

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., January 18, 1882.

THE RELIGIOUS PAPER AS AN EDUCATOR.

Different minds will form different ideas of the object for which a religious paper should exist. Some will conceive it to be the promulgation of particular religious tenets, others the dissemination of information concerning certain religious organizations. Some wish that such a paper should boldly and constantly denounce some particular wrong, others think of its special function as that of a leader of the people in every real or fancied crisis. To many readers the religious paper seems important, because it may be a medium by which any one who desires it may communicate to the public his thoughts and feelings on any subject in which he may at the time feel an interest. Amidst this diversity of opinions, it is hardly to be expected that any religious paper, whether it professes to have one or all of these objects of existence, will always escape adverse criticisms from all classes of its readers. Whatever may be justified from one point of view possibly may call forth censure from another.

While we hold respect for the judgment of our readers on all such questions, we wish to suggest whether there is not another office of a religious paper that is deserving of serious consideration. Such a paper makes its weekly visits to thousands of families, carrying its varied stores for the different members of the household. The discussions of doctrinal questions and practical duties, the information, regularly communicated, concerning denominational work at home and abroad, the accounts of the lives and characters of useful laborers for the church, the calls for sympathy and aid in Christian labor and the responses to those calls, the presentation of the important news of the day freed from obnoxious associations and undesirable details,—surely the recurrence of all this at short and regular intervals through a term of years must be followed by important results. By such influences many in mature life have been strengthened for the duties to which they were called. They have been guided to higher ideals of Christian service and clearer views of truth. The same agency has been a most valuable factor in the education of the young. We may appeal to the records of the churches to show that the readers of the *CHRISTIAN MESSENGER* during the last forty years have been the most ready for every good work, whether it has been the support of the pastors, or contributions to the objects of benevolence, or the intelligent defence and dissemination of the truth. In view of these facts we feel that we may appeal to the pastors and intelligent laymen of our churches to extend the circulation of the paper. If it could be taken in twice as many families as now receive it, our pastors would soon find that the number of faithful supporters and fellow-workers has been largely increased, and every department of our denominational work would feel a quickening impulse. Not the least among the incentives to this increase of circulation, is the fact that the paper could then be made still more useful to its readers.

UNIVERSITY CONSOLIDATION.

In our issue of the 4th inst. we were compelled, by want of space, to refer only briefly to the matter of University Consolidation as represented at the public dinner given by its friends at the Halifax Hotel on the 29th ultimo, and have been prevented till now from resuming its consideration. Mr. Robert Sedgwick, Q. C., presided, and Mr. W. Graham, Q. C., was Vice-Chairman; and several most interesting speeches were delivered. Indeed, under the circumstances, we feel impelled to say that some of the speeches were of a most remarkable character. This Association was brought into existence, as our readers will remember, with a great flourish of trumpets some six months ago, shortly after the Alumni of the various Colleges, Dalhousie excepted, had refused to say that the time had come "to discuss the advisability and feasibility of University Consolida-

tion." Since then we have been so frequently told by members of the Society that consolidation is a foregone conclusion—a mere question of time—a matter in which the argument is all on one side, &c., that we felt we had a right to expect that in coming before the public these wise and learned gentlemen, who have voluntarily undertaken to give instruction in so important a matter, would have presented some practicable and well-digested scheme for carrying the proposed union or consolidation into effect. We are not a little surprised and disappointed, therefore, in reading the report which has been published, to find that the only speakers who referred to the matter at all frankly, admitted that the Society had found itself unable and incompetent to grapple with the question. *Parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus!* Mr. Sedgwick, in delivering the opening address as chairman, spoke for the Society in the following language: "It formulated no scheme, but sought to make consolidation the policy of the people of Nova Scotia. When the people wished for consolidation a scheme would arrange itself. The members of the Association were not at present themselves agreed upon the means by which their views were to be carried into effect." This is certainly a most humiliating confession. No wonder that it called forth the severe rebuke subsequently administered by a prominent member of the Association, who is reported to have said that: "It was hoped their aim was practicable. If it was not then the Association had no reason to exist." In the course of the evening Mr. J. W. Longley, one of the officers of the Association, and the only gentleman present who attempted to discuss the consolidation question, made a very sensible and suggestive speech. He regarded the vital matter for their consideration to be "not the advantages of the proposed scheme, but how it was to be carried into effect." In referring to the strong sympathy which binds the friends of Denominational Colleges to their institutions of learning, he by no means overestimated the case. We quote from his speech, as reported in the *Morning Herald* of the 4th inst.: "These Colleges are deeply embedded in the hearts of the people who founded and sustain them. They were called into existence by inevitable necessity, and have been sanctified by the sympathies and prayers of devout men. They were not to be struck down in an hour. Those of us who are in favor of consolidation must not hope to achieve our ends by hostility to these Institutions."

He deplored the absence of some "feasible plan" in their work, and warned the friends of consolidation that the idea of a union and centralization of the endowment funds of the various Colleges so fondly cherished by members of the Association was "a fatal delusion." He argued that "the establishment of a Central Provincial University must depend, in part, at least, upon State aid; and the appropriation of money from the public treasury for the support of higher education inevitably leads to embarrassing complications." Mr. Longley has the courage of his convictions, and we heartily commend the manly independence with which he has discussed this matter. The facts referred to by him deserve the most careful consideration at the hands of those who seek to tear down the work of half a century, and to inaugurate a new system of Collegiate Education in this country.

Why the matter of "Professional Education" was dragged into the discussion of the evening we are at a loss to discover. One of the speakers is reported to have said that "in Ontario, the premier Province of the Dominion, there were three law schools, three schools of medicine, and seven schools of divinity. In Quebec there was about the same number, and a similar condition of things existed in the United States and in all other civilized countries." Speaking on the same subject, another gentleman made the statement that "the United States in the last twelve years had made great progress. Between 1870 and 1879 the number of technical Colleges had increased from 17 to 81; the number of instructors had increased sixfold; the numbers of students nearly eightfold. Every State in the Union had now one College, many of them more than one, teaching agriculture, engineering, mining, and

other technical subjects." These facts are interesting and instructive. Professional schools, no doubt, are very important, and we would hail with satisfaction the teaching in agriculture, say at Truro, as one of the speakers suggested. Perhaps, too, we may hope that the day is not far distant when, with the rapid development of the country, we shall have professional and other technical schools established at Yarmouth, Pictou and Halifax. Our difficulty, at present, is to discover the connexion between University Consolidation and the multiplication and growth of schools of technology!

We have space only to refer and briefly to the remarks made by one other gentleman at this dinner. Professor McDonald, of Dalhousie College, developed his peculiar views on the consolidation question somewhat at length. He seems to regard the great literary centres of England as his model. "Oxford and Cambridge were not merely institutions for teaching mathematics and classics. They were great gymnasia for the elite youth of England, where associations were formed, and refined tastes acquired altogether apart from the mere acquisition of knowledge." Now there are at the present time in Oxford some *twenty-five Colleges*, including four "Academic" Halls, giving instruction in the various branches of a Collegiate education. "Each College is a corporate body in itself, distinct from the University, and having its own chief officer and independent administration." The University is a distinct corporate institution, related to the Colleges very much as our central government at Ottawa is related to that of the several Provinces; or as the government at Washington to the several States of the Union. Is this the kind of University that is wanted in Nova Scotia?

When our good friends have decided among themselves what they really mean by "University Consolidation," we will be glad to hear from them.

In the course of a somewhat eloquent speech delivered at the dinner above referred to, Mr. W. Graham, Q. C., (Vice-Chairman,) is reported to have made the following statement:—"Fifty years ago the denomination to which he belonged, and which he found it safest to refer to, had awakened to the fact that their clergymen needed special training fit them for their work. Their ministers themselves had admitted this need and had been the first to assist in the founding of Acadia College primarily for the purpose of furnishing the denomination with an educated ministry." This is scarcely true to history, and our good brother, who is generally very careful of his facts, will, we feel assured be glad to have us make the necessary correction. Acadia College was founded in 1838, and placed under the direction of the Nova Scotia Baptist Education Society. In the year 1844 this Society published a statement from which we make the following extract:

"Some years since a number of individuals residing in the Colony of Nova Scotia, viewing with deep concern the great want of sound and practical education in that and the neighbouring Provinces formed a society for the extension of education throughout the Province with special adaptation to the circumstances of the people; and to the future pursuits of their youth. With this object in view they established an Institution for affording instruction in the more advanced branches of learning at Horton. This Seminary having succeeded beyond their most sanguine hopes, and having excited a general and growing interest on the subject of Education, it was deemed necessary to establish a College or University in addition to the Academy. An application was therefore made to the Provincial Legislature to obtain a charter."

The Governors of Acadia have always given great prominence to the Arts Course. The College was founded "primarily" for the purpose of "affording instruction in the more advanced branches of learning." A chair of Theology was added in 1846. No theology however was taught at Wolfville until that year. Eight years after the College was founded and some eighteen years after the establishment of Horton Collegiate Academy.

REV. ALEX. MACARTHUR'S lecture on Spurgeon, before the Y. M. C. Association last week, was well received by a large audience. After some biographical notes of his early days, showing his piety, and remarkably early development of power, he drew several striking pictures of Spurgeon's astonishing facility in producing and preaching. Mr. MacArthur then gave an excellent analysis of Mr. Spurgeon's preaching. The *Chronicle* and *Herald* both gave good reports of the lecture. The former concludes by saying:

"He then closed with a fitting tribute to the work of Spurgeon in the past and a pathetic prayer for the extending of his usefulness in the future. The lecture was written in well chosen language, was given with a clear and impressive delivery, and was interspersed with witty and well told anecdotes illustrating faults in preaching, all of which made the evening pass away rapidly, pleasantly and profitably. At the close, the chairman, Mr. P. C. Hill, made a short speech, telling his own most favourable impressions of the man who for 20 years had held the undivided attention of thousands in the London Tabernacle, and concluded by warmly thanking the lecturer for his fine effort."

The "waste paper basket" is commonly a receptacle of what is regarded as useless by the owner, and yet its contents may be made to reveal what he is, perhaps, better than the books which adorn his library, or any thing he himself says. When it contains the used-up envelopes and scraps of manuscript, &c., no longer of value to him or any one else, then, all right, such contents are the wood, hay, stubble that is to be burned; but if the basket should be found to contain bank notes, postage stamps, valuable photographs, and other choice and beautiful pictures, it is evident that the owner is either incapable of forming a correct judgment of what is worthy of preservation, or that his judgment fails to direct him as to their value, or else he is not in his right mind, he is for the time insane on one or more subjects, and should not be entrusted with articles of value. In such cases the "waste paper basket," may become the most desirable part of his possessions.

W. L. R.—Some verses are better in manuscript than they would be in print. It would not look well to see buoys spelt bouys, or bears spelt here, or finds, fiends. Bear in mind that good prose is better than imperfect rhyme. Many things besides rhyming words at the end of a line are required to make good poetry, and such only should be printed.

PICTORIAL ILLUSTRATIONS are entitled to be so considered only when they do illustrate. If, instead of conveying to the mind a correct representation of the object proposed, they give some distorted impression, they not only fail to please and satisfy, but thus awaken regret and sorrow that something else has been placed before the eye and called by such name. Real good pictures now-a-days abound, and it is in bad taste to bring out inferior ones in books or papers, and expect for them any such appreciation as good ones are entitled to. Far better to have word pictures.

A Photograph! Like many of our readers, we have received a new Photograph of an old friend. Well what of it? Is that anything extraordinary? Perhaps not, to some, but, to others it may mean much. It is at least a reminder that the original is yet in the land of the living. Known perhaps many years ago it serves to awaken whole years of past reminiscences of friendship, and assist us to think of earlier days and to a contemplation of the state where immortal youth is enjoyed, and where

"Everlasting spring abides,
And never withering flowers."
It is to some extent a work of nature, being a shadow of the very person, although a thousand miles away; and yet it is a work of high art. The very eyes are made to speak, although the lips are still, yet the tones of the voice seem to come forth again from them and the christian intercourse is again re-

sumed. There too is the very hand that penned the words of affection and comfort in the accompanying letter—A good photograph is an article of real value.

A letter from Rev. John Brown in England, written Dec. 21, says:—"The day is very fine, fields beautifully green, daisies blooming here and there, and other signs of mistakes on the part of the flowers." Another letter for publication came to hand from our good brother by the last mail. We shall give it in our next.

POLITICAL.—Our Local Legislature will open to-morrow which will be the last session of the present Parliament. The Syndicate contract with the Government will doubtless be the great subject for consideration and legislation. We do not profess to see through all the details of that measure, but we have observed a point or two which we think does not need much consideration to come to the conclusion, that it is not exactly fair and just to all parties concerned alike. It appears that it proposes to construct a line from Pictou town to join the Intercolonial, a distance of about 20 to 26 miles—for which the Dominion Government have promised to supply the rails; whilst for the line from Dartmouth to join the Intercolonial Railway, at or near the Windsor Junction about 10 or 12 miles, the people of Dartmouth are to be taxed \$4000 a year for 20 years or more. Why Dartmouth should be taxed, and Pictou be relieved of any such tax we fail to perceive. These things will have to be ventilated, and we hope rectified before the measure becomes law. The proposal was made some time since by a public meeting at Dartmouth as an inducement to contractors to come forth and offer to do the work. Now that a change is to be made in all matters relating to the railways, such a proposal cannot well stand. Some modification will have to be made before the Council and people of Dartmouth will consent to that arrangement.

We were glad to receive the following item of intelligence by the mail which arrived from England on Sunday last: "The *Parisian* arrived on the evening of the 1st January, after an exceedingly pleasant passage. Revs. John McLauria and J. E. Cracknell, who were in excellent health, conducted services on board during the voyage." The Marquis of Lorne left Liverpool, on Wednesday last, in the *Parisian* for Halifax. He will probably arrive on Saturday or Sunday next. It is expected that he will, on arrival proceed at once by the Intercolonial to Ottawa.

The January number of the *Dalhousie Gazette*, undertakes to discuss "University Consolidation" and gives us some information of a character somewhat new and startling. After telling his readers that without "consolidation" they must be "content with our own denominational institutions as they at present exist," our learned contemporary goes on to say:

"The question then naturally arises—can an institution which is avowedly denominational afford a first class intellectual training? Taking 'denominational college' in its practical meaning, we answer no, because no college can at the same time fulfill the two-fold duty of preparing young men for religious work and of training the mental faculties to such a degree as the present age demands. The multiplicity of the branches of study would of itself prevent this being the case, but apart from this consideration other grave obstacles must not be overlooked."

Hence, we suppose, a *fortiori*, the absurdity of "Consolidation"? The idea of one College "at the same time attempting to fulfill" the six-fold or seven-fold duty of preparing young men for agricultural, mining, engineering, legal, medical and religious work "and of training the mental faculties to such a degree as the present age demands" is really very alarming. We always supposed that these professional studies formed no part of the regular College course, but then we are not in the secrets of Dalhousie. There are many

graduates of Acadia in this city in the legal and medical professions and connected with the press, who, we feel certain, never studied theology, as such, an hour in their lives. We never heard of a student being "allowed to enter College free of charge because of his intention of entering the ecclesiastical field," but, of course, the *Gazette* must be allowed to speak for Dalhousie, and what he here says may possibly be correct as regards that institution.

TAKE NOTICE.—NEW SUBSCRIBERS.—Three copies of the *CHRISTIAN MESSENGER* to one address for Five Dollars; six copies to one address for Ten Dollars; and so on for one year.

News of the World.

It is to be hoped that in a few days more the wretched exhibition at Washington will be closed. Judge Porter—who has conducted the prosecution of the assassin Guiteau—in his argument on Tuesday last reviewed the conduct of the prisoner, and administered to him a well deserved castigation. "The prisoner is mistaken, your Honor," said Judge Porter, "if he believes by his unseemly brawling he can prevent my voice from being heard by the jury. The puppet cannot be moved in such good time as when he sat with his counsel; and by his outbursts now he is fast tightening the hangman's noose about his neck."

On Thursday Mr. Davidge addressed the jury, and took up the plea of insanity. He dwelt upon the fact that the prisoner, when on the stand had shown wonderful memory, logic, reason, and intellectual ability, all tending to refute the theory of insanity. He reviewed that portion of the testimony bearing upon the prisoner's character, as evidenced in his past life. "All this time," said the counsel, "no one accused him of insanity. In the estimation of his friends and family he was sane enough for all the ordinary transactions of life. But when his hand is red with blood, and outraged law claims him as a sacrifice on the altar of justice, we first hear of insanity."

During the argument Guiteau made constant interruptions, which were adroitly turned by counsel with telling effect against the prisoner.

Yale College has just gained a case at law by which it will be entitled to property in the city of New York, valued at a million of Dollars.

The *Times'* Berlin despatch says: "The collective note of France and England to the Khedive is viewed by the Foreign Office here as a grave diplomatic mistake, which England will rue sooner or later."

On Tuesday last six hundred weavers at Ashton under Lyne struck work. They returned to work again on Thursday with an advance of 10 per cent. on their wages.

Mr. Gladstone again remitted 10 per cent. of the rentals on his Hawarden estate.

On Thursday last the Emergency Committee despatched a messenger by mail train from Dublin with a bag of writs, to be delivered at the police stations in West Meath, Galway, Rosecommon and Mayo. While the train was travelling at rapid speed a gang attacked the messenger in the railway carriage, seized the bag, and destroyed the writs.

The gross total of outrages committed in Ireland in December is 574. The largest number of cases occurred in Munster.

Parnell and Dillon in a letter to the Town Clerk of Dublin, return thanks to the corporation for the honor conferred on them by the freedom of the city.

The arrest of Connell led to the apprehension of the entire band of the midnight raiders, of which he was the leader. The military surrounded the town of Millstreet to prevent escapes while the police made arrests.

By the mistake of a London druggist in supplying morphia instead of a simple powder, three children were recently poisoned to death. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of "death from misadventure."

The steamer *Faraday* was to leave Charlton on Wednesday, with the last portion of the new American cable.

In Paris the Chambers formally reopened on Tuesday of last week.

The recent Paris census shows a population of 2,225,900, against 1,988,800 in 1876.

Ministerial papers state that Gambetta has decided to tender his resignation should the Chamber of Deputies reject the proposal for the re-establishment of the *Scrutin de Liste* system in the bill for the revision of the constitution, which will be shortly introduced by the Government.

Three French missionaries were murdered near the oasis of Ghadames, in the desert of Sahara.