

of Canada than in other competing lands, we will have touched a chord that will vibrate, and produce the desired results. Such information will influence all classes, but especially the better class of agriculturists, mechanics and laborers; in short, the very people we desire to draw to our country, whose pockets, on landing are not found empty.

It is in the power of the Medical Profession of Canada, both in their associated capacity and as individuals, to assist the Government in perfecting a system of returns relating to the vital statistics of the Dominion, which, if coupled with satisfactory reports on its climatology and diseases, and widely disseminated by active and efficient agents among the nations of Europe, whose surplus populations are seeking homes in other and newer countries, must have an important bearing on the matter of immigration; and in this way we will be performing a valuable work, both for ourselves and our country.

INEBRIATE INSTITUTIONS.

I have already suggested that "hospitalism," or, in other words, the construction, arrangements, and management of general and special hospitals—erected at the public expense—would very properly be a matter on which the Executive of this Association could give advice, as occasion might arise, to the several Governments of the country.

I will now in few words call your attention to a subject of great and increasing importance, somewhat allied to this, in the hope that you will all become interested in it, and not only give it your sympathy but your active support.

I refer to the provision of inebriate institutions for the treatment and reformation of habitual drunkards. You need not be uneasy, gentlemen; I am not going to take advantage of my position here to-day to inflict on you a temperance lecture, but I feel it incumbent on me to avail myself of the occasion to direct your attention to this want, so generally felt throughout the land.

Quebec is the only City of the Dominion in which such an institution exists. It is, I believe, a recent and private institution, and I have no doubt has already accomplished much good.

The Province of Quebec—and to her honor be it spoken—is the only portion of Canada that has legislated on the subject under consideration. In 1870 its Legislature passed a measure entitled, "an Act to provide for the interdiction and care of habitual drunkards," which, to my mind, almost perfectly meets the varied circumstances and necessities of the case, providing, as it does, for the necessary coercive restraint, and curative treatment of the inebriate, and at the same time, relief alike to society, and to the friends who are afflicted with their presence. The Act in question embodies, in the main, the views I have long entertained on this subject, and which twenty years ago were given to the public of Nova Scotia.

In the Central Parliament of our common country, the Bishops of several dioceses have, within the past two or three years, petitioned and earnestly urged that prompt legislative action should be taken on the subject. In Nova Scotia, nearly all the denominations have, in like manner, approached the Local Legislature, with the same object in view.

Hitherto, the Medical Profession as a body have not given this matter the attention it deserves, and, except in a few isolated cases, there has been no co-operation, on our part, with those who fill the Ministerial office, who, to their credit be it said, have striven, almost single-handed, to obtain from our Governments the legislation and pecuniary aid necessary to accomplish the object.

Shall we, in the future, let our hands hang listlessly by our sides, while others are striving to accomplish that which will save from utter ruin and misery vast numbers of our fellow-men? I should hope not!

Ample State provision has been made throughout our country for the restraint and treatment of those who are mentally diseased. Hospitals for the insane, vast institutions, almost perfect in their arrangements and systems of management, are to be found in all the principal provinces of British America. These have proved blessings to our land, and have opened wide their doors for the reception of all who have been thus afflicted by Providence. The public revenues of the country erect the structures, and bountifully support

them. But when Governments, and Politicians are appealed to, and urged to take action in the matter of providing for the restraint of those who are suffering from this State disease (habitual drunkenness), they not unfrequently shirk responsibility, and quiet their consciences by suggesting to the applicants that it is not a work for Governments, but one that should be dealt with, by philanthropists and moral reformers.

To this false position I take entire exception, and to-day would say to those who sit in high places in our Legislatures and Governments, who control, and disburse the revenues, derived from that which creates this disease, (amounting in the Dominion of Canada to about four millions of dollars annually), you should no longer neglect or trifle with issues so important.

If the traffic in alcohol is legalized, as we know it to be, and millions of revenue flow year by year into our Treasury therefrom, surely the public sentiment of the Country will sustain its parliamentary representatives in making the necessary, and even the most advanced, provision for the curative treatment of the unhappy victims of the traffic in question.

The safety of society, the comfort and happiness of innumerable families, the prevention of disease—a matter specially pertaining to our Profession; the relief of our overburdened hospitals, poor houses, and insane asylums, all call loudly for speedy and effective effort to be put forth, in order that, this heretofore neglected question, shall be neglected no longer. Gentlemen, the Medical Profession is familiar with this social evil as no other class of men can possibly be. We meet it every hour, in every city, town, and village of our country. We daily see its effects on the individual; we know its baneful and deteriorating results on their posterity. To us the people look in matters of this kind for information and guidance, so that they may be stimulated into properly directed action. Hence, I feel, that it is incumbent on us, as individuals, and as a Medical Association, to aid those who are already at work; to bring all the pressure in our power to bear on our several Governments and Legislatures, in order that they may take early and decided action in the matter.

Ere passing from this subject, I may add that no legislation will adequately meet the difficulties of the case, which fails to make provision for the compulsory restraint, and treatment of the habitual drunkard, in these institutions; which fails to provide a competent tribunal to decide, who are, and who are not, fit subjects for admission thereto, and also, to take charge of their remaining and unsundered property.

Gentlemen, we have a duty to perform in this matter. Shall we, bearing in mind the responsibilities which attach to us, as Medical Men and Citizens, give it a helping hand?

If such is your mind, let me say, the passing hour is the one in which action should be taken.

For the Christian Messenger.

Mr. Editor:—

The communication from your correspondent on the Island, in regard to the College, which appeared in your last paper, is timely and suggestive. His apprehension of the case is in the main correct, and his study on it will set others to thinking. It may be as well, however, to call attention to one statement. The contributions from the churches are not "growing smaller." According to my tables, and I think they are sufficiently exact, these contributions amounted in the year closing Aug 1869, to \$562, in 1870 to \$694, and in 1871 to \$1011. It is to be hoped that this year we shall reach \$1800. It can be done; an average of ten cents a member in our churches will make up the amount. Many churches do more than this now. It is only needed, that all should help. The friends of the College can now render it the best service by inducing all the churches in their respective neighborhoods to undertake their share in the work. Let us for one year have a contribution from every church.

But the College will not do the work it ought, until it has a larger Endowment. Several thousands should be added at once. We are making slow advance, too slow. Courage would fail, were it not that wherever the question of the continuance of the College is brought home to the people, the answer always is, we must go on.

I believe, as your correspondent affirms, that the object is gaining a stronger hold on the public. It is to be hoped that the evidence of this will soon appear in cheering deeds.

Sincerely yours,

A. W. SAWYER.
Acadia College, May 8, 1872.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., May 15, 1872.

THE UNIVERSITY QUESTION.

FOURTH ARTICLE.

Our reflections, and, as it must be perceived, our reasoning upon this subject, point to the necessity of having established in Nova Scotia a single Provincial University which alone should be empowered to confer degrees.

Every College that chose to retain its modified charter would thus perceive that the quality of its handiwork had to be judged by other judges than those within its own walls. Of course it will be perceived that we are advocating the establishment of a Nova Scotia University upon the plan, so far as we can carry it out, of that of the University of London.—*Journal of Education*, Oct. 1871.

Let us look a little at this reasoning. The evils declared to exist and which are to be removed, are these:—The Denominational Colleges are expensive and the people have become weary of supporting them.—Professors are not properly compensated for their work.—They are obliged to labor in too many departments.—These Colleges are inadequately supplied with apparatus, libraries, etc.—The number of students in attendance in them is and must be small. What, now, is the proposed remedy? The creation of a corporate body to be called the University of Nova Scotia, the members of which shall meet in Halifax two or three times a year, determine the course of study for all the Colleges, appoint examiners, and bestow all degrees as their exclusive right. If there is any grip in the logic here, we are perfectly insensible to it. How is the existence of such a body as is contemplated going to help the Governors of Acadia to meet their liabilities? How is it to increase the income of Professors, or diminish their work, or help to purchase apparatus and build up libraries? The means proposed has the least possible connection with the end sought. One inclined to suspect latent purposes, might characterize the scheme as an easy method of closing the existing Colleges.

But, besides all this, it remains to be proved that the new corporation would look after the interests of higher education better than the men who now are engaged in this work. If the senate of the proposed Act is to be composed of men now at the head of the different Colleges, they certainly cannot be expected to show more wisdom in one position than in the other, and they will be more liable to injurious rivalries and jealousies, as they will represent different interests. If that senate is to be composed of men having no official connection with the Colleges, it must be very doubtful whether their suggestions and regulations would meet the confident acquiescence of professors who have grown grey in the work of education. Experiments in this business are very costly, and we ought not to commit ourselves to any new scheme until we have strong assurance that it will produce better results than the old.

The extracts at the head of this article call attention to a criticism current at the present time, but more plausible than sound, viz., that professors should not be judges of their own work. After some twenty years experience in teaching, and acquaintance with teachers in various grades, we make the affirmation without hesitation, that in ninety-five cases in a hundred the marks which his instructors will give a student, will be a fairer indication of his worth and attainments than any estimate a stranger may place upon him by any method of examination that human ingenuity has yet devised. So long as this fact exists, it is idle to pretend that the Faculty of a College are not as good judges of the fitness of young men for a degree, as any body else, unless it can first be shown that they are exposed to strong temptations to pass unworthy candidates. But the love of learning, which prompts them to their work, regard to their own reputation, desire that their own institution may command the confidence and respect of the public, and the comparisons perpetually suggested between different institutions, are pledges to the public that judgment in this case will on the whole be given

cautiously and wisely. We believe that the cases are quite as likely to be properly decided on this plan, as if they went before a body of men, disconnected from the business of teaching, and liable on the one hand to indolence and indifference, or on the other to an ostentatious display of supervisory power.

Additional security is given that incompetence will not successfully practise on the public, by the custom established with us, that the Alumni of the College should have a voice in determining its character and work. Many of these men, after graduation, pursue their professional studies in institutions in different countries, become acquainted with the systems of education there in operation, and return to take prominent places in civil affairs and the various professions; and thus they have every facility for knowing what the country needs and what it can support; and, of all persons, should be qualified to judge the merit of the work done in their own College and suggest improvements. Precisely this relation exists between Acadia and its Alumni. Examiners are to be appointed annually to visit the College and report on the work done, and make such suggestions as they may deem wise. Already the beneficial effects of this arrangement are beginning to appear; and we do not believe that the Government of the Province can appoint a body of men, having no official connection with any of the Colleges, who will bring to their office, as guardians of the interests of higher education, as much zeal and wisdom as are found in the Associated Alumni of our College.

On an impartial review of the whole case, we find no valid reason why the friends of Acadia should change their plans. The same or equal difficulties and inconveniences will appear in working out any other scheme, as now meet us. We lose time and moral power by waiting for any change; our plans are already matured, and it becomes us to carry on the accomplishment of them like men. The friends of Acadia have it in their power to make it independent of all these fluctuations of public opinion and sudden winds of doctrine. If they will do it, we believe that they will permanently establish an institution that will enhance beyond computation the highest prosperity of the country. If, through timidity, or narrow views of the use of money, or from whatever cause, they will not do what they can, let them not complain when they are forced to reap the fruits of a different system of things.

The following is a letter from Mr. Wm. Gremlay of Newcastle, Miramichi, N. B., to the editor of the *Visitor*:—

My Dear Brother,—Although the cause here is very low, yet I am not discouraged. I believe that if our God will send us a Baptist minister, one whose soul is converted, and who will come in the spirit and power of the Gospel, we shall yet live. I know that the dear Saviour has a people.

I see by our papers that several young men are preparing for the ministry, who would come to places destitute of Baptist preaching if they received proper encouragement. I will only say, that I am often asked the question, which will we have a Baptist minister. We had Bro. Curry two or three months last summer, and the people received him gladly. I believe that a minister would be sustained nearly independent of the Board. We would be thankful for some assistance, yet we are not without means. One good brother met me in the street the other day and said, I will engage to pay forty dollars as my subscription; another brother told me you may depend on eighty dollars. We have a subscription list on which is, I believe, a hundred dollars. Our Mission House is rented for eighty dollars a year—all this will be for the minister. There are a great number of men here just now on the railroad, some of these I know are Baptists, who I believe, will assist our cause.

I would be glad if you would send a few lines to the *Christian Messenger*, or an extract of this in your paper; it may meet the eye of some young brother in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick whose soul is alive to the good work, and who would come and visit this part of the province. We will do all we can to make him comfortable and raise what we can for him. Send him to my address.

Dear Brother, I have written the above at the request of the friends to the cause in North East, Little South West and Newcastle. Knowing that you feel interested in the cause of the Redeemer, I believe you will do all you can. As to myself, I trust, I can say I know in whom I have believed. I enjoy more of the presence of God and the truthfulness of his divine promises than I have for the last fifty or sixty years. I am now in my 73rd year, and yet enjoy health of body and heavenly consolation.

Newcastle is an important field of labor, and we shall be glad to know that it is occupied by an able minister.

We have much pleasure in complying with a request to publish the following notice:—

THE FORRESTER MEMORIAL.

In the beginning of 1870 a committee was appointed by the Educational Association to provide for the erection of a Memorial or Monument to the Rev. Dr. Forrester. The Committee consisted of the following members:—J. Scott Hutton, J. B. Calkin, John Hollies, S. MacNaughton, T. H. Rand, John Rhindress, H. A. Bayne and J. F. L. Parsons. Messrs. MacNaughton and Parsons (Chairman and Secretary of the Committee) request us to state that the amount collected and promised has reached about \$600, and that the Committee after mature deliberation decided to expend the money in procuring a monument of Nova Scotia granite, with tablets of polished red granite, larger and more imposing than the memorial first anticipated, though not nearly so expensive.

The Monument will be erected in the Normal School grounds. It is of N. S. granite, 18 feet high. If four tablets are inserted the cost will be \$725. The question of two tablets or four, making a difference of \$100 in the price, the committee decided should rest entirely with those friends who have not yet contributed. Three hundred dollars have already been paid to Mr. Sandford on the work, and the monument is within a week of completion.

Contributions are still solicited and should be sent without delay to the Treasurer, Mr. Hollies, or to S. MacNaughton, Esq., or to J. F. Parsons, Esq. The names of the contributors are to be engraved on parchment and deposited in the base of the monument.

The pupils in some schools have made contributions for a portrait of Dr. Forrester, to be placed in the Normal School. The committee, not having received enough to warrant as yet a full-sized oil painting, have decided to place a large photograph of him in one of the tablets. Should subscriptions prove sufficient, the original idea will also be carried out. The inscription on the tablet is:—

ALEXANDER FORRESTER, D. D.,
BORN 1805. DIED 1869.
SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION
FOR
NOVA SCOTIA
1855 TO 1864.
PRINCIPAL
OF THE
PROVINCIAL NORMAL COLLEGE
1855 TO 1869.
FROM ITS FOUNDATION TILL HIS DEATH.
ERECTED BY
TEACHERS
AND
FRIENDS OF EDUCATION
IN NOVA SCOTIA,
1872.

That part of midsummer, most convenient for both the Eastern and Western parts of the Province, has been chosen for the inaugurating ceremony—Thursday, the 25th day of July, 1872. Excursion tickets will be granted by the railway authorities, and commutation of fares probably on other lines of travel, so as to afford an opportunity to every one desirous of participating in this commemorative celebration. Trustees and Teachers may easily arrange that the vacation shall take place so as to include the day above named.

Dr. Forrester's firmness in maintaining that the Schools of the Province should be free and unsectarian, caused him to have some enemies, but it gave him a place in the hearts of the best of the teachers. We are glad that they have so generally responded to the invitation to erect this lasting memorial, and hope it may be carried through successfully.

Our correspondent "Chalmers" calls attention to an article in the *Dalhousie College Gazette*, a little paper so called, published ostensibly by the students of that institution, but often expressing views in religion and morals the most crude and reckless. The extract quoted by our correspondent seems to us rather the early attempt of an embryo Roman Catholic Priest, or of one who has taken his first lesson in Ultra montanism, and is almost ready to join in bringing men into submission to the church, and so to "fuse" (By the use of fire?) all the "too many organizations of men" into one harmonious whole, one regulating system, one all-doing state, animated by one will and directed by one authority.

Our correspondent suggests it as "a new church" proposal. We would rather regard it as an emanation of the infallibility wing of the old Roman Catholic Church, an attempt to utilize this little sheet and make use of its opportunity for instilling its principles where it might be least expected.

A SUCCESSFUL NOVA SCOTIAN.—At the recent Convocation of McGill University, Montreal, several Nova Scotians distinguished themselves. Among them was Mr. R. W. Ellis, of