiate, has been assigned a mission of eight weeks at New Ross, Waterville and neighboring stations, under the supervision of Rev. J. A. McLean.
2. A subsidy of \$50.00 was voted to aid the little church at Parrsboro.
3. The claims of the little interest at Riverdale, Yarmouth Co., having been carefully considered, it was decided that a subsidy of \$58.00 be granted to this church, with the understanding that the Board shall have credit for all sums collected on the field by the missionary.

It is very desirable that reports shall be regularly forwarded to our Board from missionaries and pastors who are receiving aid from the Home Mission treasury. Failure in reporting may lead to a forfeiture of the aid promised. Pains have been taken to supply every missionary and subsidized church with schedules for monthly or quarterly returns; so that there is no reasonable excuse for neglect in this matter.

W. H. WARREN,  
Cor. Secretary.

Yarmouth, Dec. 6, 1877.

**The Christian Messenger.**

Halifax, N. S., December 12th, 1877.

**THE BURNING OF ACADIA COLLEGE.**

**SECOND ARTICLE.**

Our readers learned last week the fact that the Acadia College building had been burned to the ground on Sunday evening, 2nd inst. We were then able to give but little more than the bare announcement, gathered from hastily written notes. But the story of the fire has yet to be told. The noble, well-proportioned structure, whose walls had been hallowed by a thousand sacred associations connected with the experiences of devoted men, now in heaven, and a host of living ones, who there commenced their journey to the enduring heavenly mansions, are now but a blackened mass of rubbish. The origin of the fire seems still to be involved in mystery. The first seen of it was on the western side, over No. 4 Class room, on the same floor as the library. By some it was supposed that it came from a defect in the stove fittings in the student's room over this, but Dr. Sawyer had recently inspected the room, and found it all right. It must therefore have been from the flue.

On going there, after the alarm, the flames were found issuing from the ceiling and going on towards the centre of the building. The students' rooms, in the upper stories, could not be safely approached, and it was but the work of a moment to decide that there was no possibility of saving the building or the contents of the museum, and that every effort must be put forth to try and secure as much as possible of the valuable library and the portraits it contained. The passages and stairs being narrow, it was impossible to carry the books out, and the only chance was for some persons to throw them from the windows whilst others were outside ready to collect and carry them to a place of safety. Whilst this was being done, the fire was eating its way from room to room and bursting out in every direction, sparing nothing, but becoming more and more furious and grand; and, from its commanding position, throwing its lurid light over the whole of the surrounding landscape, and so becoming the point of observation over a vast tract of country, east, west and north. From miles around, in every direction, parties hastened to learn what was the nature and extent of the conflagration, and the hill was soon covered by hundreds of spectators. The fire, meantime, was spreading in every direction, and had consumed the supports of the cupola and belfry, and these becoming unsteady began to sway and yield to their inevitable doom. The fine large bell, which had for so many years been sending out its

sonorous tones over the adjacent neighbourhood, gave forth one loud, solemn parting knell, and swinging back with a loud crash, passed down through the flaming ruins, and was soon melted up into a mass of metal fragments. The flames having now reached the pediment and taken away its supports in the building, the tall massive pillars were seized upon, and down they came in rapid succession, taking away all the prominent features by which the structure had been recognized for so many years.

A number of the students, whose rooms were in the college building, lost considerable of their clothing and books, some of them lost their all—one Mr. H. N. Spencer, who came to preach in Dartmouth on that Sabbath, and three others, Messrs. Harrington and two brothers Bishop, likewise, we believe, had nothing left but the clothes in which they stood.

After recounting the losses, we must not overlook the mercies which were mingled with the judgment in this calamity. Not a life lost, or a person injured! Some of the students had their clothes and hair singed by the flames in the endeavour to save their own or their friends' property. If the same fire had broken out in the night, or at almost any other time than it did, there would have been every probability of injury, and possibly loss of life. In this may we not recognize that the college—which yet lives—is still

**"THE CHILD OF PROVIDENCE,"**

notwithstanding the stripping of it of its place of abode, and comfortable surroundings. The building is but the home of the College,—the corporation, the institution. While the building is taken, the College—Governors, Faculty and students—are spared and ready, after a brief suspension, again to proceed with the work of imparting and receiving instruction in whatever temporary provision may be made for them, and so keep up the succession with but brief intermission. They will, of course, be put to very serious inconvenience and some interruption in their work. In this there will be greater need than ever of harmony and co-operation, so as to bring the inconveniences down to the lowest possible point until a new building shall be erected.

What are the teachings of this calamity, we have yet to learn. Whilst the fire is a destroyer it is also a purifier, and although the old building had done excellent service in the past, yet it may be that a greater work is demanded of the present and future generations, and that better accommodations are required. The amount for which the building was insured will make a fair beginning of a new one, but it will not go far towards its completion. A fresh appeal will doubtless require to be made to its friends and those able to assist so as to provide a suitable structure for the institution in the future. Much sympathy under the sad misfortune has been expressed for us on every hand, and by all denominations, and we should not be surprised if a liberal and generous response were made in supplying funds to rebuild. Let the friends everywhere but give tangible expression to their benevolent impulses and send on to the governors their contributions at once, and they would be encouraged to proceed without delay in commencing operations.

On Tuesday morning the students assembled on the hill, lingering around their *Alma Mater*, formed themselves in a procession with a mounted marshal and solemnly marched twice around the ruins, singing "Auld Lang Syne." Just then Rev. Dr. Sawyer and Professor Jones coming up, were received with the usual respectful salutation. A request was made of the President that he would give them an impromptu address. Dr. Sawyer bowed his head, but his feelings so overcame him that he could not speak. After walking around the remains, however, Professor Jones came across the ashes and spoke for a few minutes on the circumstances in which they found themselves, and encouraged them to hope that although the present outlook was so full of gloom and sadness, yet that they might hope for something more encouraging, and that he believed the building would arise again. The procession then moved down through the village in solemn silence, and was proceeding again up the hill when they met Rev. Dr. Crawley. After the exchange of salutations a request was made for a short address from him, to which Dr. C. complied, and for about fifteen minutes spoke in soul-stirring strains, well adapted to cheer and keep alive the

enthusiasm of the young men now burned out of home and college. He showed that the essentials of the college were of a more enduring character than the materials which had just been consumed, and they yet lived, and, he believed, would provide another and better building. After this they again formed and returned to the College Hill and joining hands, stretched around, nearly encircling the site, and joined together in three hearty cheers for "Old Acadia," and then three more for *New Acadia* which they hoped to see in 1878.

Since the above was written we have learned further that the Governors of the College assembled at Wolfville on Thursday from Halifax, Truro, St. John, N. B., Fredericton, N. B., and other places less distant from Wolfville. But one mind and one heart animated the whole—that without loss of time

**ACADIA COLLEGE MUST BE REBUILT.** Not only so but that in addition to the College proper a building was imperatively required for the Ladies Collegiate and one for an Assembly Hall and Recitation Rooms for Horton Collegiate Academy. Efforts were made to ascertain if there was any building in the village which could be obtained to supply the present necessities of the Institutions. It was found that there was no building at all suitable, and further that alterations, such as would be needed in any existing building, would involve a large outlay of money without any satisfactory results.

After careful and earnest consideration of the situation and necessities it was suggested that two temporary buildings might possibly be erected at once and prepared in time to be available for the students on their re-assembling after the Christmas vacation. Mark Curry, Esq., of Windsor, a warm friend of the College took up the idea, and having facilities for preparing the material, said he would himself engage to have such buildings up and ready for occupation by the 10th of January, 1878.

The offer was immediately accepted and the agreement made to erect two buildings with strong frames, one large one 30 feet by 70 for College purposes, and the other 30 feet by 50 for the use of the Academy Classes—to be double floored and double boarded with thick sheathing paper between the boards, the inside walls being finished in wood and divided into rooms to suit the requirements of the institutions. These buildings to have at present no foundations but made so that they may be removed when the College is built, and then answer the purposes of a gymnasium for each institution, or any other purpose as may be required.

A PUBLIC MEETING AT WOLFVILLE, called for Thursday evening was largely attended indeed it was crowded by a vast concourse of persons, each of whom seemed intensely in earnest and anxious to participate in rebuilding the College. Hon. Dr. Parker was called to the chair. Speeches of any length were not needed to awaken sympathy, this was already filling all hearts and nothing else could be spoken of. Brief addresses were however given by A. F. Randolph, Esq., and Dr. Rand of Fredericton, N. B.; Revs: Messrs. Coffin (Wesleyan), Dr. Crawley, E. M. Kierstead, E. M. Saunders, G. Armstrong, S. March, and S. P. Kempton, and Messrs: J. W. Bars, J. B. North, M. P. P., D. R. Eaton, J. W. Bigelow and others.

The great question was, Here is something to be done forthwith and what share can I take in doing it? Rev. Isa. Wallace in assisting the Chairman and Secretary by taking down names greatly facilitated the work. The first enquiry was, Who of those present were prepared to put down \$1000? To this there were three responses, J. W. Bigelow, Esq., of Wolfville, J. W. Bars, Esq., also of Wolfville, and Dr. Rupert Eaton, Esq., of Cornwallis, and another friend privately stated his intention of doing the same. Then donors of \$500 were invited to indicate their wish, and to this one of the students, Mr. Howard Chambers intimated his readiness to subscribe, which was of course the occasion of many a hearty cheer from his fellow-students and the friends present, also another of the friends expressed his intention of giving that sum, and the work went on rolling up the dollars by hundreds and by fifties and by twenties and by tens and by fives till about 11 o'clock in the evening, and the amount had risen to \$9050, a noble beginning at head quarters.

Subsequent to the above, the Governor of the College authorized the Executive Committee to recommend

that as early as possible Public Meetings of the friends of the College, on behalf of a new building, be held throughout the Provinces. The Professors agreed to employ themselves in any way they could to promote this work.

In accordance with this recommendation, a number of friends, representing the churches in Halifax and Dartmouth, held a preliminary meeting in the New Baptist Vestry, Spring Garden Road, Halifax, on Monday afternoon, and resolved, That A PUBLIC MEETING be held in Granville Street Church on Monday evening next, at 7 1/2 o'clock, to afford an opportunity for showing sympathy in this unfortunate occurrence.

It was also agreed to invite Rev. Dr. Crawley and Professor Higgins to be present and address the said meeting. If similar action be taken forthwith in other places, there need be no fears entertained about the governors being sustained in their efforts to provide suitable buildings for the cause of Collegiate Education, open to all parties and all denominations.

The 15th Annual Convention of the Educational Association of Nova Scotia, will be held in Dalhousie College, Halifax, 26th, 27th & 28th, 1877. The following programme will we doubt not attract a large number of Teachers to the Capital during these days of the Christmas Holidays:

Wednesday Dec. 26th, 7 1/2 p. m.—Opening Address by the President, A. H. McKay, Esq., M. A., Principal of Pictou Academy. Lecture on "Hood." Rev. Cannon Dart, M. A., D. C. L., President King's College.

Thursday Dec. 27th, 10 a. m.—Grecian History, An Introduction to the Study of, by J. F. Tufts, Esq., M. A., Professor of History, Acadia College.

"Science in Schools." W. H. Waddell, Esq., Teacher of English, High School, Halifax.

3 p. m.—"Object Teaching." J. B. Calkin, Esq., M. A., Principal of the Normal College and Model School.

"The Teaching of Drawing." By a Lady Teacher.

Discussion, "On the Desirability of the Appointment by the Government, of a Drawing Master, to instruct Teachers in the Chief Centres of Population in the Art of Industrial Drawing."

8 p. m.—"An Address." President David Allison, Esq., LL. D., Superintendent of Education.

"Course of Study." Chas. McDonald, M. A., Professor of Mathematics, Dalhousie College.

Educational Addresses, by the Inspectors of Public Schools.

Friday Dec. 28th, 10 a. m.—"Teachers' Institutes." A. N. Archibald, Esq., Principal Richmond School.

"Reading and Text-Books." A. McN. Patterson, Esq., M. A.

Discussion, "On Our Text-Books."

3 p. m.—"Home Lessons." Dr. H. Burbridge, Esq., M. A., Morris Street School.

"Public Schools of Ontario." S. P. Groat, Esq., late Inspector of Public Schools, Middlesex, Ontario.

8 p. m.—"German Education." Herbert Bayne, Esq., M. A., Ph. D.

"Valedictory Poem." Mrs. A. N. Archibald, formerly Percepsess Sackville Academy.

**THE TABERNACLE.**

The basement of this new Baptist Church edifice was opened for Public Worship last Lord's Day, Rev. J. F. Avery, the pastor, sends us the following description of the interior, and the occasion:—

"The building being on the lower side of the street, allows a splendid basement to be built and yet not rise only a few feet above the street level."

The vestry is entered by two capital stairways, and they are so arranged as to be very easy of ascent and descent, and both lead into a wide hall, which opens into the main audience room which is 64x46. This room has been formed by the voluntary labour of our brethren who have toiled for two or three weeks past, putting up rough board partitions. It was feared by many the building would be unsightly and uncomfortable. We are glad to report an agreeable disappointment, for the rough walls and hemlock boards, thanks to hard work and a plentiful application of whitewash, looked so fresh and inviting, that people forgot to talk about plaster and ceiling, having quite enough to do to admire the present appearance, barring all defects. For the inner doors are covered with green baize, which very pleasantly relieves the white. Large Scripture texts have been tastefully arranged around the walls, affording food for meditation and after contemplation.