

Some of us who went down to that meeting doubting, fearing, trembling, came home praising God, and rejoicing that He had rebuked our fears. It reminded me of Old Testament times when the children of Israel brought a willing offering every man and woman, whose hearts made them willing.

Again I think we are called upon to admire God's providential dealings in this event. We have been laboring for years to provide a suitable building for a Female Seminary. The day has gone by when it was thought sufficient that our daughters should possess the merest rudiments of a common school education, and one or two superficial accomplishments. Women have minds as capable of full training and high development as our own. While this has been felt and acknowledged, we have labored under great disadvantages in providing suitable accommodations in the Female Department of Horton Academy. Now, however, the way seems to be opened, and there is a fair prospect that a building will be erected in which the young ladies may be well cared for, physically, mentally, morally.

Again: We believe that this calamity may lead to a more full and perfect union in Christian love and sympathy of the people of the land. It must not be forgotten that the first subscription for rebuilding was rendered by the Methodist minister superintending this district, accompanied by kind and loving words of sympathy. Amongst the donations on Thursday there were those of other denominations beside our own. We believe, too, that this event will lead to a more entire and hearty unanimity amongst ourselves as a people. We have not always been so united as we could wish. Vexing questions sometimes arise; conflicting interests occur; but in a great sorrow or a great crisis these often rapidly disappear. So it may be with us. I believe at present we are pretty well united, but my hope and expectation is that we shall be more closely joined than ever, and with one desire, one purpose, one effort, we shall be enabled to enter upon this work, and God will bless us in it.

Finally, dear unconverted hearer, we believe that this event bears some relation to your condition also. You have heard the roaring of the flames. You have seen the labor of years consumed in an hour. You have witnessed the manner in which God chastens his own children, and comes down in apparent wrath upon the toils and efforts of his own servants, many of whom are now before the Throne. Do you not see that He is a God of power, able to crush, subdue, and destroy? While his children can derive comfort from adversity, light from darkness, hope from trouble, dost not thou fear God? If He spared not His own, will He spare you? We ask you in all sincerity to seek His face and His favor, to call upon the Lord now, for a day of still more terrible destruction is coming, a flame that shall consume you in His wrath if you repent not. Find a shelter, seek a refuge in Christ, and you need not fear, though the earth be destroyed and the heavens be burnt up with fervent heat.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., December 19th, 1877.

The record of the past in reference to Acadia is full of encouragement. The late sad misfortune which, in about two hours, demolished the work of near half a century has not been without making some gratifying developments. Whilst the loss is great, and, in some respects, irreparable, yet the readiness of its friends to combine and use prompt means to prevent loss of time on the part of the students is proof that they and the governors are caring first for the interests of those who are seeking collegiate advantages, and then without loss of time will proceed with the restoration of the buildings. The resolution unanimously adopted by the students two days after the fire shews that they appreciate the action of the governors and Faculty, and are nothing daunted, but place full reliance in the future management. Here is their resolution:—

"ACADIA COLLEGE, Dec. 4, 1877.

At a full meeting of the Athenaeum this morning it was unanimously resolved,

That the sympathy of the students be tendered to the Faculty of the College, and that they be assured of the determination of this body to stick to Acadia, old and new, in adversity and prosperity, to the last.

Signed by Committee in behalf of Acadia Athenaeum. B. W. LOCKHART, A. C. CHUTE, SYDNEY WELTON."

We have had quite a number of assurances from various quarters, that the concern of the friends of the college has been increased by the calamity that has befallen the institution. One has just come to hand from Charlottetown, which says: "How mysterious the burning of Acadia College! God is his own interpreter, and he will make it plain. The Governors have the sympathy, and I trust shall have the hearty support of Prince Edward Island Baptists. I hope they will not be in any way discouraged. Truly yours, D. G. McDONALD."

A PUBLIC MEETING

was held in Granville Street Church, Halifax, on Monday evening. Hon. Dr. Parker in the Chair.

The Chairman said it would be in harmony with all the past history of Acadia College that the blessing of God be sought on the proceedings of the evening, and requested Rev. Dr. Hill to offer prayer, which he did in most earnest and touching terms.

Dr. Parker then gave a brief sketch of the earlier history of the first Academy building, and alluded to the sacrifices made by its friends to erect it and subsequently to make the additions, when it became a College. He alluded to a letter which had been received from the Governors of King's College, expressing deep sorrow and sympathy in the loss of property by the late fire. Dr. P. also read a letter from W. J. Stairs, Esq., expressing his regret that he could not be present, and recalling the memories of the happy days he had spent at the Academy more than forty years ago, and enclosing a cheque for \$500 towards rebuilding or endowment, as might be thought best. Dr. Parker also read a beautifully expressed and most encouraging letter received from G. P. Payzant, Esq., of Windsor, with a cheque for \$500 for rebuilding.

Rev. Dr. Crawley expressed much pleasure in being able to speak to an intelligent audience already in hearty sympathy with the object under consideration—who could understand well what a great loss had been sustained by the Governors and Faculty, and especially the Students, in being deprived of class-rooms, rooms of labor and of rest. The building burnt had been admirably adapted to the present needs, but, in rebuilding it, would be necessary to make even greater outlay than the former cost. There has been growth since they were erected, and the very work done has necessitated enlargement. It is cheering to have help, and yet with all the help, we must bear the loss and for a good while endure the deprivation. Whatever is done for Higher Education is raising the character of the country and benefitting the community. King's College was his alma mater, and he had always felt warmly towards that institution, but when the other day a letter had come from its Governors saying that our loss was their loss, he felt it afresh enkindle his affection and awaken a sense of gratitude towards his early home.

Hon. Provincial Secretary was highly pleased to have the opportunity of speaking in behalf of Acadia where he had spent so many happy days with his friend, the chairman. He recalled the first founding of Kings College, when many thought it was unnecessary in so young a country to establish such an institution, but it was now abundantly plain that it was done in the exercise of wise forethought and prudence. The learned Dr., who had preceded him had there received his early love for learning, and the stimulus which had led him on and up to his present high position. Acadia may thus be regarded as one of the fruits of Kings. He hoped the friendships formed at Horton would ever continue, and not be interfered with or broken by politics or anything else. He thought it a great pity that such an institution should be built of any but enduring material after the example of the U. States people. They spare no cost in their expenditure for educational purposes and institutions. Evils afflict society, but sometimes they are not unmitigated, war often brings forth liberty and a higher condition of national existence, and so fire is often used in the providence of God to make way for improvements, and eventually proves the means of blessing. He hoped it might be so in the present case.

After a most eloquent tribute to the magnificent scenery of Wolfville and its surroundings, crowned by the temple of learning on the hill, he concluded a masterly speech of great beau-

ty and power and most touching in its reminiscences of former days.

Dr. Parker here mentioned some facts in the history of the Free Church of Scotland and the grand results of an appeal by Dr. Welsh in raising \$20,000 for a college by writing twenty letters in one morning, and hoped some such noble deeds might follow our efforts.

Rev. Dr. Hill, being invited, spoke briefly, and gave a most graphic description of his being taken to Wolfville by Dr. Crawley, and of what he had heard from good old Father Harding forty years ago. He believed the great success of Acadia had arisen from the fact that the building had been erected by a large number of small contributions. It would be a great misfortune if the whole should be done by two or three persons. He recalled the immense pleasure he had felt in connection with his fellow students under Dr. Crawley's direction at Horton in planting many of the trees that had attained such fine proportions and now adorn the College hill.

Professor Higgins gave a minute description of the interior of the late College building, and how each part had been admirably adapted to the necessities of the several professors and their classes, and had supplied them with just the accommodation needed. The temporary shanties now being erected would supply them for the present, one is already up, and the other in course of going up, but all the sacred associations are gone, yet they lived in hope of soon seeing a new building to take its place, more worthy of the object.

His Worship the Mayor said he could not speak under the same inspiration as the gentlemen who had already addressed the meeting, he had never studied at Acadia, nor had he the pleasure of having visited it, yet he most sincerely regretted the loss, and felt that it was a public calamity. The suffering endured by the body in its loss of Professor Chipman, and several students in 1852, and now in the loss of the treasures he had personally begun to collect and enriched by others since, would, he felt assured, all prove means of bringing the institution to a higher state of perfection than ever before.

John Y. Payzant, Esq., expressed his undying interest in the institution in which he had spent six of the happiest years of his life. He related some facts which showed that student-life is not always free from pica-dilloes of a more or less serious character, and others that were evidence of great moral and spiritual good received at Acadia.

It was moved, seconded and carried, that the names of Dr. H. H. Read, J. W. Whitman, and J. E. Irish, be added to the Halifax Committee.

After announcing the sums contributed in Halifax, to the Building Fund, and receiving others, a resolution was moved and unanimously adopted expressive of hearty sympathy with the College authorities in their misfortune; and an earnest desire to see the College buildings erected at the earliest possible day.

Rev. Dr. Crawley offered the closing prayer, the doxology was sung and the meeting dismissed with the benediction.

The following are some of the amounts contributed in Halifax:—

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes Hon. J. W. Stairs (\$500), Hon. Dr. Parker (500), A. & W. Mackinlay (100), Rev. J. W. Manning (100), Alderman Frazer (50), R. N. Beckwith (50), W. C. Delaney (100), Rev. E. M. Saunders (50), J. C. Archibald (20), Rev. J. F. Avery (20), Rev. James Thomas (10).

Other persons stated that they would, after the meeting, add their names to the list.

Was it customary among the primitive disciples to observe the washing of feet? If so, why not now?

It was numbered among the "good works" and acts of hospitality which Christians were to perform, and not among the ordinances of the church (1 Tim. v. 10). Whenever it is required as a good work or an act of hospitality, it should be observed. — Christian Standard.

1. Is it contrary to the teaching of God's word for a Christian to marry one who is not a member of the church?

2. If a minister believes it to be contrary to the Word, does he not sin in performing the ceremony?

As it related to the idolatrous heathen, there is no doubt that the apostles discountenanced intermarriages with them. The warning against yoking with unbelievers (II Cor. vi. 14-18), while it is not necessarily confined to

marriage, evidently includes this; and it is still as binding as ever. But that the term "unbelievers," as used here, includes all now out of the church, is not so clear. There are those who are morally, and also in their religious convictions and sympathies, so far Christians as to put it in doubt whether they are to be classed with the idolatrous heathen of whom Paul speaks. The direction to widows (I Cor. vii. 29) to marry "only in the Lord," carries with it a strong implication that all Christians should seek such companionship among Christians, and not outside.

2. "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin." "He that doubteth is condemned" if he perform the doubtful act. — Jb.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE WEEK.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Event. Includes Dec. 10. Papal decrees, &c., burned; Death of Dr. Krummacher, 1868; Death of Gay, Poet, 1738; French troops left Rome, 1866; Death of Brunel, Engineer, 1849; Council of Trent opened, 1545; Death of Strype, Historian, 1737; Death of Dr. Samuel Johnson, 1784; Death of Washington, 1799; Death of Prince Albert, 1861; Death of Isaac Walton, 1683; Death of Mrs. Trimmer, 1810; Death of Dr. Vanderkemp, Missionary, 1811; Cromwell installed Protector, 1653.

The Eastern Chronicle published at New Glasgow gives an excellent report of the opening of the new Baptist House of Worship there, reported in another column by Rev. D. Freeman. In a summary of Rev. J. Bleakney's opening sermon it says:—

"The preacher maintained, first of all, that the rock upon which Christ was to build his church was not Peter, but rather the Divinity of Christ proclaimed in Peter's confession, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.' The churches established by the apostles, he argued, were not known by any general name that would imply that they were placed under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of any representative body authorized to exercise jurisdiction and discipline over the entire area within which such churches were situated; but they were rather distinct organizations, bearing the names of their respective locations, e. g., the 'Church at Corinth,' &c. The breaking up of these local churches by persecutions and apostacies did not extinguish the Church of Christ, as it existed in mountains and caves and holes of the earth wherever one or two or more held to the purity of the faith. The Reformation of Luther was not the birth of the Christian Church of to-day, but the emergence of the original Church of Christ from the wilderness where it had endured exile in fulfillment of prophecy, for twelve hundred and sixty years. Mr. Bleakney is a powerful, clear and logical preacher, and his effort on this occasion was perhaps one of the ablest of the kind ever listened to in New Glasgow."

The Governors of the Mount Allison College have elected the Rev. Howard Sprague, M. A., to succeed Dr. Allison as president of the College. One of our exchanges states that "Mr. S. is only thirty-four years old, graduating at Sackville in 1868, but since then has been holding important positions in connection with the Methodist Church. He enjoys more than a Provincial reputation as an orator, and will lend dignity and prestige to his new position. As a student, he excelled in classics."

We offer our congratulations to Mr. Sprague; and to the friends of Mount Allison in having found one so efficient to succeed Dr. Allison, and doubt not he will maintain the high position the institution has already secured.

The following paragraph has been travelling around. It deserves to be carefully studied. Parties concerned will please read it in the light of the Divine injunction, "All things, whatsoever ye would that men should do to you do ye even so to them:—"

"WE WISH to begin the new year with a clean—paid up list. Such as have not remitted for the current year ought to have done so long ago. We wish them to do so now. It is the time we need what they owe us. All dues for subscription are now needed, and we ask to be promptly put in receipt of them."

The last sentence we commend to special consideration.

The Pilot at the Helm, a New Year's Address to Sunday Scholars, pp. 16. Hidden Springs, A New Year's Address to Sunday School Teachers, Boston, Eben Shute pp. 16.

These two addresses are well worth perusal and are got up in a neat form suitable for wide distribution.

THE BRITISH AMERICAN BOOK AND TRACT DEPOSITORY is supplying a variety of beautiful books suitable for holiday presents for young people.

The "British Workman" has some fine spirited engravings and reading matter, full of interest and instruction. The "British Juvenile," is adapted for the younger ones, abounding in beautiful pictures. The "Childs Own Magazine" suited for still younger, with numerous pictures, well adapted to attract and retain the attention of the little ones and induce them to read.

VENOR'S ALMANAC FOR 1878.—The weather for next year; the weather of last year; How to foretell weather, by the clouds, by the sunrise, by the sunset, by cats, by birds, by the moon, by the rainbow, by the goose-bone, by tortoises, by insects, by almost everything in nature; Prof. Mansill's cholera predictions; Meteorological instruments, their description and use (illustrated), earthquakes; aerolites; great storms; all and much more in Venor's Almanac for 1878. Price 20 cents. John Dougall & Son, Dawson Bros. Montreal.

Mr. Venor was engaged on the Geological Survey of Canada for about eleven years and the strength of his observation during that time and since he has ventured to send forth weather predictions (probabilities) for the year and has been largely correct.

SONGS OF ZION: A book of Hymns and Christian Songs. Thomas Nelson & Sons, London and Edinburgh. British American Book and Tract Depository, Halifax.

Here is another effort to meet the great want of the day, a book containing just enough of the good old hymns and the best of the modern ones, in a book large enough, and not too large, for use in social religious meetings, and also in Sabbath Schools. This is perhaps as near an approach to the realization of that idea as has yet been made. It contains 301 hymns, about 70 of which, at the end, are "For the Young." The book comprises many of those that have been used by Sankey, Bliss, and others. It is nicely got up, as Nelson's books always are. The harmonized edition sells for 50 cents, but there is a small edition with the words of the hymns only, got up for those who know nothing of musical notation. This sells for a few cents, and another edition, with only the melody, well suited to give some idea of music and assist those who sing the air.

New tunes are put to a few of the more popular melodies. They may possibly be improvements on the original ones.

It would be an advantage to have a larger harmonized edition which might be conveniently used with the organ.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. Among the noteworthy articles contained in the latest issues of The Living Age are The Color-Sense, by Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone; The Murder of Thomas Becket, by James Anthony Froude; The Colors of Animals and Plants, by Alfred Russel Wallace, &c., &c., with serials by Miss Thackeray, Wm. Black, and Katharine S. Macquoid, poetry and miscellany.

To new subscribers for 1878, the last six numbers of 1877, containing the first parts of a fine German serial, translated for The Living Age, and a serial story by Miss Thackeray from advance sheets, are sent gratis. For fifty-two numbers, of sixty-four large pages each (or more than 3000 pages a year), the subscription price (\$8) is low; or for \$10.50 any one of the American \$4 monthlies or weeklies is sent with The Living Age for a year, both postpaid. Littell & Bridget, Boston, are the publishers.

VICKS' ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY FOR JANUARY, 1878, has already made its appearance. It contains 32 pages of closely printed matter, with a charming frontispiece of "Phlox and Pansy," and a large number of fine illustrations. It may be obtained for a year by sending \$1.25, addressed to "James Vick, Rochester, New York." Its contents are just what are wanted by lovers of flowers and of gardening in general.

A HORRIBLE STORY.—There has been great excitement in Bridgetown, Lunenburg, Kingston, and in fact all around that part of the country over the case of a wealthy farmer in the upper part of Annapolis County, who, it is said, found a dead beef cow in his pasture, had the carcass dressed and sold to a gentleman who is running a large lumber business in the county. The men in the woods were poisoned from eating the meat. The matter has got into the Courts.—Berwick Star.

The Temperance Reform is still progressing in Yarmouth County.