

Graduating Essay, Acadia Seminary.

BY MISS ALICE E. HANSON.

All history is not recorded by human pen. A marvellously fascinating story of past ages is locked up in many rocky volumes which await our interpretation.

There are comparatively few who do not enjoy reading either "Nature or her mockery, Art." We peruse with delight the works of renowned authors.

Above us in the wide expanse of the heavens is a field of study to which many men have devoted their lives. Around us on every side are the various forms of plant life, from the tall and graceful elm to the little modest mayflower.

What rolls of parchment and engraven tablets are to the antiquarian, rocks and minerals are to the geologist. There are many to whom rocks are but rocks.

Scientific men, in reading the story of the earth, have ascertained its many physical changes, but imagination staggers when it attempts to comprehend the vast ages which elapsed before the earth was ready for the reception of man.

The huge boulder poised on some fair hillside has also a story of its own. Dislodged by ice from some mountain summit and hurried along by floods of water, it may have traversed half the globe amid the crash of falling forests and the death shrieks of the animals they sheltered.

Many of the marvels of sculpture we owe to crystallized limestone in the form of marble. Our temples and palaces are built with the rocks of a primeval age bearing the very ripple marks of a Pre-Adamite Ocean.

the water percolating through the ground for centuries. This process is ever going on, the drops of lime water falling ever and anon amid the darkness of a "double midnight."

A piece of lava from the vicinity of Pompeii reveals to us one of nature's most exciting scenes. Coming from the interior of the earth, ejected with such terrific force into the air, rivaling all the sky-rockets one could imagine, then falling to bury the luxurious, pleasure-loving Pompeii in its depths, it surely was an agent of nature in enacting one of the deepest tragedies the world has ever witnessed.

From the time that cosmos was first evolved from chaos there commenced that great storing away of material which was to meet the necessities as well as to administer to the comforts of the human race.

Facilities of observation have been given us which we should employ until we can find "Tongues in trees, books in running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything." There are exciting stories waiting to be read from the smallest pebble which we see by the roadside, to the gigantic boulder from the rarest gem to the most abundant.

"Bright and glorious is that revelation written all over this great world of ours." Surely a goodly heritage for man whom He, the most ancient of all mysteries, made in his own image to be the ruler of the universe and all that it contains.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

From France.

PARIS, May 21, 1883.

The interest in the imperial show at Moscow has vanished, and the reverse of the rose-colored picture is beginning to appear. It was sustained with an iron hand, and early revelations of its darker side are promised.

The extravagance, from the imperial family down to the smallest ambassador, had absolutely no limit, and is the talk of Europe.

Nothing is more fashionable at the present moment than Picture Exhibitions, and above all the exhibition of portraits at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, and the exhibition of international painting in the charming gallery of the Rue de Séze.

war with China likely to ensue, but also troublesome complications with Germany and England. A large force leaves Marseilles to-day, and preparations are being actively made to despatch several more transports at an early date.

Paris is full of Americans and English, every hotel overflowing, and gaiety and excitement prevailing. The city never looked gayer, and the shopkeepers have completely recovered from their gloom of the Winter at the prospect of all the money which they hear is coming from America as it never came before.

For the Christian Messenger.

A few facts from Sackville, N. B.

Your issue of this week comes home groaning under an unwieldy article resting upon a "great moral strata" formed by a layer of "ministers," another of "deacons," and another of "Church Clerks."

I see by your note on another page that you had quite a mental struggle before giving it place, and I do not wonder; did you, however, know how very misleading it is, your struggle would have been harder, nay, without a struggle, I believe you would have given it a place where all such communications ought to find their place—in the waste basket.

Once upon a time there lived a stalwart husband who had a diminutive wife. Her temper was as bad as her form was slender, and it seemed to give her peculiar satisfaction to beat her husband with the broomstick, and other convenient weapons of household war.

The fact that this wonderful production states that "no such state of things existed in Sackville as chronic Baptist contention" may well create suspicion regarding the veracity of every other statement it contains, for it is a lamentable fact, too well known to the denomination, and, alas, to others also, that "Baptist contention" has existed in Sackville for the last 44 years, and that this contention has been a standing reproach to Christianity, and has done more than a little work in the way of making sceptics and infidels.

On the 27th of December last the following resolution was unanimously carried in a large meeting of the brethren formerly known as the 1st Baptist Church of Sackville.

Whereas, in the opinion of this meeting a better foundation would be laid for the future prosperity of the cause of God and thus His glory advanced in the upbuilding of His people and the conversion of souls by a union into one of the two Baptist Churches now existing in this community;

and to others about the "contention," and mourned over it, and said he was praying for its removal, but in the public meeting also in support of my first attempt at union, said the following words: "If I ever was converted it was when I was very young, but this contention between the churches has kept me for years out of the church, and I know it is keeping many out to-day."

The above statements show unreluctance as well as inconsistency. Patience, Mr. Editor, while I show their further unreluctance by their own figures. In the Visitor of Jan. 24th the statement is found over the signature of one of these eight men—for which however, another of them is responsible—that "the name of the Second Baptist Church is not annihilated. Out of the eight deacons we have seven, and the clerk and a large majority of its members that are strong against uniting with the First Church."

Put that down. The letter now examined—written by these men conjointly—shows four deacons only who are willing to lend their names to such a production. Put that down. Taking these figures from the hands of their compilers, just as they are, does it not strike you that "six deacons and upwards of sixty resident and a goodly number of non-resident members," are not "a large majority" of "302 members?"

THE UNION OF THE CHURCHES. On the 27th of December last the following resolution was unanimously carried in a large meeting of the brethren formerly known as the 1st Baptist Church of Sackville.

As ever yours, D. G. MACDONALD, Sackville, N. B., June 22nd, 1883.

Having perused a letter in your last issue signed by Rev. D. MacKeen and others, reflecting upon the spirit and work of our pastor Rev. D. G. Macdonald, we regret to be compelled to say that it is grossly misleading and calculated to injure the cause they profess to have so much at heart.

But as some of our members are unwilling that the property we hold shall be held to any other body than the "second church"; further resolved, that any member who is now of this mind and who shall so continue for one year from this date shall at that time have a just proportion of what he paid for the purchase or erection of such property refunded him, such proportion to be decided by a judicious committee appointed by the church.

majority, largely augmented by a consideration of the preparatory canvass and an analysis of the votes cast. On January 3rd, "The Baptist Church of Sackville" was regularly organized with Rev. G. O. Gates of Moncton as Moderator, and Rev. F. O. Weeks of Dorchester as Secretary of the meeting.

Former Second Church members.....30 Do. First do. do.....19 By letter.....6 By baptism.....56 Total.....241

Of this increase upwards of 80 are heads of families and among them men who stand in the front rank of our citizens. Our ingathering has been weekly. There are now some received for baptism and others "almost persuaded." Our three congregations are large. Our three Bible Schools last Lord's day had an aggregate attendance of 250—at Beulah 107, at Salem 98, and the balance at Wood Point.

Let the reader take Mr. MacKeen's own figures found in the resolution inserted in this unique article—a resolution framed by himself, and moved by himself at a meeting consisting of "four or five members" besides himself and Rev. D. S. Carpenter—the latter being my authority for the number present—take even these figures and compare them with the above and then decide whether the Baptist Churches of Sackville are united or not.

Add to this number all the female members resident in Sackville, who are not to day in the church, many of whom are waiting the decision of the Association and you will be far short of the number mentioned in Mr. MacKeen's "resolution." In the light of the above figures what becomes of the statement of the three "ministers" four "deacons" and "church clerk" that in my work for the cause of God here I have "the main weight and strength of the church against it?"

Your correspondents have labored hard to give the impression that I forced this union upon the people. God's people were once bound in Egypt; Moses was called of God to deliver them. As God's instrument he did some forcing. He did not, however, force the people to leave their bondage but he forced Pharaoh to let them go. Any force that was used in this case was in the same direction. It was simply helping the people to enjoy the freedom after which they had longed for many years—simply changing the government of the church from despotic to republican. In our success we take none of the praise to ourselves, we give it all to Him to whom alone it is due.

I am sorry to trespass so much upon your space, I have aimed at brevity but there was so much upon the distaff that it came and came and came and yet much raw material remains. I know, dear brother, that you will do me the justice to give this a place in your next issue.

Dear Editor,— Having perused a letter in your last issue signed by Rev. D. MacKeen and others, reflecting upon the spirit and work of our pastor Rev. D. G. Macdonald, we regret to be compelled to say that it is grossly misleading and calculated to injure the cause they profess to have so much at heart.

Called on, we are yours truly, C. E. MOORE, M. D., Church Clerk. C. R. LUND, Assistant Clerk. RUBEEN THOMPSON, Deacon, former 2nd Church. C. W. RICHARDSON, Deacon, former 2nd Church. JACOB CROKER, Deacon, former 2nd Ch. JOHN SEARS, Deacon, former 2nd Church. J. WILLARD THOMPSON, former 2nd Ch. CHERUS HARPER, former 2nd Church. JOSIAH TINGLEY. WILLARD ESTABROOKS. B. A. READ. JOHN BELL. Sackville, N. B., June 23, 1883.

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