

HALIFAX, Nov. 8th, 1883.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger:

DEAR SIR,—Will you do us the favor to publish in your paper the communication of J. W. Barss, Esq. which appeared in the Halifax Morning Herald of the 2nd inst., and the series of letters now appearing in that paper over the signature of Dr. Saunders, on the subject of the Chair of the principles and practice of Education recently established at Acadia College, and the appointment of Dr. Rand to that Chair, and oblige

Yours faithfully,
D. McN. PARKER.
J. W. MANNING.
B. H. EATON.

About Acadia College.

To the Editor of the Herald:

SIR,—A great deal has been written of late on matters connected with the above institution. The many writers who have spoken on the action of the trustees, governors, and fellows of Acadia college in creating a chair of didactics and filling it with a professor, have, I consider, only expressed the general feeling of the Baptist body of the lower provinces in relation to the whole matter. I do not intend going over the ground taken by others, as sufficient has been written to throw full light on the appointment, though it was sought to be done in a dark corner. I write to say I fully endorse, with the exception of some little personalities, all that I have seen written by those who disapprove of the act of the governors and their associates in the action referred to.

Six weeks have elapsed since the chair of didactics was founded, during which time the governors of Acadia have had ample time to reconsider their act, and knowing its unpopularity, to cancel the appointment; but it seems that no action is being taken looking in this direction.

Then we are given to understand that half a dozen men appointed by the Convention as governors to carry out its understood wishes, feel determined to override, overrule and set at naught the opinions and wishes of that large and influential body to whom they are responsible.

It is industriously circulated that the opposition to the measure referred to is local and limited. I deny this. It is almost universal throughout the length and breadth of the lower provinces. As an evidence, not a minister of the 340 churches connected with the Baptist Convention has written a line commending the measure. 'Tis true that two of the governors—both of the legal profession—have put forth feeble excuses for the acts of the Board. They were certainly very weak but probably the best pleas they had to offer; no one outside of the Board has ventured to come to their rescue.

I believe the action taken has already resulted in injury to our beloved institution, no doubt but more serious detriment will be felt hereafter.—Acadia college, the boast of the Baptist denomination, has been made a laughing stock and this is the consequence of a few men in secret plotting to carry out the whims and fancies of a few interested parties.

But we must not forget to honor the four governors who manfully resisted the creation of the chair. They were the oldest and most experienced of the eleven who gathered at Wolfville, and did their duty nobly but ineffectually, as a majority of three carried the day; some may consider that three governors have a right and power to enforce upon the denomination anything they may choose and think proper to enact in connection with educational matters. They may have power, but in exercising it they not only make a great mistake but commit an unheard-of blunder.

Having been intimately connected with the Baptist denomination for fifty years; having taken great interest in the welfare of Acadia college for the last thirty-three years; having given many years of my business life in financing as its treasurer, and having contributed towards its funds more than any other person that I am aware of, is the excuse I have for recording my protest to the whole action of the governors referred to in this article.

J. W. BARSS

Nov. 2nd 1883.

The Acadia College Difficulty.

No. 1.

To the Editor of the Herald:

SIR,—Will you give me room in your paper for a short series of letters on the subject of Dr. Rand's appointment to the chair of the principles and practice of education in Acadia College? The letter of John W. Barss, Esq., in the Herald of the 2nd inst., added to some previous writing, has induced me to take

this favor at your hands. I shall endeavor to make the letters short and few in number, so as not to take much of your space or weary your readers.

The statements in Mr. Barss's letter are largely inaccurate. It is not a fact, as I shall be able to show, that any business connected with the founding and filling of the chair in question was "done in a dark corner." Nothing is known in the Baptist denomination of "a half dozen men appointed by the Convention as governors." There are 19 governors and 6 Fellows. They together are the corporate body by which the institution is governed. Mr. Barss is in error when he states as a fact that a "few men secretly plotted to carry out the whims and fancies of a few interested parties." Neither is it correct that "four governors manfully resisted the creation of the chair." It is equally incorrect that "a majority of three carried the day." The voting was all unanimous. Doubtless Mr. Barss and others have heard incorrect reports and assumed that they were facts. It is, however, true that Mr. Barss has acted as Treasurer of the College for years. He has also contributed largely of his means to support it. To what extent I have no means of knowing, except that I now have in mind that I once heard him say that the entire amount was \$10,000. The College is certainly indebted to Mr. Barss; and Mr. Barss is just as certainly indebted to the College. Should they go into a settlement I do not know how the account would stand. Mr. Barss would find the College generous in admitting all his charges of money, time and influence contributed to her in the past; but he would also find those grand institutions in his neighborhood just to themselves in charging him with the education of his sons at a very cheap rate. She would remind him that she had been enabled to do this for him by having property and endowments to the amount of about \$200,000, collected largely from her friends of limited means throughout all these provinces, yea, even the world. Neither would she fail to call his attention to the fact that she had done much in creating the cultured and intellectual society in which he has moved for a quarter of a century or more, and in which he has reared his children. Something also would be charged against him for the help rendered in making Wolfville a place of business, which has been of great advantage to Mr. Barss in that line. But I leave this for Mr. Barss and the institutions to settle between themselves. It might, however, not be improper for me to remind Mr. Barss, in this connection, that the principle of giving to any object is not that of amounts merely, but of ability rather. As an officer in a church of Christ, Mr. Barss believes that the widow who gave all that she had, and that only a mite, gave more than all the rich men who cast their large contributions into the treasury. Many a Baptist minister, and many a poor Baptist have given largely of the little they had to swell the funds of Acadia College.

I am free to admit that a competent and fearless critic may render great service to public interests; but reckless criticism may result in great disadvantages. For years past Mr. Barss has assumed in public and in private the role of a critic of the management and government of our denominational schools at Wolfville. Had his fault findings been as consistent as he has said the doings of the governors have been inconsistent, then he would have a just claim for the thanks of the denomination; but a glance over the past few years makes it plain that Mr. Barss's judgment is not infallible. Only four years ago at the Central Association at Berwick, in an address characterized by much warmth of feeling and positive utterance, Mr. Barss said that in three years, because of the ill judged management of the governors, there would be no College in Wolfville. Since that time he has deplored the efficient existence of that institution that he felt constrained to appear in the newspapers, favoring the proposal then made to surrender our College work at Acadia and consolidate with Dalhousie. But what did he do in the late Convention held in Halifax? He actually moved a vote of thanks to the Governors of Acadia College for their able and successful management of its affairs.

Now Mr. Barss is very sanguine in his condemnation of the governors for founding a chair, and for appointing Dr. Rand to a professorship; but in less than four years I fondly hope that he will be just as sanguine in moving a vote of thanks commending them for it. He will then be able to point to the good results of this movement as he is now able to point to the good results of building the Ladies' Seminary, the going into debt for which had caused him to believe that all was lost.

Mr. Barss suggests that the Governors

should have convened a meeting ere this and cancelled Dr. Rand's appointment. It would not be unfair to ask Mr. Barss how he would set in circumstances similar to those in which Dr. Rand would be found were his appointment annulled. Let us now suppose the existence of such circumstances. Mr. Barss, we will suppose, has been for a number of years in a very successful business in Halifax. He at length wishes to retire to Wolfville, and there limit his labors for the remainder of his life. The Peoples' Bank becomes aware of this fact. Accordingly the Board of Directors offer Mr. Barss \$1,600 a year for taking charge of a branch bank in the town chosen for his future residence. He accepts the offer. The bargain is made and formally closed. Mr. Barss gives up his business; but on the eve of departing for Wolfville he gets a note from the President of the Bank, stating that at a meeting of the Directors, called for that purpose, his appointment has been cancelled, and his services are not required. I would now like to ask Mr. Barss what he would do in this case? Would he not remind those directors that they were accountable to wholesome laws? Would he not cause visions of damages to float before their minds? Again, I would like to ask Mr. Barss, how, as Christian men, the governors of Acadia College could justify the act which he condemns them for not perpetrating, before their own consciences, the Baptist Convention, and the world? Mr. Barss, in my judgment ought to reconsider the legal, moral and religious aspects of this act, the non-performance of which by the governors seems to amaze him so much.

The establishment and filling of chairs in Acadia College is by law committed to the Senate, Trustees, Governors, and Fellows.

The history of the founding of the new professorship and the appointing of Dr. Rand to fill it, will be plainly told in subsequent letters. The nature also of the new department, and the grounds on which the belief rests that it will yield good results will be considered at some length.

After the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces have seen a plain and true account of business connected with this matter from beginning to end; and after they have impartially examined the extent and character of the work to be done; the certain prospect of the vast intellectual and religious results on a large scale; and the ability, enthusiasm and devotion of the newly appointed Professor, they, I am persuaded, will not only feel satisfied with what has been done, but they will see that they have reason to thank the governing bodies of the College for this "new departure."

Truly yours,
E. M. SAUNDERS.

November 5, 1883.

(Continued on fifth page).

For the Christian Messenger.

Suggestions on College Matters.

Mr. Editor,—

Having in mind a prophecy which was uttered in my hearing not long since, to the effect that one issue of the current discussion of the Didactics question would be a thorough examination and reconstruction of the Arts Curriculum of Acadia College, I venture to suggest that the members of the Senate, to whom such work belongs, immediately put under serious consideration some such questions as the following, in order to satisfy themselves of the expediency or necessity of radical changes:—

- (1) Should the requirements of matriculation be conformed to a perspective scheme of High School studies issuing from the Council of Public Instruction? (See October Journal of Education, page 20).
- (2) Would the interests of Higher Education in Nova Scotia be better served by making Greek an elective? (See Dalhousie College Calendar, also Discussions respecting "The College Fetich" *passim*.)
- (3) Do the same interests demand any modification of the Mathematical Course?
- (4) Is it imperative that French and German be inserted into the Curriculum?
- (5) Are there any other studies whose importance as elements of a liberal culture has been hitherto insufficiently recognized?
- (6) Is there any place in an Arts Curriculum for Professional or Technical studies?
- (7) Does the list of text-books recommended call for revision?

As the Senate in some of its "maiden" acts has exhibited a melancholy ignorance of the limitations of its powers, I venture further to subjoin a few pertinent extracts from the Report whose adoption called that body into existence:

(1) "And they (the Body of the College or Senate) shall frame and from time to time alter and amend the curriculum of the College, and prescribe the text-books to be used." (Clause 9 [e]).

(2) "That eight members form a quorum, . . . four of whom must be members of the Faculty." (Clause 14).

(3) "That the meetings . . . shall always be held in Wolfville."—(Clause 15).

(4) "That the annual meeting of the Body of the College, at which time only nominations shall be made, shall be held some time during the days of the College Examinations and Anniversary, and intermediate meetings may be convened at the call of the President, or in his absence the senior member of the Faculty, but the President of the College, or in his absence the senior member of the Faculty, shall summon the Body of the College to meet at any time on receiving a requisition signed by three Fellows and six Scholars." (Clause 16).

(5) "The Body of the College shall present a report of their doings to the Board of Governors at their meetings during the Anniversary proceedings of the College." (Clause 20).

I would still further modestly suggest that a meeting of the Senate be convened during the Christmas vacation for the purpose of such discussion as may lead to a report to be presented to the Governors in June of 1884, as provided for in Clause 20 recited above. Meantime the public would have ample time to air "pet ideas" for the enlightenment of the members of the Senate, of whom I am the least.

FRANK H. EATON.

Truro, Nov. 5, 1883.

In Memoriam.

EDWARD L. STUBBERT,

died on the 15th October, at Ridgeville, Iriquois Co., Illinois, after a lingering illness, in the 23rd year of his age, beloved and much lamented son of Rev. James A. and Mary C. Stubbart. He died peaceful and happy, without a doubt or a fear, trusting in the finished work of his Redeemer. Edward experienced the saving power of God's love when in the 13th year of his age, and was baptized into the fellowship of the Baptist Church in Deerfield, Yarmouth County, of which he continued a worthy member until death. He loved the worship of God, took part in the family worship, and after leaving home he often in his letters spoke of the comfort and strength he derived in engaging in family worship with his brother's family with whom he lived. He left home in the early part of last March to visit a brother residing in Minnesota, and intending to study Telegraphy, and practice it, but after only one week's study, he took a heavy cold, which resulted in undermining a constitution naturally frail and delicate, and at last terminated in his early death. A few sentences from the last letter he was able to write will show the state of his mind. In referring to some troubles through which we were passing, he says, "Look up to God for His support in the trying hour, He has said He will never leave nor forsake you. I can rest on His promises, I try to look to Him, and I feel I can rest my salvation on the finished work of Christ. Let us all trust in Him. The trials of this life only make the joy of heaven sweeter. Cast all your cares on Him. I received a letter the other afternoon in which was some money, and I just felt as though the Lord was watching over me, and supplying all my wants, and I felt my heart go out in thanksgiving to Him. O what a kind heavenly parent we have, and how little we realize His great goodness. Sometimes when I think of the Christian influences that have always been thrown around me, I cannot feel half thankful enough, but 'tis a blessed thought that it is nothing we can do, but the debt was paid on Calvary. May God ever comfort your hearts, and may you feel that 'bread shall be given you, and your water shall be sure.' Look often at the motto over the door, 'The Lord will provide,' and feel that 'He that feedeth the sparrows will much more care for you.' I feel that the journey is almost over with me, but it will be a blessed exchange, and if I can only get home I shall be so pleased, I so long to see you all. The eager desire to live I once had has all left me, and I leave the whole in God's hands. I feel He is with me, and He has said in His word, 'I will never leave thee, and I trust in His word.'"

Thus he continued until the last, often saying, "It is all right, it is only going home." His sister, in writing us about his last hours, says he expressed himself perfectly resigned to the will of his Heavenly Father, and never once doubted his acceptance with God.

In less than three years two of our beloved children have been called to the "rest" above, and while our hearts are very sad, and we greatly mourn their loss, we still rejoice that they are free

from earth's trials and temptations and safe in the haven of eternal rest. He came as far as Illinois the last week in June, intending to rest there a while, and then, if able, to come on home, but he gradually grew weaker, and at last, far from the home of his childhood, though not among strangers but with a dear sister, he passed to his home in heaven.

From his afflicted father,
JAMES A. STUBBERT.

Nov. 1st, 1883.

CONCERNING CONVERSION AND BAPTISM.

Dr. Dickinson, of the American Baptist Religious Herald, says,—

"We once heard Dr. W. F. Broad tell of a little girl who, in the days when the conversion of children was not the subject of as much prayer as now, applied for membership in a Baptist church. 'Were you a sinner,' asked an old deacon, 'before this change of which you now speak?' 'Yes sir, she replied. 'Well, are you now a sinner?' 'Yes, sir, I feel I am a greater sinner than ever.' 'Then,' continued the deacon, 'what change can there be in you?' 'I don't know how to explain it,' she said, 'but I used to be a sinner running after sin, and now I hope I am a sinner running from sin.' They received her; and for years she was a bright and shining light; and now she lives where there is no sin to run from."

There was a famous battle of the birds in Ohio some weeks ago. A flock of ravens numbering some five hundred hovered high in the air over Ginheim. They formed three detachments, and as if at a given signal, flew at each other with savage cries. Dead birds began to fall, and soon over fifty were picked up. Their wounds were all on the head.

An old minister in Ohio seemed rather opposed to an educated ministry. Said he, 'Why, my 'brethering,' every young man who is going to preach thinks he must be off to some college and study a lot of Greek and Latin. All nonsense! All wrong! What did Peter and Paul know about Greek? Why, not one word, my 'brethering.' No? Peter and Paul preached in the plain old English, and so'll I.'

LIVE UP TO THE BOOK—A Brahmin has made a point—one that is as sharp as a two-edged sword. He wrote to a missionary, 'We are finding you out. You are not as good as your Book. If your people were only as good as your Book, you would conquer India for Christ in five years.'

The hearts of men are their books; events are their tutors; great actions are their eloquence.

SKINNEY MEN.—'Wells' Health Renewer' restores health and vigor, cures Dyspepsia, Impotence, Sexual Debility, &c.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE CENTURY

PROGRAMME FOR 1883-84.

The programme for the fourteenth year of this magazine, and the third under the new name, is, if anything more interesting and popular than ever. With every season, THE CENTURY shows a decided gain in circulation. The new volume begins with November, and, when possible, subscriptions should begin with that issue. The following are some of the features of the coming year:

A NEW NOVEL BY GEORGE W. CABLE, author of "Old Creole Days," etc., entitled "Dr. Sevier," a story of New Orleans life, the time being the eve of the late Civil War.

"LIFE IN THE THIRTEEN COLONIES," by Edward Eggleston, separate illustrated papers on subjects connected with the early history of this country.

THREE STORIES BY HENRY JAMES, of varying lengths, to appear through the year.

THE NEW ASTRONOMY, untechnical articles, by Prof. S. P. Langley describing the most interesting of recent discoveries in the sun and stars.

A NOVELLETTE BY H. H. BOYSEN author of "Gunnar," etc. A vivid and sparkling story.

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New subscribers beginning with November, 1883, may obtain the magazine for one year from date, and the twenty-four previous numbers, unbound, for \$8.00. Regular price for the three years, \$12.00.

Or, if preferred, a subscription and the twenty-four numbers bound in FOUR ELEGANT VOLUMES will be furnished for \$10. Regular price \$18.

THE CENTURY CO., New-York, N. Y. Nov. 7.

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The New York Tribune once said: "Intervallanche of immoral literature that threaten the children, some strong, vitally wholesome, and really attractive magazine is required for them, and St. NICHOLAS has reached a higher platform, and commands for this service wider resources in art and letters, than any of its predecessors or contemporaries." The reference to the wide resources in art and letters commanded by St. NICHOLAS was never more fully illustrated than by the extraordinary list of attractions which that magazine announces for 1884. The following will be some of the leading contributors:

Louisa M. Alcott, J. T. Troubridge, Capt. Mayne Reid, Elzabur Hjorth Boyen, Maurice Thompson, Ches. Dudley Warner, Joaquin Miller, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Mrs. A. T. D. Whitney, Julian Hawthorne, Celia Wheeler, Mary Waring Dodge, Lieut. Frederick Schmidt, Ross Hawthorne, Lathrop, E. S. Brooks, George W. Cable, Charles Easton, Susan Easton Cooper, John G. Whittier, "H. H.," W. O. Stoddard, C. F. Cranch, and scores of other distinguished writers. The best artists and engravers illustrate the magazine. It has been truly said that the reading of St. NICHOLAS is "A LIBERAL EDUCATION" for the boys and girls who are fortunate enough to have it. In no other book or periodical is instruction so happily blended with recreation and amusement. The price is \$3.00 a year, or 25 cents a number. Book-sellers, news-dealers, and postmasters receive subscriptions, or remittance may be made direct to the publishers, by money or express order, bank check, draft, or in registered letter.

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