

had nothing affect me so for the last ten years. I have thought of nothing else all day long but just that little, 'Pa, pray loud'."

For the Christian Messenger.

Acadia College Exhibition.

DEAR SIR,—

A brief account of the Rhetorical Exhibition at Acadia College on Friday last will probably be acceptable to your readers.

The quarterly examination of the classes, which was commenced the day before, was concluded that morning. I am informed that the students acquitted themselves well.

In the evening the Hall was crowded. The chair was taken by the Rev. Dr. Cramp, President of the College. After prayer by the Rev. E.O. Read, the exercises proceeded in the following order:—

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,—By Edwin D. King.

FESTINA LENTE,—By Amasa Fisk.

MUSIC.

GABRIEL,—By James N. Fitch.

THINGS AS WELL AS BOOKS,—By Joseph F. Kempton.

MUSIC.

INDEPENDENCE OF THOUGHT,—By Maynard Freeman.

THE GOSPEL IN THE PACIFIC,—By Saml. B. Kempton.

MUSIC.

A stirring speech was then delivered by the Rev. S. W. DeBlois. The Rev. E. O. Read spoke briefly, and to good purpose. A few concluding remarks were offered by the President. The National Anthem was sung, the benediction pronounced, and the meeting broke up, all present appearing to be highly gratified.

The orations delivered by the students displayed various excellence. There was the good—(they were all good)—the better—and the best. I shall not presume to decide to which those epithets respectively applied. Suffice it to say that the whole evinced diligent application, correct taste, and sound judgment.

The pleasure of the evening was greatly enhanced by the performances of an excellent Choir, ably conducted by Mr. J. Newcomb, of Cornwallis.

I attended also the half-yearly Examination at the Academy, which took place the same day. You will no doubt receive a full account of it from some one acquainted with the affairs of that Institution. It was never, I am told, in a more prosperous state.

Wishing prosperity to all our denominational efforts, I am,

Dear Sir, yours,
A LISTENER.

December 26, 1860.

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 2, 1861.

One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-one!

THE clock of Time has again struck. Reader, did you hear the solemn tones? December, the twelfth of the past period, 1860, struck, and has passed through its thirty-one vibrations, and the swinging of the great pendulum has brought January, who ushers in THE NEW YEAR—1861,—the first of another decade. Who will hear the striking of the twelve parts into which this year is divided is to us all now unknown? Whether you, gentle reader, or he who guides the pen which now traces these lines, or he who places the metal types by which these thoughts are conveyed to your mind, will listen to its measured tread to the end, is mercifully hidden from mortal ken. No matter; in the eternal plan we are but of comparatively small moment. February, March, April, May, and June, will each successively advance, strike, and retire to make way for its successor.

It is now Winter. The hand of Time will still proceed and accomplish half its revolution and, then it will be Summer, shall we be here to witness the resurrection of the vegetable kingdom, which now seems hopelessly dead and worthless; but which then will be putting forth its glory and loveliness? This and a hundred other questions may be suggested, and yet no solution of them can be obtained even from earth's wisest and greatest minds. We, and thousands more, may then have lain our heads 'neath the clouds of the valley. Strong men and women, and tender children, will succumb to the embraces of the great enemy and pass away to the eternal world to mingle with those who have gone on before them. Nations and kingdoms may have fallen, and others may have risen, or be in a course of formation ere the cycle is complete. Death notwithstanding these changes of dynasties, will still be reaping, and, whether the individuals of whom those nations are composed be enduring the oppressor's rod and tyrant's chain,

or else walking erect in the enjoyment of that freedom which is man's birthright, he will be gathering them into his garner. Tyrant and slave, monarch, noble and pauper, must yield to the great destroyer.

The wheels of the great clock will continue to move on, silently as now, until finishing the circle, the night of winter shall again come, and this year too shall be numbered with the past. The great pendulum which brings the alternations of light and darkness will thus continue its vibrations; but when will the vast time-piece by which the days of our system of worlds are measured out,—when will it run down, and a change in the administration of human affairs be brought about? When? The attempts of speculation to supply an answer to this question have hitherto all failed.

The great Ruler has called away generation after generation, and holds each individual in safe keeping till the breaking of that Day, when created light, on which we are now so dependant, shall be no more required. Then, after ages upon ages may have rolled on, and there shall be no more need of its effulgence, then will the great Solar Clock run down, and that day, with all its glorious realities will open upon the renovated vision of our immortal bodies and "Time shall be no longer."

That you, dear reader, may have a Friend in the person of the great Administrator of the affairs of that day, is the fervent prayer of

THE EDITOR.

Summary

OF THE PRESENT CONDITION AND PROSPECTS OF THE WORLD.

In our closing number for the past year, we took a very brief review of a few of the most important political events that have transpired within that period. We might pursue the subject in reference to many others of a like nature, which will hereafter stand as landmarks on the pages of secular history. This, however, we will defer until another occasion, and offer a few reflections on matters of still greater moment,—the progress and prospects of the Gospel of Christ in the world at large. Perhaps in none of the great divisions of the Globe do those prospects appear more hopeful than in Europe. The Italian Revolution, though not in any respect to be considered as a religious one, is yet opening vast and most promising fields for Christian zeal and enterprise. Although no great defection has as yet taken place from the dogmas of Popery, yet is there a large and open door offered for the diffusion of Gospel light. The free circulation of the Scriptures and other books, both religious and secular, is pouring a flood of light upon the popular mind of Italy, which it may well be hoped may ere long produce the most blessed effects. Throughout Germany and its affiliated nations, the Gospel is yearly gaining a footing which promises a rich harvest of blessings, to lands long sunk in formality and superstition. The principles of religious freedom are making rapid strides in Sweden, Denmark, and some of the lesser states of Germany; and in the first named country, a work of Divine Grace has commenced which is likely to be fraught with untold moral and religious benefits. There is good reason to believe that throughout Great Britain and Ireland, the revivals of religion are pervading the various ranks of society with a steady and increasing progress. It must not, however, be denied that error and infidelity in various forms, in all the countries named, are also doing their work of death. France, which in its truest description, may be termed infidel, is not, however, left without symptoms of better promises. Religion is nominally free, although watched and thwarted in its operations by a jealous Government, professing, though caring little for, the faith of Rome. Superstition and persecution still, as hitherto, have their stronghold in Spain, but surrounded as she will be by better influences, the light of Divine truth cannot much longer shut be wholly out.

In Southern and Western Africa the holy and civilizing light of the Gospel is advancing, we trust, with steady and enduring steps, among her sable children, notwithstanding the cruel and revolting superstitions of heathenism and the effects produced by the accursed traffic in human beings, carried on by men who pollute the name of Christian.

In our own continent it is highly probable, the advance of the vital principles of the Gospel, is more stationary than in any other, although the disciples of the Redeemer, connected with the great Evangelical Denominations, are not without cheering tokens of the presence of their Master. The Great Social rupture, which seems now impending over the neighbouring Union, will, we fear, work no small amount of evil to the cause of truth. But its interests are in His hands, who alone can bring good out of evil. Let his servants pray that he may overrule the wrath of man,

as to manifest his own glory and further the salvation of his people.

We have left ourselves little room to speak of the progress of converting grace, in countries, as large and still more remote than those referred to. Asia with its swarming millions of Heathen and Mohamedan races, suggests a wide and fruitful field for Christian activity. It is matter of deep gratitude to God, that around the "gross darkness" "that covers the people," there are, however faintly gleaming, rays of saving light. In some parts, the Word of God is being freely and largely distributed. India, Burmah, and China are the chief centers from which its blessed influences are beginning to be felt, and among their happiest results is the fact that numerous native Evangelists are being prepared and sent forth to publish salvation to their perishing brethren.

There is one great and glorious fact however that lies at the very foundation of all the triumphs of the Gospel which will stamp the first half of the nineteenth Century with a heavenly splendour unknown to any or all the previous centuries of the Christian era. It is the introduction of the Word of God to almost every nation and tongue and people that inhabit the globe. May the period shortly come when it may be truly and literally said that the gospel is PREACHED to every creature.

But our allotted space is more than exhausted, and we must close our remarks with suggesting how strong and urgent a motive is afforded by the facts we have mentioned, for the fervent and united prayer of every true follower of Christ, to implore that "His Kingdom may come and His will be done, in earth as it is in Heaven."

OUR NEW DRESS.—Our readers will perceive that we come to them this week in a greatly improved dress. Although our type and general appearance has not heretofore been below par, yet we were not satisfied without presenting an appearance at least equal to the best of our contemporaries. We are fully conscious of the great pleasure there is in reading a clear distinct print, when compared with the impression given by old type, and, as we have great respect for our readers, eyes' as avenues to their minds and hearts we have chosen a type which we think unsurpassed.

All we need now is that our steam-press printer should give us good ink and a careful register, on which score hitherto, we have had no cause to complain, and we shall place in the hands of our patrons a sheet which for mechanical execution none need be ashamed. Of our literary contents the *Messenger* speaks for itself. The flattering encomiums received with the subscriptions of many of our friends we accept as marks of their approbation not to be disregarded; but at the same time we feel that these place us under obligations to aim at a higher standard than we have yet attained. The deeply interesting letters of MENNO, of our English Correspondent, and many others we might name, enables us to present our readers from week to week with a larger amount of superior original matter than any other newspaper in Nova Scotia, and perhaps we might say than any in British North America.

Our design is still to be making progress and seeking continually for improvements in all that concerns the welfare of our patrons, and the enlargement of the kingdom of Christ generally in the world.

A new Baptist paper, the *Christian Watchman*, is to come out this day in St. John, New Brunswick. Rev. E. B. DeMill is advertised as its editor.

The Rev. I. E. Bill, in an Appeal to the Baptist Churches on behalf of the *Visitor*, denounces the publisher of the new paper,—Mr. G. W. Day,—for putting an advertisement of it in the *Visitor*. Mr. Day publishes his defence, and states that the advertising columns of that paper were his, and under his control, and he therefore had a right to make use of them.

Mr. B. expresses his deep grief to see the name of Rev. E. B. DeMill "paraded so prominently in this Prospectus."

A small sheet entitled the *Family Visitor*, published at Greenville, Illinois, brings us an account of a revival of religion in that locality, under the ministry of Peter Long. He says:

"I had promised to attend once a month at a school house in Round Prairie, a few miles distant from our meeting house. Here several of our church members resided, and other people friendly to religious worship; yet a majority of the neighbors were careless, seldom, if ever attending religious services at all. The first opening buds of promise that I witnessed was, I think, in December and January, an increased number in the congregation and better attention than usual, with greater seriousness. At the January meeting, I think, agreeably to privilege granted by the church, a door was opened

for reception of members, when a woman came forward and related her experience, and was received; and at the next regular meeting in February, another woman united by experience, and also the husband of the woman that joined the month previous. Quite an interest by this time was manifested in the congregation; and I confess that I felt increased interest and encouragement.—None of these were baptized at that time, but the March meeting, (second Sunday) was appointed for their baptism; and by general request we held night meetings previous to this intended meeting, on second Saturday and Sunday in March. These meetings were all well attended, and remarkably good order observed during all the services. Others were received into fellowship during this week, so that six were baptized second Sunday in March. Meeting was continued the next week, and on the third Sunday in March six more were baptized. At both these baptismal scenes, four or five hundred people assembled near the banks of Shoal Creek, with the utmost good behavior. Previous to our regular meeting at the meeting house, first Saturday and Sunday in April a meeting, by request, was held each night the preceding week—several were added to the church during the week, and at regular church meetings at night, when the door of the church was opened, six came forward at one time, and each, one at a time, gave a satisfactory account of the reason of the hope within them. This evening was a most refreshing time.—The next Sunday was pitched upon for baptism, when thirteen, in presence (as was computed) of a thousand spectators, were buried with Christ in baptism. Among those baptized were seven young ladies and gentlemen, the balance were heads of families. Eight men and their wives among the rest, and two men whose wives previously belonged to the church. A few of those uniting with us came from the Presbyterians and Methodists. This caused the subject of Baptism to be much discussed, by our Pedo-Baptist friends in various directions; while I, for my part, never thought it necessary to preach a single set discourse on the subject; yet I sometimes thought proper to advert to it; and on one baptismal occasion in particular, I read various passages from the New Testament, with brief comments; occupying perhaps half an hour's time."

General Intelligence.

DOMESTIC.

THE ELECTIONS.

The *Morning Chronicle* of Saturday announces the result of the two elections which took place on the 27th as follows:—

"ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—We regret to be required to announce that the Elections of Victoria and Cumberland have resulted in favor of the Opposition candidates. We have not been enabled to procure a statement of the numbers at the close of the poll in either district, but there is no reason to doubt, we believe, that Donkin in Cumberland, and C. Campbell in Victoria are elected. The Election in Victoria has been lost, we understand, in consequence of a division among the friends of the Government."

The *Presbyterian Witness*, informs his readers of the same event in the following laconic but expressive terms.

"THE ELECTIONS.—In Cumberland Mr. Donkin has been returned with a considerable majority. We believe also that Mr. C. J. Campbell has beaten Mr. Kidston in Victoria. The Poet has said very wisely:—

What is impossible can never be,
And seldom comes to pass.

One would regard Mr. Campbell's return as an impossibility; but now it seems that impossibilities do occasionally occur. We have not heard the precise majority in either case."

The following extract from the *Colonist* of Saturday is a statement of the same fact with "further particulars."

"DONKIN AND CAMPBELL TRIUMPHANTLY ELECTED!—Government defeated;—Cumberland redeemed;—Political Judges rebuked;—Donkin's majority Two Hundred?"

The above is the graphic despatch which announced to us yesterday the gratifying result of the election in Cumberland. The Conservative candidate, Mr. Donkin, who was 80 votes below Mr. Young at the last contest, has been returned by a majority of 200! and Charles J. Campbell, Esq., who was 500 votes below his opponents in 1859, has been triumphantly returned for the County of Victoria!

All honor to Cumberland and Victoria, who have thus so nobly discharged the stern duty that devolved upon them."

ACCIDENT.—The stall floor of a barn belonging to Mr. Ebenezer Ross of Chegoggin, gave way on Friday night, and fell into the cellar beneath. Eight head of cattle were in the stall at the time and of course there was "a downward tendency in beef," as a commercial reporter would say. Six of the poor animals were found next morning, suspended with their heads in the stanchions, dead—the remaining two survived.—*Yarmouth Tribune*.

The ice in our Harbor has broken up and drifted out as far as Crichton's wharf. A schooner arrived yesterday from Charlottetown containing a part of the cargo of the scho. *Helena*.—*Pictou Chronicle*.

The Halifax coach heavily loaded with passengers, was upset near Salmon River, on Monday last. Several persons were more or less bruised but no limbs were broken, or any very serious damage sustained.—*Id.*