

Founding of a Girls' Orphanage by Mr. Spurgeon.

The annual celebration Mr. Spurgeon's birthday—this year the forty-sixth—was made the occasion of founding the new Girls' Orphanage which he has for some time past contemplated.

There was a vast gathering in the grounds to witness the laying of four memorial stones, Mrs. Spurgeon being amongst those announced to take a prominent part in the proceedings.

The day's "programme" was commenced at half-past two by a procession of orphan children with banners, headed by the band of the Children's Home, Victoria-park. Amongst the ranks, besides the whole of the boy inmates, were about thirty little girls, ranging apparently from about six years of age to twelve, and altogether the youthful host—cheerful to demonstrativeness, though they were especially so when asked by Mr. Charlesworth to give three cheers for their benefactor and president—formed a spectacle calculated to produce tearful expressions of sympathy from the most indifferent on-lookers.

At three o'clock the approach of Mr. and Mrs. Spurgeon was heralded by joyful shoutings by the little ones. Several ministers were present, including Revs. John Spurgeon and Newman Hall.

The Rev. Canon Hussey, M. A., having invoked the Divine blessing in a dedicatory prayer.

Mr. Spurgeon, standing near the stone of the first house, to be called "The Sermon House," being the joint gift of the pastor and his publishers, Messrs. Passmore & Alabaster, said:—The first stone of this house, is to be laid by Mrs. Spurgeon. The contract for the building of this block of houses, to consist of six in number, and to accommodate 250 girls, with schools on the top comes to £11,100, and when I saw it come in I was somewhat surprised, having reckoned on a smaller sum. I therefore arranged with the contractor only to go on to the extent of £8,000, then to take the remainder when I saw the money. At the present the £8,000 is already raised. (Hear hear.) I think no one ever spent such a day in their lives as I spent yesterday. God bless all my dear friends who then came to me to express their hearty and welcome words of affection. These with their gifts, were enough to lift a man's heart up even if he were cast down into the depths. I received with this hand nearly £900—to a large extent made up of five shillings and half crowns, and my right hand is in a very ugly condition to-day. I hope no one will want to shake it, if it shakes itself; it is full of pain. If I had to earn my bread by manual labour, I should like it to be in some other way. This house is to be a record to all time of our thankfulness to God that the sermons have continued to be printed week by week for twenty-five and a half years, so that we have now reached the number in regular order of 1,542. That is a considerable number of sermons to be printed week by week, and there seems to be as much food in them for the souls of God's servants now as twenty-five years ago, for which I devoutly bless God. For many time when I go forth to look for food for the souls of my people it is with an earnest cry to heaven and a consciousness that if I am not helped I have nothing laid up in store. I use up the manna every day and have none to breed worms. I keep on emptying the barrel, but it fills again.

Mr. W. Higgs, who said he presumed that in his capacity as treasurer he had been asked to lay that stone until enough money had been promised. Now he could say sufficient was forthcoming. One of the trustees had promised £1,000. Another had made his will, in which he had left a legacy to the Orphanage. But it might be yet some years before the Almighty should call him hence. It was wanted now and perhaps would not be wanted then; so he had discounted that sum, and given £500 to the house. Another trustee had given £200; another £200; yet another £200; two more \$100 each; another £50; and a few smaller sums had been added, making altogether a total of £2,160. That amount would well pay for the house. It would also furnish it and leave something for drains and roads.

Mr. W. Olney said they wanted thoroughly to commemorate the forty-sixth anniversary of Mr. Spurgeon's birthday. (He called for three cheers for the president and his wife, which were heartily given.) It had always been a pleasure to be called into a personal co-operation with the pastor in all his works of faith and labours of love. The institutions were thoroughly unsectarian in every respect. They never asked about the religion of the parents who sought the admission of their children, but always took them on the one ground of necessity, giving preference to the children of those widows who had the largest families and the fewest friends. Let them be Catholics, let them be of no religion at all, or let them be Baptists, they were welcome there, if they were needy and could not help themselves. This would be their line in future as in the past.

They had five thousand church members and a large number of friends, but the giving to the Girls' Orphanage seemed to have been almost universal. They had received £1,000 from one gentleman, and the previous day they had received three farthings and a threepenny bit from a child. Mr. Spurgeon had sat from ten in the morning until ten at night receiving subscriptions, and of two thousand contributions he should think nine-tenths were under a sovereign, which showed the general sympathy existing for the movement.

After the ceremony of stone-laying the visitors partook of tea, inspected the Orphanage, or were employed in purchasing at the fancy sale arranged on behalf of the institution.

Mr. Spurgeon commenced both meetings with a few prefatory observations, in the course of which he said he partly attributed the success which had attended the movement to the work it-

self, for he thought a girls' orphanage commended itself. The fathers liked girls, at any rate there was one they liked at one time. (Laughter.) We all had a weakness in that direction, and he did not know but it was our strength. The main reason why the work was so well done would be found in the hearty love and affection of his people who had joined in it, for every penny he might say was given to him as a sort of love-token of his birthday, and he had greatly rejoiced in it. The previous day's experience in this matter was enough to kill a fellow altogether, so kind were the friends. (Laughter.) Never, as long as the world stands, let it be said that Calvinistic doctrine does not lead to good works; or let those who said so come and look at that Orphanage. They had accomplished as much as if they expected to be saved by good works, and had done by grace what they never could have done merely by works. He believed that one day he should have a rich congregation, so greatly would their gifts increase unto them.

Rev. Newman Hall in the course of a short speech said he had been twice in America, in Switzerland, and in Italy, and wherever he went there were people reading his sermons in various tongues. Tens of thousands who had never seen his face would that day give God thanks for his words and works which they had seen, and join in their prayers that he might spend many happy returns of the day, each return more happy, and therefore, more useful, than those preceding it.

Among the speakers were the Revs. Canon Hussey, Dr. Allon, and others. The more formal proceedings of the day, which were interspersed with vocal and instrumental music, were followed by a concert in the dining-hall by the Southwark Choral Society.

The financial results of the gatherings were satisfactory beyond expectation although the exact amount computed did not transpire.

Canon Dart, President of King's College, said there was nothing said when the grants were made about discontinuing them at the end of five years. If these grants were withdrawn it would be impossible to keep up the present staff, and the college must sink into a mere Divinity School.

Rev. J. Ambrose said throughout the country there was a feeling that economy was needed in the matter of education, not in the direction of the Colleges, but in County Academies and High Schools.

On Friday morning the following abstract of receipts for the Board of Home Missions for 1879 was laid on the table:—

Widows' and Orphans' Fund...\$1,838.31
Superannuation Fund..... 1,663.40
Parish Endowment..... 1,026.53
Bishops' Endowment..... 220.28
General Account..... 5,584.27

Total receipts.....\$10,332.79
Just before closing His Lordship the Bishop spoke a few words to the Synod, hoping that they had made a pleasant stay in Halifax, and congratulating them on the absence of any bitterness in their debates. Important church legislation had been enacted, and he trusted that at the next session of the Synod he would again have the pleasure of meeting them. His Lordship then pronounced the Benediction, and the fifteenth session of the Synod was brought to a close.

The Wolfville Star appears this week under the editorship and proprietorship of Mr. Walter Bars, son of J. W. Bars, Esq. We offer Mr. B. a most cordial welcome into the press fraternity, and doubt not he will be quite an acquisition, and will soon make his influence for good felt by the community in whose benefit the Star shines.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of the Prize List of the Provincial Exhibition that is to be held in Kentville on Monday, September 27th, and four following days. Prizes amounting to \$6,534.95 are offered. Competition is now open to the whole Province, copies of these may be obtained from Secretaries of the Agricultural Societies, or of Wm. Eaton, Esq., at Kentville.

MACALPINE'S HALIFAX CITY DIRECTORY, 1880-81 has just come to hand. It is becoming more and more an essential to every business man. As people find out its usefulness in many different ways they find it necessary to occasionally borrow one from a neighbor, and then get one for themselves.

France is trying on a desperate and dangerous experiment in the expulsion of the Jesuits. Trouble will arise and the probabilities are that the Jesuits will secure a firmer footing than if allowed to remain and exercise their religious privileges under certain proper restrictions.

The editor of the Presbyterian Witness in noticing the proceedings of the Church of England Synod, last week, and the discussion of the question of grants to Colleges, remarks:—

"Let us say in passing, that probably all the Colleges would find it a great advantage, ultimately, if they were thrown upon their own resources."

Our contemporary would probably except Dalhousie College, from which the students of the body generally obtain their Arts Course, or would make such a proceeding preparation to the establishment of ONE state University.

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subject of Denominational Colleges, and in referring to the proposed termination of the grants, he showed the injury the withdrawal of the grants would be to King's College. The College was doing a good work, as was seen in the number and quality of the students in attendance, and especially in the very large number who matriculated the other day. Increase of students, however, does not increase in proportion to the increase of the College, in consequence of the free Scholarships that are in existence. He believed that the time had not yet come when the various Denominational bodies could do without some aid for their respective Colleges.

A petition to the Lieutenant Governor was adopted, asking for a continuance of the present grants.

Hon. P. C. Hill, in discussing the subject said, some thought the intention was to establish a general teaching University, which would absorb all these grants, but such had not been done, and it was not at present intended to do so. He did not wish to see the various Colleges done away with, as teaching bodies, but was anxious that the University of Halifax should become the general Examining Body for the whole Province.

Hon. Mr. Vail said, "Five years was mentioned for the continuance of the grants when made, as a shelving of the difficulty connected with denominational grants, and putting the responsibility of withdrawal or otherwise upon the shoulders of another Government. He hoped the Government, and he appealed especially to Hon. N. W. White, would give at least, if not the present amount, all that it can afford for these colleges."

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THE BLIND ASYLUM.—Mr. C. F. Fraser is on a lecturing Tour through the Dominion, lecturing on "The Great Pyramids." The proceeds he purposes applying towards purchasing raised print books for the blind.

Any of our exchanges in the upper Province may rely upon Mr. F., who is himself blind, and yet is the very efficient Superintendent of our Asylum. If they can aid Mr. F., in any way by notifying his lectures, they will by so doing aid a very worthy object.

We are glad to learn that Mr. Benjamin Rand, a late graduate of Acadia College, whose pen has frequently enriched our columns, has distinguished himself at Harvard College, during the last three years. During his undergraduate course, he took two scholarships, valued at five hundred dollars. He obtained the Degree of A. B. cum laude, and was honored with a commencement part.

This year Mr. Rand obtained the degree of A. M., from Harvard, after a very successful post graduate course. Among those studying for the degree of Master of Arts he was the only one selected to deliver an oration. This oration was pronounced by one of the Professors of the University on that platform. This year also Mr. Rand obtained Highest Honors in Philosophy. During the last three years he has taken Philosophy courses amounting to 23 hours a week or 7 hours a week each year on an average. On the above work in Philosophy he obtained an average of about 95 per cent.

We regret to learn that the Rev. Isa. Wallace was seized with typhoid fever while on his way from Walton, Hant's Co., to Wolfville, and on reaching Scotch Village, was compelled to remain. We hope soon to hear of his complete restoration to health.

The Secretary of the Foreign Missionary Board informs us that a cable despatch dated London, 7 July, has been received from the Rev. W. F. Armstrong, and that thus we are assured of his arrival in England.

PERSONAL.—Mr. Wilton R. Boone, a member of the last graduating class from the Newton Theological Institution is unanimously called to the pastorate of the African Baptist Church of Halifax, N. S. This being a large and inviting field for future usefulness, Mr. Boone will probably accept the call.

THE TEMPERANCE LIGHT.—A new collection of Gospel Temperance Hymns and Sacred Songs. By G. C. Hugg, and M. E. Servoss. Published by Oliver Ditson & Co., New York.

This is a cheap (10ct.) Temperance collection, whose price will at once commend it, as its contents are not at all "cheap," but evidently carefully selected and condensed. There are thirty-two tunes, and the words and music were procured of twenty-seven different writers. It will be seen that two or three dollars will procure quite enough books for an ordinary "reform club."

IMPROVED FISHWAY.—The Scientific American of July 10th has a pictorial representation of the fishway lately patented by Mr. W. H. Rogers, of Amherst, N. S. with the following description of its construction:

"It is built in with the dam or rests against it, and affords to the fish a ready means of ascending the stream without regard to the number or height of the dams. The fishway has an inclined flat bottom and vertical sides forming a channel or trunk. The bottom has a rise of about one foot in eight or ten, and the sides extend above high water. The lower portion of the channel is divided into a zig-zag passage way by diagonal partitions, which are attached in alternation to opposite sides of the fishway. These partitions retard the flow of water and afford an easy passage for fish. To the upper side of the upper edge of each partition a flange is attached for the purpose of checking the water so as to form pools of comparatively dead water in which the fish may rest on their course up the fishway.

The lower entrance to the fishway is formed in the lower part of the dam. The fish readily find this entrance, as the water flowing from it is comparatively sluggish.

The fishway is held together by a strong wooden framing, and in the sides there are openings provided with slides which may be opened whenever the water gets too low to flow over the upper end of the way.

This simple device admits of utilizing streams for power without wasting an undue quantity of water.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., July 14, 1880.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

It appears probable, that we are on the eve of a great many changes in the matter of the Canadian Pacific Railway. We learn from the Herald of Friday last, that "it is reported that two companies have been making offers to the Government to take the Canada Pacific off their hands. One of these is a Canadian Company; headed, it is said, by the Earl of Dunmore. Mr. Brassey's name has been associated with the English Company, by public rumor. The offers of the two companies have not been made public, so that we are not in a position to judge between them."

It would appear that the present visit of Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Charles Tupper, and Hon. Mr. Pope to England is in relation to this matter.

Mr. Sandford Fleming declines the appointment to the office of Consulting Engineer for the Canada Pacific Railway, and Chief Engineer of the Intercolonial. He consequently retires from the office of Engineer-in-Chief of the Pacific Railway, which he has held for the past nine years. He publishes a circular addressed to the members of the Engineering Staff, and other officers explaining his change of relation to them, and his reasons for declining his appointment.

A telegram on Friday last says: "A rumor is current that Mr. Sandford Fleming is a member of the syndicate that proposes to undertake the construction of the Pacific Railway, and that should a bargain be struck with the Government he will become Chief Engineer of the new company."

This opens up an entirely new phase in relation to the great work in which the Dominion government is engaged. We must leave the matter for future developments.

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