

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., September 19, 1883.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ACADIA.

The changes recently made in the Faculty of Acadia College by the transference of Dr. Welton to the Baptist Theological College at Toronto, and Prof. Tafts taking the Principalship of Horton Collegiate Academy, rendered it necessary that new appointments should be made to the Faculty, and that certain changes in the curriculum be effected to meet the altered circumstances of the institution, and the growing demands of the times. The Board of Governors of the College were sitting through the sessions of the late Convention, and during the day after its close. The Board then adjourned to meet a Wolfville on Tuesday of last week. No publicity was given to their deliberations or proceedings until Wednesday, after we had gone to press. Since then various statements have been made in the daily papers, more or less inaccurate; which have awakened feelings in some minds prejudicial to what was really done. If the reports had been more fully and accurately given it is likely that there would have been but one opinion as to the propriety and wisdom of the new departure contemplated, and the improvements sought to be carried into effect by the combined judgment of the Governors, Faculty and Senate of the University.

It has been seen for some time past by the more progressive collegiate institutions that whilst they were giving out their stores of knowledge to their students, there was a need of more being done by way of preparation for communicating to others that knowledge that was being gathered. Not that every student should become a professional teacher, but it is well known that the principles which lie at the foundation of the art of successful teaching are necessary in every profession to enable men to apply what they know, and so to render their knowledge practical and useful. In recognizing this necessity there have been professorial chairs of Didactics or Paidutics, or whatever they may be called, established, making Education, in its higher capacity, the specialty of the professor occupying such position.

This need was dwelt upon with a good deal of force in one of the sittings of the Provincial Teachers Association at its last session held in Halifax in July last. Its being the great desideratum in our Collegiate curricula, was dwelt upon also in a series of articles in the Halifax Presbyterian Witness a few months since and quite largely by Rev. Dr. MacVicar, in his educational addresses at the late Convention in Granville Street Church, and it is the conviction of intelligent thoughtful educationists pretty generally that this is one of the great desiderata in our Higher Educational institutions. In the re-arrangement of studies at Acadia, this condition of things was recognized, and it formed a subject of grave and earnest consideration by the Board of Governors.

Under these circumstances Dr. Rand was approached to know if he would be willing to undertake such chair. The President, Rev. Dr. Sawyer, urged the appointment and the result was that Dr. R. was induced to offer to the government of New Brunswick his resignation of the office of Superintendent of Education for that province, and to accept the proposed professorship in Acadia.

The Witness of Saturday last refers to its late articles and says of them:—

A hope was expressed that some one of our Colleges would be able ere long to follow in the footsteps of Edinburgh and St. Andrew's and establish a Chair of Education. ACADIA COLLEGE has gallantly sprung ahead of her sister Colleges and with a spirit worthy of the highest commendation established such a chair. Success would of course depend verily largely on the occupant of the Chair. In order to ensure success the Professor ought to be a man of reputation, enthusiasm, and undoubted ability. Well: our Acadia (Acadia) friends have laid their hand upon the right man—the best that could be found in Canada. They have invited Dr. RAND to occupy the Chair. Should Dr. Rand accept, Acadia will be unquestionably very strong in a department in which other Colleges have as yet done nothing. To educate our educators in the truly scientific methods

of education is a work worthy of the highest attainments and the most brilliant talents. We sincerely wish Acadia College the amplest success in her new and highly creditable experiment.

It is very desirable that ministers of the Gospel should be trained teachers—trained in the science of teaching. Ministers have to teach in the pulpit and especially in Bible Classes. It is not uncommon to find men of great learning and ability still unable to teach, just because they do not understand the laws of mind. Hence we should like to see our ministers enjoying the opportunity of studying and practising the art of science and teaching, (the art and science of teaching). A well-filled Chair of Paidutics would be a great gain to any university.

Since writing the above we have received the following excellent report of proceedings at Wolfville:

OPENING OF THE ACADEMICAL YEAR AT WOLFVILLE.

Work was begun in the different departments of our Educational Institutions at Wolfville, on Wednesday and Thursday the 5th and 6th inst., but the formal opening did not take place till Tuesday evening the 11th. The Senate of Acadia College in June last requested Prof. Kierstead to prepare an address for this occasion to be delivered under their auspices. This lecture was given in College Hall on Tuesday evening before the Governors, Faculty, Fellows, Scholars and Students of the University. The students from the other departments were also in attendance. The subject was: "The influence of the College on the formation of character." As was to be expected, this address was scholarly and thoroughly Christian in its character. It is regarded as a clear and forcible exhibit of the demands of morality and religion upon Collegiate training. The subject is one of paramount importance and we understand that the Executive of the Senate think of issuing the address in pamphlet form.

On Tuesday the Senate and Governors were in session all day considering plans for strengthening the teaching staff of the College. The Executive of the Senate were empowered to make provision for instruction in History and Political Economy. They have since, we learn, engaged, for the present College year, Mr. E. W. Sawyer, to do this work. Mr. Sawyer is a graduate of Acadia and of Harvard and has given special attention to these subjects. We have no doubt, therefore, but that they will be well taught.

In the department of modern languages, French and German—Madame Cornu, a Swiss lady of high literary attainments and large experience as a teacher, will, we understand, take the place recently vacated by Mrs. Armstrong. We are glad to note that such progress is being made in connexion with our educational work at Wolfville.

The most important subject before the Governors was the founding of a new Chair at Acadia to be called the Chair of Education or Didactics. The end contemplated in this foundation is the training of College students to make the most effective use of the knowledge and mental discipline imported by the ordinary subjects of the undergraduate Course. This chair was unanimously tendered to T. H. Rand, Esq., D.C.L., Superintendent of Education for New Brunswick and it is believed that he will accept it and enter upon his work at the beginning of the next term. The accession of so eminent an educationist as Dr. Rand should materially strengthen the College Faculty.

The prospect for attendance during the year is encouraging, a very promising Freshman Class of nearly twenty students has matriculated. Several of these we learn have received their preparatory training elsewhere than in Horton Academy and two of them came from the Baptist Seminary at St. John, N. B.

The interest of Tuesday evenings exercises were materially enhanced by excellent speeches from Dr. Sawyer, who presided, Dr. Welton, and the venerable Dr. Crawley.

Dr. Welton spoke feelingly of his long connection with the institutions at Wolfville as student and teacher, and of his approaching departure to his

new field at Toronto. He accepted it loyally and hopefully believing this new departure to be in the interest of the cause of truth, and designed to extend the kingdom of Christ. Dr. Crawley warmly commended the address given by Prof. Kierstead and hoped that the important principles developed in it might be acted upon in all the future of Acadia College.

Our readers are aware that Horton Academy opens with Professor Tafts as Principal, and an entirely new staff of teachers all of whom bring to their work considerable experience and a good reputation for teaching ability and scholarship.

Of Acadia Seminary little need be said. Under the able and efficient management of the Principal, Miss Graves, it has become widely known as one of the best and most successful Ladies Seminaries in Canada; and the high character of the training and instruction imparted fully justify this excellent reputation. In addition to a large number of day pupils from Wolfville and vicinity nearly all the rooms, we learn are already occupied by boarders, or engaged on behalf of pupils who have not yet arrive.

We have since learned more definitely that it was the Senate of Acadia College who unanimously recommended to the Governors the establishment of the new chair in the University to be termed and known as the "Chair of Education" and Dr. T. H. Rand, Chief Superintendent of Education for New Brunswick, was nominated to fill the new position. At the Governor's meeting held on the same day this nomination was unanimously adopted.

About 22 years have elapsed since Dr. Rand was last engaged in teaching at Wolfville, during which period he has taught in the Normal School at Truro, with Dr. Forrester four years, been Superintendent of Education in this Province for six years, and Chief Superintendent in New Brunswick for twelve years, and now returns to Horton in the ripeness of long and abundant experience in Educational work. We hail his return. We welcome him to the new Chair. Of the propriety and urgent need of such a branch of instruction as the new Professor will take in hand there can be no doubt. If it is important to acquire knowledge far more important is it to be able efficiently to impart that knowledge to others. This is a Science and an art and must be acquired by diligent study under qualified teachers. Perhaps we cannot do better in this connection than to append a very clear and able article we find in the Fredericton Capital, whose editor we learn is an Episcopalian and a graduate of the University of New Brunswick:

DR. RAND AND THE NEW CHAIR IN ACADIA COLLEGE.

The announcement that Dr. Rand has resigned his post as Superintendent of our Schools, and accepted a position in Acadia College as the first professor to fill the newly established Chair of The Principles and Practice of Education, is one which will be looked upon generally throughout the Province as of the first importance. Dr. Rand has occupied so conspicuous a place in the public eye for the last twelve years, and has been so intimately connected with the great educational movement which has taken place during that time, that his abrupt resignation of the Chief Superintendency will come with something like a shock to our people, who have so long associated his name with our Provincial system of Free Schools, in the organization and development of which he has taken so pre-eminent a part, and on which he leaves so decisive an impress of his personality. Scarcely second to the regret or surprise, from a personal point of view, with which the news of his resignation will be received, will be public interest in the new field of work upon which he is about to enter, and the new departure in college education which Acadia will inaugurate by the foundation of the chair to which he has been appointed. It will be no slight honor for that college to be the first in the Dominion of Canada to give effective recognition to a branch of university education with which only the greater universities of the Old

World and the United States have yet attempted to grapple. In the more advanced German universities Pedagogics has long been taught along with the chief departments of general knowledge. It is only within the last few years that chairs of education have been established at St. Andrews, Edinburgh, and London, while at Oxford and Cambridge a "Syndicate," working in connection with these ancient universities, is doing kindred work. In the United States several colleges have followed the example set by the Old World universities. The University of Michigan, four years ago, established a chair of the Science and Art of Teaching, and Harvard, Princeton, the Johns-Hopkins foundation, and other great institutions, are moving in the same direction. To Acadia, as we have said, belongs the honor of being the first to take this great progressive step in Canada. It is assuredly one which will do much towards reviving the ancient and vital connexion between the higher education and the intermediate and elementary schools. That the great universities of the world have, up to a time comparatively recent, laid ordaining hands on every profession save their own, is a fact remarkable enough. In the foundation of chairs, such as that of which we now speak, we have an assurance that students within their influence will have a theoretical acquaintance with education as a history and a philosophy. This ought, at least, to produce in the minds and hearts of college graduates, those who are to be the leaders in the world's thought and action, a deep reverence and appreciation of the teachers's profession. Such a chair, moreover, will, no doubt, provide special instruction for such undergraduates as propose to enter upon the work of teaching. It is one of the natural functions of our colleges, as the heads of our system of public instruction, to supply teachers for our higher schools as well as inspectors and superintendents for the direction of general education. To prepare men specially for such work, to equip them with the highest and noblest results of educational thought and experience, to inspire them with a true sense of the sacred responsibility of their calling, offers a splendid field for a professor's exertions. From the professional teachers' point of view, the recognition of the principles and practice of education as a university subject is of the greatest consequence, since it will probably do more than anything else to secure to teaching the rights, prerogatives and advantages of a profession. A professorship of education will in no wise interfere with the work of Normal Schools. Normal schools teach an art; Universities a body of general knowledge. The underlying principles analyzed and inculcated by the latter are what can best of all give vitality and fruitfulness to what might easily become the dry rules and methods of a routine system.

With principles and wide issues like these involved, the foundation of the new chair in Acadia is a step in educational progress which will undoubtedly awaken much attention and be watched with the deepest interest. We look upon the appointment of Dr. Rand as the pioneer professor, whose mind will first give direction to the new enterprise of his alma mater, as the happiest one that could possibly have been made. No man in Canada, now that Dr. Ryerson is gone, has studied so profoundly the whole theory and practice of education. In the most difficult work of inaugurating our Free School system, to which for long years he has devoted his time, thoughts and energies to an extent that made men wonder how he stood the enormous strain of work at times placed upon him, he has been compelled to grapple with every side—practical or theoretical—of the educational problem. The details of his management have at times been subjected to severe criticism, and we have ourselves more than once felt obliged to oppose his methods or views. But no critic ever found him unwilling to face the test of private or public discussion, and all who came in contact with him felt that they had to do with one who was a master of his chosen subject. Moreover, however men might at times criticize his ideas, we have yet to hear of anyone who questioned his absolute, unqualified and

heartfelt devotion to the cause of education. It is the last point which, in our opinion, constitutes his highest claim, high though others may be, to the post which he is now called upon to fill. His heart will be in his work there, as it has been here in the difficult position he has had to occupy.

We are satisfied that, as years roll around, when the direction of our common school education is in other hands, the greatness of the work which he has done in laying the foundations of our educational system will be even more fully recognized than they are now. The teachers of the Province will part with sincere regret from one who was ever the first to recognize real merit and applaud honest endeavor in the work of education. In the new field to which he transfers his exertions he will have less strain and worry, and more leisure for grappling with the higher problems of educational thought so congenial to his mind. We wish him every success in his new sphere of labor, and we are confident that, with Dr. Rand as its occupant, the new chair in Acadia will prove something more than an interesting experiment, and will make a decisive impress upon all who come within the range of its influence.

Please do not forget. We have large demands to meet every week, and need prompt payments.

The Church of England Provincial Synod commenced its session at Montreal on Wednesday last. The opening sermon was preached by the Bishop of Eastern Pennsylvania, subject, "How the Church of God, while preserving intact her heritage of historic faith, can best adapt herself to the needs of the day."

On Thursday a deputation was received from the Church of the United States, and on Friday one from the Province of Rupert's Land.

Some difficulty is being felt from a motion for a canon of discipline of the laity. Another awkward subject before the Synod is the prohibited degrees of marriage. The resolution of last session declaring marriages within the prohibited degrees sinful is adhered to by some but evidently not by all. There was considerable excitement in the discussion of this matter and enquiring how to deal with offenders. An effort to frame a canon was defeated.

On Saturday the Synod had before them the subject of Missions. Those in the North-West and Algoma were principally dwelt upon.

On Monday the matter of Church Congresses was before the Synod.

We learn that Rev. J. A. McLean of Parrsborough, has received a call from the far west. It is hoped the change might be of advantage to his health which has for some time been precarious. The church and people have become much attached to Bro. McLean and are grieved at the prospect of losing him. They have asked him to take three months to visit the West and observe the effect of the change upon him before pressing his resignation. While we desire the best possible health for our brother we shall be sorry if he is obliged to leave the provinces.

Subscribers in arrears will do us a great favor by sending on the amount due without delay.

HENRY WARD BEECHER recently paid a visit to Chicago. Dr. Kennard, of that city, at the same time preached a sermon, which was published the following day, offering some free criticisms on views lately put forth by Mr. B. Mr. Beecher thereupon published a letter to Dr. Kennard, in which he makes some bold statements of doctrine in genuine Beecher style. He says:

Allow me to say of my own position, that I know that I am orthodox and evangelical as to facts and substance of the Christian religion; but equally well I know that I am not orthodox as to the philosophy which has hitherto been applied to those facts. I am a cordial Christian evolutionist. I do not agree, by any means, with all of Spencer—his agnosticism—nor all of Huxley, Tyndal, and their school. They are agnostic, I am not—emphatically. But I am an evolutionist, and that strikes at the root

of all mediæval and orthodox modern theology—the fall of man in Adam, and the inheritance by his posterity of his guilt, and, by consequence, any such view of atonement as has been constructed to meet this fabulous disaster. Men have not fallen as a race—men have come up. No great disaster met the race at the start. The creative decree of God was fulfilled, and any theory of atonement must be one which shall meet the fact that man was created at the lowest point, and, as I believe, is, as to his physical being, evolved from the animal race below him; but, as to his moral and spiritual nature, is a son of God, a new element having come in in the great movement of evolution at the point of man's appearance.

If to any I seem to bring wit and humor to an irreverent use, I can only say I do it because I cannot help it. So things come—so I must express them but not as a sneer or scoff, though often with impetuous feeling and with open mirth.

Forgive my length. I should wish to live in the affection and confidence of my brethren in the ministry. But I cannot, for the sake of earning it, yield one jot or tittle of loyalty to the kingdom of Love which is coming, and of which I am but as one crying in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

It is sad to see brilliant talents so running riot in human inventions, and rejoicing in "wit and humor" because he "cannot help it," rather than rejoicing in the truth, and seeking to exalt Christ as the only Saviour of lost sinners. And then teaching the absurd doctrine than man "is evolved from the animal race below him."

The Church Guardian, in noticing the recent Union of Methodists effected at Belleville, Ont., expresses a fear that "it will not be long before a spirit of disunion asserts itself."

The astute editor fancies that he sees in this movement a further development of the "sect idea" teaching that "any man and every man may, if he so choose, separate himself from his brethren and form a sect which shall be agreeable in every particular to his own preconceived views of what the teachings of the Bible mean, or ought to mean."

The Gilchrist Scholarship has been won by Mr. H. G. Creelman, B. A., of Dalhousie College. Mr. C. will receive £100 sterling for three years and will probably study at the London University College, and direct his attention specially to physics.

FROM INDIA.

The following from Mrs. George E. Currie, formerly Miss Armstrong of our Maritime Provinces Mission, of the Missionary Link will interest many of our readers:—

The Link is coming all right now, and its monthly visits act as a stimulus to me. Living so far from congenial society, the mind working in a groove as it were, is very narrowing as well as depressing. How I long to see such scenes as those of which we read in the home papers: the seasons of church revivals; the common Sabbath privileges in one's own language. We have books and newspapers, Sabbath-services and prayer meetings; but the latter are in a foreign tongue, with a people who, whatever they may feel, are not demonstrative.

We have had a little breeze from Canada in the shape of a share in the Montreal boxes. The Tuni bazaar furnishes us with rice and curry, fowls, and occasionally mutton. We can nearly always get plantains, and in their season, oranges; but for bread, potatoes, and anything else we may need, we must send to Cocanada or Madras. Now do you not think we know how to appreciate our share of the box from Canada? We do indeed, and feel grateful to the kind friends who prepared this treat for their missionaries. May God bless them abundantly. I hope they will continue to pray earnestly for Tuni Station.

We have come down to the seaside for a change much needed by all of us. It is now very hot at Tuni, but we have delicious sea breezes here and are revived. A wealthy and generous native gentleman of Cocanada presented this house—formerly a storehouse for grain—to Mr. McLaurin and Mr. Currie conjointly. Mr. C. had it roofed and doorways cut from room to room, doors made of bamboo matting etc., expending nearly Rs. 220 upon it in order to make it fit for our hot season sojourn. It is larger than our mission bungalow but needs new floors, doors and whitewash to make it comfortable and re-