

him so, his relative said—"I can't make you out. How do you get the faith you speak about?"

"Oh?" said Charley, "God gives it to me."

"Well," said his friend, "I don't understand! What's it like?"

"Oh," replied Charley, "It's just like this, s'pose you were up stairs and you made a hole in the ceiling, and spoke to me through the hole and told me it was better to be up there than down here, and that you had got some beautiful things up there for me, if I was to come. I should want to come, shouldn't I?"

"Well, yes; I darsay you would; but how would you know that I had the things I spoke of?" said his interrogator.

"Well," replied the dying child, "I should be sure to know you were there when I heard you speak. That's what faith is, believing God's word when He speaks, and what He says, without seeing the things He promises. And God does make a good many holes, and speaks to 'most everybody, only they don't pay attention, and if they do hear they wants to see the things afore the time and that ain't faith."

Thus did a child in years and grace, silence with the words of faith a gainsayer, and so passed away. Reader hast thou faith as this little child! Faith to trust God for the fulfilment of his promise? "Have faith in God."

For the Christian Messenger. Concerning "Enquirer."

DEAR EDITOR,—

It had no doubt escaped your memory that I asked of you the favor that brethren writing concerning my position on Intercommunion, should be required to write over their proper signatures.

I can not reply to anonymous writers, but when "Enquirer" will ask proper questions, in a christian spirit and over his own signature, I will try to answer him in the same manner.

Respectfully, &c.,

J. C. BLEAKNEY. Berwick, N. S., May 27th, 1881.

["Enquirer" will probably do as Brother Bleakney requests.—ED.]

For the Christian Messenger. "Having been Baptized."

The above is the rendering that a certain Methodist Minister is in the habit of giving Mark xv. 16; and having been asked more than once "Is his rendering correct? I take the liberty to give the reply of a Greek scholar to the same question.

"We think and know that no scholar ever has or ever would so translate the original; and for our life we cannot conceive how a christian minister would deliberately so wrest and pervert the sacred Scriptures. We trust that it is not his evil heart, but only his evil creed that tempted him so to interpret this command of Christ as to make it teach the very opposite of what Christ intended it to teach.

For proof, see Mathew's version where Christ forbade the baptism of any, young or old, save believers; for the specification of one thing is the prohibition of every other and different things. If that Methodist preacher understood the original, he knows that "he that believeth" is the rendering of *ho piznesas*—"having believed," which precedes *baptistheis*—literally, "having been baptized." Every tyro in Greek will understand the rule of translating a participle preceded by a definite article.

Dean Alford, the great linguist and Episcopalian commentator says on these particles: "Belief and disbelief are in this verse the great leading subjects, and *piznesas* (he that believeth) must on this account stand first. *Note in loco*."

Cut this out and use it for the benefit of that Methodist minister, or any one else who so perverts the word of God. SCIRE FACIAS.

For the Christian Messenger. Acadia College, Theological Department.

MR. EDITOR,—

Mr. M. P. King and Mr. Christopher Haverstock, completed the three years course in the Theological Department of Acadia College, their term of study ending at this last Anniversary. There might have been a public recognition of this fact, as it has been determined by the Faculty that this may be henceforward done in the case of partial students, but as this rule had not begun to be put in force it entirely escaped

my recollection, who, as Principal of the Department, ought to have brought it to the remembrance of the Faculty. I am greatly concerned at this omission, but I may say here that the two young gentlemen named, who were the first class in the Theological Department, have always given the greatest satisfaction both to Dr. Welton and to myself. E. A. CRAWLEY.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., June 8, 1881.

THE ANNIVERSARIES AT WOLFVILLE.

The first week in June is always a busy one in the Educational Institutions at Wolfville. It commenced a little earlier than usual this year. The Governors of the College were in session on Monday evening, and continued daily, and some days, two or three sittings, attending to the important matter relating to the sustaining, and providing for the future, of Acadia College, Horton Collegiate Academy and Acadia Seminary.

These are matters that cannot be attended to and dismissed in an hour, or a day, but many careful consultations and anxious deliberations are required of the gentlemen entrusted with these weighty interests, when they come together for the purpose of wisely administering and providing what will be best for the students and for the Professors and teachers. Tuesday and Wednesday morning were appropriated to the examination of the classes in the various subjects taught in the Academy and Seminary. These exercises were open to the public, and the class rooms were visited more or less by friends of the students and others interested in the operations of the able corps of teachers in each of the institutions.

Being in Wolfville, we availed ourselves of the opportunity, and spent a short time in the class room where Mr. Caldwell was putting an intelligent class of young men through on the subject of Physical Science. Astronomy was the branch under consideration, and Mr. C. and his class seemed quite familiar with the wonderful facts in relation to the heavenly bodies that have been learned after years and ages of profound investigation.

HORTON COLLEGIATE ACADEMY AND ACADIA SEMINARY EXHIBITION.

The afternoon of Wednesday was appropriated to a Public Exhibition of the Academy and Seminary. The following is the programme:

- PIANO DUETT, Overture to Romeo and Juliet. Misses Crosby and Davidson.
ESSAY—Gold Lies Deep in the Mountains. Claude W. Hamilton, Onslow.
ESSAY—Lord Macaulay. Austen K. DeBlois, Wolfville.
PIANO SOLO—Mennetto. Miss Julia Clinch.
ESSAY—Economy of Time. S. H. Cain, Yarmouth.
ESSAY—Capture of Quebec. J. W. Tingley, Margaree, C. B.
PIANO DUETT—Sonata in D. Misses Ruhland and Ferris.
ESSAY—The Norman Conquest of England. Mark B. Shaw, Berwick.
FRENCH ESSAY—Madame de Stael. Miss Alice Fitch, Wolfville.
ESSAY—Lord Byron. H. T. Ross, Margaree, C. B.
PIANO SOLO—Allegro. Miss Alice Hamilton, Grand Pre.
ESSAY—Our Heritage. Miss Welthe Crosby, Ohio.
ESSAY—Ad Altiora. Miss Mary Crosby, Beaver River.
PIANO DUETT—Marche Militaire. Misses Masters and Snide.

The Essays, as specimens of original composition, were highly creditable to students and teachers, and those of the Academy students spoken with animation, confidence and good enunciation, showing that the facts and arguments were well and firmly held, and the opinions expressed were fully appreciated. The Young Ladies' essays were read distinctly with due force and emphasis.

The piano-forte playing, in solos and duets, was very creditably performed. The French Essay was listened to by the large audience as attentively as if they knew all about it.

Diplomas were given to two young ladies—Miss Welthe Crosby and Miss Mary Crosby. We were informed that these young lady students had been matriculated to enter College at the commencement in September.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

commenced at 4 o'clock. The Report of the Directors was read by the

Secretary, and the first three clauses adopted without debate. On the clause referring to the action of the directors concerning the Conference on University consolidation being moved, Dr. Schurman explained that as a Professor in the College he felt bound to carry out the wishes of the Governors, but as a member of the Associated Alumni, he was not so bound, and he was not in agreement with the views expressed by the Directors or the Governors of the College. He had circulated the papers in Wolfville, asking for a conference on consolidation, and now moved the following resolution:—

"Resolved, That this Association do not adopt this clause of the report of the Executive Committee, but that, while declining to commit themselves on the question of University consolidation in Nova Scotia, they are nevertheless prepared to meet representatives of other Alumni Associations, to discuss the advisability and feasibility of such a step, provided such a conference can be held under such circumstances as will duly preserve the interests of the Association."

The President, J. W. Longley, Esq., read a letter from the Alumni Association of Dalhousie College, approving of a conference, and asking for a joint committee.

Professor Higgins said he had signed the request for a conference, but was not in favor of consolidation. He wished for an opportunity of showing that it would be impossible. He believed that Acadia was so firmly rooted in the affections of the Baptist body that they would never consent to any amalgamation with other bodies; and he wished for the opportunity of telling this to the friends of the other Colleges.

Rev. E. M. Saunders said he thought it of the greatest importance that the people should be correctly informed as to who the persons are that favor consolidation, and as any uncertainty on this point might seriously and injuriously affect the revenues of the College, there should be a distinct utterance on the subject.

Prof. Higgins replied that he thought the discussion of the matter in the press indicated that light was wanted, and he thought a conference in reference thereto would be desirable.

Mr. E. D. King said he did not believe in the practicability of establishing one Central Teaching University. He believed that on many accounts the denominational colleges were better.

Dr. Rand, N. B. Superintendent of Education, said he believed the obstacles in the way of a Central Teaching University were insuperable, and he could not sustain the resolution looking to a conference. If such conference were held it would not decide the matter, and if they gave a negative vote it would be sought for again. He could not see that any practical benefit would arise from it.

J. W. Longley, Esq., said he enjoyed one advantage over others present. He had nothing to fear from the Governors or any others in connection with the Baptist denomination, but he claimed to be a loyal son of Acadia. He was ashamed of the resolution adopted by the Directors, and could not charge those who had signed the request for a conference with any want of regard for the best interests of Acadia College. He explained that the "round robin" originated with persons connected with Dalhousie College.

Rev. W. H. Warren was of opinion that the time had not arrived if it ever would for University consolidation. He believed the people were decidedly opposed to it. They believe in Acadia College and have no reason to seek any such change as had been suggested.

Mr. B. H. Eaton believed that the petition for a conference fairly interpreted, meant that the petitioners wished for consolidation. Acadia College was founded to last for ever, and he believed we should work with that end in view.

Rev. A. Cohoon thought that it would be better for the friends of Acadia to consider among themselves first whether consolidation would be beneficial, and if the conclusion were come to that it would, there might then be a conference with others.

Mr. Wallace Graham said the matter of University combination had long been a difficult question to deal with, and it is desirable to have it settled. The financial aspects might be improved.

The question was called for. Prof. Schurman's resolution was lost by 9 to 12, and the report as a whole was adopted. The election of officers resulted as follows:

- President—J. Parsons, Halifax.
Vice President—W. M. McGregor.
Sec.-Treas.—W. L. Bars, Halifax.
Directors—J. W. Longley, Rev. E.

Hickson, Albert Caldwell, Rev. J. W. Manning, E. D. King, B. H. Eaton, and Dr. T. H. Rand.

The Lecture by Dr. Schurman on "Carlyle" occupied the evening. The same excellent lecture that was given in Halifax a short time since. Although occupying almost two hours, yet the large audience manifested no signs of weariness. At the close Dr. Rand moved and Mr. Wallace Graham seconded a highly complimentary vote of thanks.

THURSDAY WAS THE GREAT DAY OF THE FEAST.

The Anniversary Exercises present special attractions to a large number of friends from far and near. This year was no exception, but brought together more than usual to participate in the celebration.

The eleven young men who were to present their chosen theme, each doubtless had friends desirous to hear it and witness the ceremonies of graduation. The hall presented a scene of much animation, and long before the time of commencement friends were wending their way up the several roads leading to the College. The Hall was packed, and yet there was a large number who had to content themselves by standing in and around the doorways.

The procession comprised Academy students and teachers, College Students according to their several classes. Then the Faculty with the insignia of their degrees. These were followed by the Governors and the Associated Alumni and graduates, making a line of no small proportions marshalled by James S. Morse, Esq. On arriving at the door of the Hall the choir struck up to the tune, "Onward Christian Soldiers," an appropriate poem composed for the occasion by Rev. James Spencer of St. John, N. B.

The platform extending across the room, was occupied by the Faculty, Rev. Dr. Sawyer, President; Professors Dr. Crawley, Dr. Welton, Dr. Schurman, Higgins, Jones, Tufts, and Kennedy. In addition to the ministers and Governors of the College from the three provinces, there were on the platform Professor Dr. McGregor, of Dalhousie College, Dr. Allison, Superintendent of Education, Robert Sedgwick, Esq., Wm. Ackhurst, Esq., Dr. Borden, M. P., F. G. Parker, Esq., Colonel Drayson, &c., &c.

Prayer was offered by Rev. E. M. Saunders. The Orations by the members of the Graduating Class were as follows:

- THE VOICE OF THE PLEBS. Horatio H. Welton, Wolfville.
EDUCATION AND THE BALLOT. Frank Andrews, Wilmet.
EVOLUTION AND MATERIALISM. Albert J. Pineo, Berwick.
ADDITION, AS SOCIAL REFORMER. John Donaldson, Wolfville.
ABILITY, NATURAL AND ACQUIRED. Sydney Welton, Kingston.
TRIAL BY ORDEAL. Henry D. Bentley, Wolfville.
THE REFORM BILL OF 1832. Edward D. Webber, Sackville.
MONUMENTA. Orlando T. Daniels, Lawrencetown.
THE IDEAL CHARACTERS OF GEORGE ELIOT. Edward R. Curry, Windsor.
A VIEW OF THE IRISH QUESTION. Wm. F. Parker, Dartmouth.
THE DIVINE AND HUMAN IN GREEK LIFE. Arthur C. Chute, Stewiacke.

The orations it will be seen were on a variety of subjects, presenting a most interesting combination. All were excellent and well delivered. We shall doubtless hear again of several of these young men. We have succeeded in obtaining the closing one of the Orations, which may be regarded as a fair specimen of the whole. It was given without a falter, and in a pleasing style, such as will always secure the attention of an intelligent audience.

Oration by Wm. F. Parker.

A VIEW OF THE IRISH QUESTION.

He who would study the progress of a great nation, and trace the development of her institutions will find that the course of civilization, even in later times, is not all unclouded. Through the bright history of English progress can be traced a dark thread which marks the never ending, still beginning woes of Ireland. To day while Germany dreads the ominous mutterings of Socialism; while fair France shudders at the latent power of Communism; and while the Russian autocrat, with sufficient reason, trembles at the name of Nihilism, England is again confronted with her skeleton in the closet—the Irish problem. The Irish question of to-day is the Irish question of 700 years ago. Coeval with Saxon occupation, the problem remains the same, though time and circumstances have changed its conditions. This problem is how to render Ireland happy.

Previous to 1869 the Irish difficulties

were of a three fold nature, religious, social and political. In that year the disestablishment of the Irish Church, practically eliminated the first. The social and political elements in Irish discontent stand in the relation of cause and effect; or, in the hands of the agitators and so-called patriots, of a means to an end. An abnormal and oppressive method of land tenure has always been the real, though long unacknowledged motive power of disaffection, and so has provided ready fuel for political agitation. The periodic cry for Repeal of the Union is only the natural sequence of an unavailing struggle against a hated land system. The removal of many supposed grievances has signally failed to better the state of Ireland, or the last fifty years would not show their present record of Coercion Acts, averaging one a year and of seven suspensions of Habeas Corpus. Such a record shows too plainly that the real cause remains—that the root of the trouble has not yet been touched. No other hypothesis will account for Ireland's unhappy past; nor in view of that past is it safe to proceed on any other, looking to her future.

The present system of land tenure in Ireland originated with English colonization. The land laws of England, springing from the Feudal System and developed under peculiar conditions were imposed upon the conquered race, among whom the feudal relation had never existed, and to whom the change was one from freedom to slavery. Wholesale confiscation of the soil and the subversion of local customs prepared the way for the system that now obtains. This system is unique in Europe. The land of Ireland is owned by 12,000 landlords, many of whom would as soon think of living in Greenland as in Ireland. This land is cultivated by 500,000 tenants representing a population of about 3,000,000 entirely dependent on the soil. The prevailing method of tenure is the cottier, as distinguished from the metayer system prevalent in Europe. The essential point of difference is that in the former the rents are settled by competition, while in the latter they are fixed by custom. By what is known as rack-renting the landlord is enabled to keep his rent at a figure which leaves the tenant barely enough of the produce to avert starvation; the rent rising as the value of the holding increases under the tenant's cultivation, and having no connexion with the character of the harvest. To the Irish tenant land is life. He must take the land at the owner's price or starve; and so freedom of contract is destroyed.

In the struggle for existence reckless competition increases eviction to an extent elsewhere unknown, and in Ireland eviction means beggary.

Prior to 1870 the misery of the tenant was enhanced by the fact that he could claim no compensation for improvements resulting from the investment of his labor and capital in the soil; and since, as at present, the rent rose with the improvements made, all inducement to industry and improvement was removed. The principal feature of the Land Act of '70 is its recognition of a kind of joint proprietorship between landlord and tenant by which the latter obtains an interest in the soil to the extent of his improvements. This Act was legislation on the right line but it failed because it did not go far enough. The famine of '79-'80 proved it to be inadequate and re-opened the question substantially as before.

Ireland though essentially an agricultural country, is eminently unsuited to the purpose; yet Nature and the advance of civilization have opened up no channels into which to turn the surplus population swarming upon the soil. Agriculture must be to Ireland what mining, manufacturing, and agriculture are to England. When to these natural drawbacks is added, an artificial one in the form of a gigantic land monopoly, the national poverty and distress become unbearable. To legislate out of existence the natural causes of Ireland's unhappy condition is impossible. The amount of land cannot be increased, nor its quality to any extent improved. For over-population emigration is far from a sovereign remedy. Its tendency is to drain the country of the industrious small farmers who have sufficient capital to enable them to emigrate; while the poorer classes who subsist by farming, laboring or begging, as opportunity offers, remain and become an increased burden to the country, by reason of the removal of those to whom they looked for support.

The unequal distribution of the land is the only evil that can be appreciably diminished; and in a case of such special urgency the right of the State to come between the owner and the tiller of the soil can be no longer questioned. National prosperity consists not so much in the production of wealth, as in its distribution. Agrarian monopoly reigns in Ireland, and consequently she is debarr'd from peace and progress.

National discontent can exist only when a change in some national institution is absolutely necessary. Such a change may be effected in one of two ways; by removal of the grievance, or by revolution. It is the duty of a government to be warned by the symptoms of discontent, and forestall revolution by legislative action.

The crisis of to-day is more formidable than ever, owing to past neglect, and to

the failure solutions. the failure the questi agricultural form the I stage of its cant fact assumed the ment, un prejudicial classes, co difficulty. ston, that wrong," h not only also of th threaten fall of the This land powerful in the I abortive the Legis The tas of this ve upon Mr. aspect of the right the right to the aid ened sta gained by Act of '7 operation a sense of sion from of power fail to sh in Mr. G concessio principle League, t bring ma It is a st simultane Gladston concessio the Germ nition of the law- people. Thoug are redre serve st landlord but a st sure. B with n agitation of this fail to be England making nature, for the be done ship of The v deder in satisfac the cou perous u it enrich mouths case the Bill is stake is Ireland ism and the str Empire May 4 The s sented Secreta to recei dent th entitled class r front of gave th address ation t during patern "God s The the bes of Div Martin of Ker of Wo The Robins of M. Hon A. C. the Ph Moore Classi more). The best m R. H (Soph) Dr. man, studen pass t Unive more decre ing hi he co schola said i was n to-day The the g to D dispos occasi