

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., April 6, 1881.

THE HON. PROV. SECRETARY AND THE COLLEGES.

The Minute passed by the Governors of Acadia College at their recent meeting respecting the claims of the Institutions, to which we referred last week, has since come to hand. It was in reply to the following letter received from the Hon. Provincial Secretary, addressed to the Presidents of each of the Colleges in the Province. The following is a copy of the said letter:

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, Halifax, February 28, 1881.

I take the liberty of asking you, as President of Acadia College, whether, in the event of grants of public money to colleges being given hereafter, the authorities of your institution would be willing to surrender the degree-conferring power they now possess and pass it over to a General Examining Body of a representative character, in which your College would be represented.

The Government would be glad to have your opinion on the subject, as they are anxious to adopt and carry out the policy best calculated, under the circumstances in which they are placed, to aid and foster Higher Education in the manner most likely to produce the best practical results, and satisfy the people of the Province that a fair value, both as regards quality and amount, is being returned by those seats of learning for the money granted from the public treasury.

An early answer will oblige. I have, &c., (Signed) S. H. HOLMES.

P. S.—The above is not intended to interfere with the power of conferring Divinity Degrees.

REPLY FROM ACADIA COLLEGE. WOLFVILLE, March 28th, 1881.

To the Hon. the Provincial Secretary:

DEAR SIR,—I am directed to transmit for your consideration the accompanying extract from the Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Governors of Acadia College, in the College, on Thursday last, the 24th inst.:

"The enquiry of the Hon. the Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia in the matter of surrendering the chartered power and right to confer Degrees, as a condition of receiving public money for the support of the College, cannot for a moment be entertained by this Board, neither can any encouragement be given that, under any circumstances, the Governors will use their influence to induce the students to seek Degrees from the University of Halifax. This Board still holds to the views expressed by the Baptist Convention in 1876.

"In regard to the Bill now before the Legislature, providing for the distribution of grants to Colleges, and, as a condition, their inspection by the Superintendent of Education, this Board has always held the opinion that when grants of money are received, the Government has the right to require any proper inspection of the work done in the Institution, it being distinctly understood that the inspection referred to, be inspection only. It should, however, be added that in the judgment of this Board the sum of (\$1,400) fourteen hundred dollars to Acadia College is not an equitable grant, in view of the large amount of public funds enjoyed by Dalhousie College.

"Grants being made to the Institutions for Higher Education, and also for Special Academies, it is to be observed, that the provisions of the Bill do not recognize the existence and work of the Academy, under the control of this Board. When the Free Common School system came into operation, Horton Academy continued to receive until A. D. 1876 the sum of (\$1,000) one thousand dollars per annum. Having spent not less than (\$37,000) thirty-seven thousand dollars in Academy Buildings, and having now in employment (5) five efficient teachers in the Academy, beside teachers of Modern Languages, Music, and Painting; and this School having now more than (100) pupils in attendance, the fees charged being but little more than those charged in the Halifax High School, this Board must urge its just claim to Provincial aid for the Academy, equal to that provided for the Special Academies of Yarmouth and Pictou."

I am, Your obedient servant, STEPHEN W. DEBLOIS, Sec'y Board of Governors, Acadia College.

The replies given by the other Colleges vary in several particulars. We make the following extracts, which will show the tenor of them respectively. The Dalhousie College Senate say:

"The Senate is strongly of opinion that a Central Examining and Degree Conferring Board such as the Government proposes, would have an injurious effect on the higher education of the Province.

"That the Senate at the same time cordially approves of the object the Government has in view, viz.: to secure that the educational fruits of the college grants should be certified as satisfactory; but is of opinion that the proposal of

the Government would, for many reasons, fail to attain its laudable object, and would lower the highest standard of education to which any of the existing colleges may have at present attained.

"That the Senate considers further that the best prospect of the Government's purpose being realized would be by the appointment, if practicable, of a Provincial Board of Examiners to cooperate with the Professors of the several colleges in conducting their respective degree examinations and to report to the Government on the result."

The President of the Mount Allison Wesleyan College replies:

I feel justified, after consultation with as many members of the Board as were accessible, in saying that I have no doubt that the authorities of this college will consent to hold in abeyance their degree-conferring power, and pass it over to a General Examining Body of a representative character, on condition:

1st. That all other colleges receiving public grants from the Nova Scotia Legislature shall likewise surrender or hold in abeyance their degree-conferring power; and

2nd. That Mount Allison College shall have an equitable representation in the Examining Body."

The St. Mary's, Roman Catholic, replies through Professor Kearns:

"The authorities of St. Mary's College are willing to give up the degree-conferring power, so long as it is in receipt of money from the Provincial Treasury."

The Bishop of Arichat replies for the St. Francis Xavier's College:

"The authorities of St. Francis Xavier college are willing to surrender the exercise of the degree-conferring powers they now possess, so long as the college will continue to be the recipient of a money grant from the Provincial Treasury, but no longer."

The Bishop of Nova Scotia replies for the Governors of Kings College:

"The Board of Governors of King's College are unanimous in the opinion, that being trustees, they are not in a position to surrender any of the privileges enjoyed by the college under the Royal Charter as a University, with the right to judge of the qualification of candidates for degrees, and to confer such degrees."

The celebrated Dr. Pusey has been fifty-two years a Professor in the University of Oxford. He is now engaged in delivering a course of Lectures on the Messianic Psalms, and other prophecies of Christ. It is not to be supposed, however, that these Lectures are prepared as well as delivered at the present time; they have most probably been delivered to successive classes for many years past, being continually revised and corrected. Dr. Pusey is now eighty years old.

R. T. Murray, Esq., Queen's Printer, will accept thanks for copies of the public documents of 1880, all got up in good style:—

- Report of Commissioners of Public Charities.
Financial Returns Province of Nova Scotia.
Report of Commissioners of Crown Lands.
Report on Public Printing.
Report of the Central Board of Agriculture.
Report on Public Works and Mines.
Report of Provincial Engineer.
Subsidy and Debt Account.
Report of the Department of Mines.

These documents supply us with a large amount of information on a great variety of subjects. The Mines Report, in particular, is full of interest. It shows the following comparisons between the products of 1879 and 1880. It will be observed that in almost every article mentioned there has been a considerable increase:

Table with 3 columns: Item, 1879, 1880. Includes Gold, Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Coal raised, Gypsum, Building stone, Barytes, Limestone, Coke made, Fireclay, Grindstones, &c.

* Tons of 2,240 lbs.
† Quantities shipped. Amount used in Nova Scotia unknown.
‡ For Iron smelting.
§ Exclusive of Coke made at Londonderry Iron Works.

In the exportation of Coal to the United States, there was a large increase. 1879 showing 51641 tons, and 1880, 128,423 tons.

In Petroleum, the Report states that "in the Lake Ainslie district, seven wells have been put down on the western shore, some two or three miles south of Lough Ban. Among the bore-holes may be mentioned that of the Cape Breton Oil and Mining Com-

pany, which has reached a depth of 1100 feet, and is claimed to have reached the "third sand rock" at a depth of about 1000 feet.

The oil is stated to give the following results:—gravity, 22.5; flash test, 390°; fire test, 440°; it was found to be limpid at zero, and in the crude state to be equal to any manufactured lubricant.

It will thus be seen that already an important step has been taken toward the testing of these districts, and the coming summer will see an increased number of bore-holes put down.

Should these enterprises prove successful, there are several localities in Nova Scotia which will probably receive attention.

The College Question continues to supply a large amount of the current literature of our city papers. The subject is being pretty well ventilated. A letter from Mr. E. D. King in the Morning Herald gives some facts in short metre in reference to Dalhousie College, which should be known by the public generally, seeing that it claims to be a provincial institution:

The law under which the Presbyterians secured a representation of three Governors on the Board of Governors, with power "in the event of the death, removal, or resignation of any person nominated to supply the vacancy thus created, has been in effect repealed by the legislation of 1875. The Presbyterians are shut in, and all other denominations are shut out. Before 1875 the number of Governors of Dalhousie was unlimited, and all other denominations, so far as the law is concerned, could have secured in perpetuity a representation at the Board of Governors in the same way that the Presbyterians did. They would not when they could, now they cannot if they would; for the Act of 1875 limits the number of Governors, recognizes the status of the three Presbyterian Governors, and provides for the appointment of the additional Governors required to fill up the Board in a way "inconsistent" with denominational nominations, and hence the right to make such nominations is taken away by the repealing clause of the statute. Our good friends have crossed the river and cut away the bridges.

One word more. You very justly call underrated the benefits which the Presbyterians derive from their connexion with Dalhousie. True. Let me make a correction. I omitted to take into account the large increase in the capital of the invested "Castine Fund" during the many years that Dalhousie College remained closed. Reckoning this in, the corrected statement of amounts received annually from public funds by the Presbyterians will stand as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes Annual value of College Buildings and Grounds, Income from invested public funds, Proposed annual grant, Total.

2. Another ground upon which I claim that the proposed legislation discriminates in favor of the friends of Dalhousie College is, that the High Schools and Academies maintained by the friends of the other colleges are not considered in the distribution made under the new Act.

Mr. King further shows that the Governors of Acadia College are sustaining Academic institutions of first-rate standing, which are entirely ignored in the public educational arrangements of the Province.

The following letter from J. W. Barss, Esq., appeared in the Herald of Saturday morning on the subject. As we wish our readers to have an intelligent view of this subject, in all its phases, we take the liberty of copying it into our pages:

SIR,—The bill brought in by the Government to regulate College matters will likely suit but few if any of the different corporate bodies asking for financial aid, yet if the bill passes it is probable that each College will take its allotted share, and make the best of the sum received. When there were such a diversity of views on the subject of College Grants, it is to be presumed that the Government did what they conceived would be best under the circumstances. It is dangerous legislating ahead of public opinion. The initiation of a measure to meet the case should have been produced by the Colleges themselves during the years in which the last grant has been running. They having made no move in the matter, the Government might have continued the usual grant for another year, and suggested to the Colleges to take steps to amalgamate, and if they declined, then let the grants cease.

It is some years since the strong agitation was before the people in reference to one College, well endowed, or several denominational institutions supported by the different bodies of Christians who had brought them into existence. The latter view reiterated, and up to this time, it has been impossible to bring the different organizations to fraternise so as to make one strong institution, in place of the several weak and struggling ones still existing. At the time referred to, when strong efforts were put forth to found one college as a Provincial institution, it occurred to many that the

period had not arrived for the contemplated change. I own I was strongly of that opinion, and I think the course then pursued was the proper one. A quarter of a century or more has altered matters materially. What was then beyond the requirements of the times is not so now. The small colleges have done a good work and deserve all praise for their persevering efforts to carry on higher education. Their very efforts have educated the public mind to demand now a higher order of instruction, which each in its separate position is unable to fulfil. A combination of the several bodies alone can answer what is needed.

Twenty or thirty years ago a college with three professors was thought to be fulfilling its obligations to the public and to the body sustaining it. Now, with twice this number an unsatisfied feeling prevails, and more are asked for, and this will be the case year by year. Could the requirements be met by the different denominational colleges it would be well to tell them to go on. But there is a limit which has to be met: Acadia could draw from the Baptists without any extraordinary efforts sufficient funds to support a College with three professors with small salaries, but it is doubtful if they can draw from the denomination sufficient means to sustain seven or eight with an increased allowance for each. There is a point beyond which even a willing people, with claims on them for local support, missions, &c., cannot contribute for higher education; and it is probable that most of the bodies supporting colleges now have reached the apex in this direction.

It should not be a difficult or expensive matter to form a good Provincial institution with a dozen able professors which would meet the requirements of the present times. Acadia, King's, Mount Allison, Dalhousie and St. Mary's could each easily endow two or three professorships and with moderate Government assistance, constitute a University worthy of the name.

Could not a conference be held during the year of representatives of the various bodies referred to and see if a practical scheme could not be introduced that would meet the views of all concerned. Dalhousie may be not the best location for a Provincial University, if so Acadia or King's with their ample grounds and well constructed halls, would meet the case no doubt. I imagine that most persons see great difficulties in bringing about an amalgamation so important, but the only one I see is that of a willingness to make the attempt. Let denominational feelings be put aside in a matter so purely scientific as that of higher education, and let each body represented be willing to yield some of their opinions and long cherished prejudices, and the solution of difficulties will soon be met.

The question might be asked as regards Acadia. Shall the cherished work of the Baptists for the last forty years be laid aside? Shall their long and useful efforts in higher education cease? By no means; they will have their full share in the Provincial University, and there will be left to them their Academy, both male and female, around which to entwine the affections of the denomination, and where it can prepare students for the higher institution, and then they will be untrammelled in their theological work, which is now suffering from divided efforts.

J. W. BARSS.

Wolfville, April 1, 1881.

We can hardly imagine such a thing as the Governors of Dalhousie College with the Presbyterian Synod at their back; and the Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia with the Governors of Kings College and the Diocesan Synod; together with the Archbishop of Halifax and his clergy, forming in procession and marching up through the streets of Wolfville, with the Faculty, Students, Governors, and Friends of Acadia, and on up the beautiful slopes and finely graded approaches to Acadia College to celebrate one of its anniversaries, or the anniversary of the close of their several institutions and the union into one grand Provincial institution at Wolfville. Of course there is no place so well adapted for such a combination, as Mr. Barss suggests. Even Kings College at Windsor with all its prestige of hoary age, and the beauty of its exalted situation, would not at all compare with Acadia and its spacious surroundings. Nor can we fancy the same parties winding in procession around the campus of King's College, or gathering together on the Grand Parade in Halifax. Yet these are times of great changes and rapid progress, and if the logic of facts could be brought to harmonize with such a union, without compromise of principle, or detriment to vested rights and interests, or diminution of effort on the part of any of the parties concerned, it would be a grand consummation and one devoutly to be desired.

A friend has sent us a copy of the Annual Report of the New Brunswick Natural History for 1881. It contains a Memorial Sketch of Prof. Ch. Fred. Hartt, by George U. Hay. The sketch is an affectionate and well-written tribute to the memory of the Professor who was cut down by death when he was only 38 years old. At that early age he had received the appointment from the Emperor of Brazil, of Chief of the Imperial Geological Commission for the survey of that empire. This was in May, 1875. He spent the remainder of his life in the discharge of the duties of that office. We quote the concluding paragraphs of the article:

"The most of the field reports were ready for publication, especially those of the Amazonas region and of the

Southern provinces, also all the descriptions of Paleozoic fossils, and many of the Cretaceous, as well as those of a large share of the antiquities. At the time of his death, Professor Hartt was just beginning to publish these reports, and was in the hope of issuing much printed work this Spring. He has not lived to see the good of his labors, but he has left behind him a monument of his own building such as remains to the memory of few.

He has carried American Scientific teachings and modes of working into the heart of a foreign country already supposed to be far advanced in European scientific ideas.

"In addition to his work on the Geology and Physical Geography of Brazil, Prof. Hartt had written before he went to Brazil in 1874, the following works: A quarto volume of 300 pages on "Brazilian Antiquities;" a work of 300 pages on the Mythology of Brazilian Indians; a Grammar and Dictionary of the language of the Tupé Indians of about 400 pages. At the time of his death he had prepared voluminous reports as Chief of the Brazilian Survey.

These, with his contributions to scientific journals throughout the country, show an almost marvellous capacity and industry.

That he possessed all the qualities of a great leader and a brilliant scientific teacher is apparent from the abundant results of his comparatively short life. His industrious career furnishes a fruitful example of the rewards resulting from enthusiasm and energy when applied steadily in one direction. His early death teaches us also that there is a limit to human effort and industry.

"Nothing is arranged according to our plans. The best workmen are called away before their work is finished. Great leaders fall while the band that follows them is still in the wilderness. Great teachers die and leave their disciples apparently paralyzed. What noble fruitful lives in the scientific world are being struck down before their work is accomplished!

How hard it seems when a great workman is called away in the midst of his life-work; and yet could the light of divine wisdom and love fall upon, and enlighten our view for an instant, we would see that it is only one of the indissoluble chains leading to a grand final result, but whose accomplishment we are not permitted to see. Well is it for us if we can leave the result to Him, and with trust and resignation murmur—Thy will be done.

And if we look closely we are permitted to behold good arising from what appears to us confusion and disorder. The life of a great leader may be called a fruitful one. He gives to others an inspiration as a legacy when he falls in the midst of his work, and young and strong successors catch the burden from his dying hands and bring his plans to an accomplishment—to a fulness of accomplishment—that could never have been attained by the individual worker."

It would give us great pleasure to report the establishment of a "Nova Scotia Natural History Society," by the Alumni of Acadia College. C.

MISSIONARY NEWS.

Miss Hammond writes from Chicacole, India, to the Secretary of the Central Board, Feb. 12th, that she has had to suspend work for a short time on account of several cases of small-pox appearing in the compound. It is also in the town. Miss H. was herself vaccinated twice without any effect, and therefore feels secure. Two boys have had it. One of these is taking care of the sick, and the other is the only one who comes near her. She says: "The neighbours are kind, but of course they cannot come here, nor I go into their houses. It will be a week or two or more before we can resume work. The Master knows best, and He will take care of me. I will send you a card every mail till all danger is over."

"I hope and trust that a missionary will soon be found for Chicacole, until then I must remain here. Things should not be left, nor the station disbanded. If we all do our duty the Lord will provide, and not allow His cause to suffer."

This is all the more trying, as Miss H. had just made some changes in her school work, by which it would have more of a direct Christian character. This dangerous malady appearing will somewhat interfere with her plans and prospects.

Let prayer be offered that her health may be preserved, and her valuable life spared.