

For the Christian Messenger. To the Baptist Churches of P. E. Island.

Dear Brethren,—

Though absent from you for a time, I am no less interested in your welfare—indeed it is my deep interest in the cause of our Redeemer, on the Island in general, and in Charlottetown in particular that causes my absence at the present time.

The circular relating to the grouping of churches on the Island, which has been put before you by the Quarterly Meeting, was discussed yesterday by the Board, and the scheme met their hearty approval.

My object in writing is to place this information before you that it may aid you in your decision upon the suggestions of the circular.

D. G. MACDONALD. Yarmouth, June 3rd, 1879.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., June 11, 1879.

ACADIA COLLEGE ANNIVERSARY.

We would be glad to convey to our readers something of the joyous feeling experienced by those who were able to be present and participate in the celebrations of the past week at Wolfville.

The difficulty in connecting the Time tables of the W. & A. and the Western Counties Railway and making the visit to the place without loss of time, we believe, deterred very many from making the effort to go from Halifax to join in the celebration.

We went up on Wednesday morning. The weather, as usual, was all that could be desired, a fine shower during the night had laid the dust, and gave a brightness to the foliage of the trees and verdancy to the grass, which is seen only in early June.

Wolfville appeared in all its glory and beauty. It is always beautiful, but was now so full of life, as well, that it appeared almost like a city.

Arrived on the ground we found a host, from all parts of the provinces, in the vicinity of the College, ready to attend the meeting in the afternoon for THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW COLLEGE BUILDING.

The new Assembly Hall is filled with a happy company all intent on the opportunity of shewing their regard for the new Acadia as they had for years past for the old structure now no more.

The Hall is filled in every part. On the platform are the Governors and Faculty. Hon. Dr. Parker being called to the chair, he noticed the need of divine direction and thanksgiving and called on the Rev. G. M. W. Carey of

St. John, N. B., to open the meeting by offering prayer, which he did in a most appropriate petition.

After this the chairman called on J. W. Bigelow, Esq., the secretary of the Building committee to present the report respecting the cost and state of the work entrusted to them.

Up to May 8th the date of the last payment the Committee had paid on College and Seminary Building \$25,698. The contract price for both buildings was. 34,500

Leaving still due on both buildings, July 1st. 9,802 To which might be added the cost of the heating apparatus. 2,300 Do. for fitting up rooms and furnishing College. 1,000 Cost of furnishing Seminary. 3,000

Making the amount necessary to provide. 16,102

The Committee have effected fire insurance on both buildings at 1/2 per cent.

On College building. \$18,000 On Seminary " 11,000

The committee directed by the Governors to improve the grounds have accomplished that object with an outlay of a very small sum of money, most of the work having been done by subscriptions. Valuable service was rendered in this respect by Andrew Johnson, Esq., Captain Geo. Johnson, and Reuben Reed, Esq.

The committee by seeking out the various places of manufacture and comparing the quality and prices, have secured furniture at astonishingly low rates. Delft ware and cutlery from English Manufactories, thereby securing superior articles at the lowest prices.

The furnishing of the Museum too, has been done at a cost of \$400, paid for from the fund for fire insurance on the old museum.

The committee acknowledge the receipt of a superior cabinet organ worth \$600 with highly ornamented front for the College Hall, the gift as we afterwards learned, of E. A. Killam, Esq., M. P. P., of Moncton, New Brunswick.

The fine new College Bell has been provided and donated by the present College students. Its weight is about 900 pounds. Value \$200. They had also received a very valuable collection of botanical specimens collected by George U. Hay, Esq., and Mrs. Hay of Carlton, St. John, N. B., also a handsome case for the same by John March, Esq., of St. John.

The Committee ask for the appointment of two practical men to meet on the 25th of June at Wolfville to give a thorough examination of the buildings, and compare them with the specifications before the last payment is made, or the formal taking it from the contractor, so that any deficiency may be rectified before so doing.

After Mr. Bigelow had read his report and given brief explanations and comments, he made a few appropriate remarks intimating that higher education had become a necessity, and would be so more and more. The labor question would soon compel men to seek mental and intellectual training or they must consent to descend in the social scale, and let their labor be brought down to the level of the Chinese.

Hon. Dr. Parker congratulated the friends present on what they had just heard, and on having two such men for builders as Messrs. Curry and Rhodes who had proved their capability of putting up such large structures.

When the sad intelligence came on Monday, Dec. 3rd, 1877, that Acadia

was in ashes he had been almost ready to weep, thinking that the cause they had so much at heart would be paralyzed. The emergency meeting held on the following Friday settled the matter, that Acadia would not be allowed to die. At that meeting the prompt donation of the Rev. Mr. Coffin and the offer of larger sums of \$1,000 each from Messrs. Barss, Bigelow, Randolph, &c., with the hope that there might be twenty such donors, decided the question that Acadia must live.

One of the most encouraging features was the resolve on the part of the students to stick to the ship, so that not one was known to have left. Whilst on the 2nd of December, 1877 there were but 55 students, to-day there are 73. They now have their reward in this handsome and commodious building. The students have further shewn their attachment by contributions, and by replacing the old bell with a new one larger—weighing with its attachments 900 lbs., and costing some \$200.

The chairman expressed much pleasure in having present the Rev. Dr. Cramp who had been so long actively concerned in promoting the best and highest interests of Acadia College, and invited him to address the meeting.

Dr. Cramp arose and said:—

I will confine myself to two points. 1st. Reminiscence. 2nd. Anticipation. The reminiscence takes me back 33 years to the College Anniversary of 1846. Five students graduated on that occasion and I was requested to address some words of encouragement and advice to them.

The old ministers encouraged our educational movements. They attended the public meetings, and evinced much gratification at the establishment of the Institution. At the Anniversary now referred to Father Theodore Harding delivered an eloquent address, especially intended for the rich farmers.

He thundered and lightened gloriously on that occasion and his speech produced a powerful impression. I shall never forget it.

2nd. Anticipation. Of some of those present it may be said that the shadows are declining and "the night cometh wherein no man can work." We shall soon bid adieu to Acadia College. We sometimes ask, What will be her future? What will be the course of her sons? Will they adopt Paul Sarpi's prayer for his beloved republic and say of their Alma Mater "ESTO PERPETUA"?

Rev. Dr. Crawley was next called upon as one of the original founders of the College. He proceeded by alluding to the great facts which had inspired them in the work which had been effected in rearing the present noble edifice.

Rev. Dr. Parker congratulated the friends present on what they had just heard, and on having two such men for builders as Messrs. Curry and Rhodes who had proved their capability of putting up such large structures.

all been that of Providence bringing forth his designs to effect his great purposes of mercy and blessing.

A telegram was here handed to the chairman from G. P. Payzant, Esq., of Windsor expressing regret at being unable to be present, but would be glad to make a donation of one hundred dollars (Mr. P. had already given \$600.)

Rev. I. E. Bill at the call of the chairman said he fully believed that God was in all the movements in reference to Acadia. He thought it appeared almost an inspiration in Father T. S. Harding when he applied the term "Child of Providence" to this College. Some of the dispensations had been so inscrutable that we had not yet learned the explanation, the difficulties that had arisen which had been encountered and overcome, were but a part of the process.

Dr. Rand, Chief Superintendent of Education in New Brunswick, being invited, said he regarded this new building as a fine illustration of a bold determination, faithfully to discharge duty. The walls of this building were to him covered with beauty and adorned with the gifts of its many donors.

Rev. Dr. Tupper offered prayer and pronounced the benediction.

Several anthems and pieces of appropriate music were performed in good taste and style during the intervals of the speeches, by a choir formed of members of the Institutions, accompanied by Mrs. VanBuskirk, teacher of music in the Ladies Seminary.

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

held its annual meeting between the larger meetings of the afternoon and evening. They had under consideration the matter of the Prizes offered by the Association, made arrangements for the ensuing year, and elected the following as the officers:

- President—Rev. J. W. Manning, B. A. Vice President—J. W. Longley, M. A. Sec. Treas.—William L. Barss, B. A. Directors—R. N. Beckwith, H. H. Bligh, M. A.; B. H. Eaton, M. A.; A. Coldwell, M. A.; H. C. Creed, M. A.; Prof. D. F. Higgins, M. A.; Hon. Neil McLeod, B. A., of Charlottetown, P. E. I.

It appears that the number of graduates, including those of the present year, amounts to 119. The first class of graduates was in 1843, of these 25 have died.

HORTON COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

held its closing exercises in the evening. The Hall was again filled by a deeply interested company of parents and friends of the students to hear the results of the training, in the delivery of Essays and performance of Music by the young men and young ladies. The following is a copy of the printed

PROGRAMME.

- Music—Overture to Zampa, — Misses Steeves, Killam, White, & Dickson. ESSAY—Not Yet,—Miss Jennie Lovett, Kentville. ESSAY—Self Reliance,—Mr. Lewis K. Payzant, Halifax. Music—(Song), Waiting by the Brookside,—Miss Cann. Music—Scherzino,—Miss Donaldson. ESSAY—Cobwebs,—Miss Emma Olding, New Glasgow. ESSAY—Labor,—Mr. E. G. Sibley, Stewiacke. Music—Sonata,—Misses Robbins and Cann. ESSAY—Echoes,—Miss Annie Robbins, Yarmouth. ESSAY—Uses of History,—Mr. Bruce Hilsley, Berwick. Music—Die jagd,—Mr. Troop. Music—(Song), Wake not Dreaming Maiden,—Misses Robbins, Cann and White. ESSAY—The House that Jack Built,—Miss Ellie Carey, St. John, N. B. ESSAY—The Improvement of Time,—Mr. Beecher Cox, Stewiacke. Music—(Overture), Ditcher and Bauer, Misses Cunningham, Robbins, Crosby and Welton.

In addition to these an Essay in French was read by Miss Ellen Freeman, of Canning, subject—"L Etude des langues Modernes." Four young ladies, Miss Jennie

Lovett, Miss Olding, Miss Carey, and Miss Robbins, having completed the prescribed course of study, received from Principal Tufts their certificates or diplomas to which they were entitled.

Prizes were then awarded to the first in several classes, and honorable mention made of several of those who stood next in order, as follows:

- Latin—1st, Beecher Cox; 2nd, Miss Seely. Geometry—1st, James Ellis; 2nd, Miss Cunningham. Ancient History—Lewis K. Payzant. English Literature—Miss Olding. Mental Philosophy—Miss Carey. Arithmetic—1st, Harvey March. Greek—1st, Beecher Cox; 2nd, Miss Lovett. Geography—Miss Cunningham. Algebra—1st, Brenton Munro. English Grammar—Barry Calkin. British History—Miss Crosby. Department—W. C. Goucher. Physiology—Miss Steeves. Algebra—2nd, Miss Alice Fitch. Arithmetic—Miss Ida Jones. French—1st, Miss Lovett; 2nd, Lizzie Higgins; 3rd, Emma Olding.

It was stated by Professor Tufts that the work of the Academy had been sadly interfered with by the want of suitable accommodation occasioned by the fire. The classes had nevertheless pursued their work under all the disadvantages, and the numbers had kept up. The attendance shewed 119 students at present in the Academy, 62 young men and 57 young ladies.

The improved accommodations and superior advantages offered by the new Seminary building, which would be ready for occupation in the coming year would doubtless secure a still larger number, so that the prospect is hopeful and encouraging. When the young ladies occupy the new building with all its modern conveniences and improvements, the building at present occupied by them will be given up to the College students, and so afford facilities and advantages to all, far in advance of what has been as yet enjoyed on College Hill.

THE COLLEGE ANNIVERSARY.

This was the culmination of the whole. The heavy rain of Wednesday night was an excellent preparation for the bright warm sunshine which broke forth soon after sunrise of Thursday morning. Parties coming from a distance were rejoiced at the absence of dust, and all looked in gayest holiday attire on this the great day of the feast. At an early hour the hill was being visited by numerous friends of the College, to see what were the relations of the New Acadia to the Old. It was evident that a vast amount of labor had been performed not only in the noble and imposing buildings, but on the grounds and the approaches and roadways formed. Whilst each person had his opinion as to the situation, it could be observed that a completeness of design and adaptation to the purposes of the institutions had been accomplished by the new arrangement. Reasons were given for each departure from the more ornamental to the practical and useful. If each building had been placed so as to present its front to the road a far more imposing frontage would have been shewn, but this would have placed the front to the north and deprived the best rooms almost wholly of the healthful rays of the sun. This was of less consequence to the college. That is therefore brought so that its full beauty and grandeur is seen, even more fully than before, from the street, and is so arranged that it really has four good frontages.

At 1/2 past 10 the usual procession of Students, Faculty, Governors, &c., formed on the grounds at the back and was marshalled by J. C. Morse, Esq., around the terrace to the front entrance, up into Assembly Hall, which was already occupied by a large company of ladies and gentlemen. The spacious platforms across the front and reserved seats were filled, making one vast densely packed mass of people, all anxious to participate in the feast of reason and flow of soul, prepared for the occasion. And they were not disappointed. The musical, intellectual and literary, were so blended and combined that about three hours were spent without fatigue or weariness in listening to theme, anthem and address.

It had been arranged from the necessities of the case that some abbreviations should be made in the proposed programme. It was explained by President Sawyer that the orations of the Graduates had been very severely condensed and abbreviated, but still there being so many in the class their delivery would consume so much time that it would be necessary to diminish the number. The class had therefore concluded to do this by lot, and seven only would be presented. The full programme was as follows: