OUR DUTIES AND OUR DANGERS.

Our position is essentially one of aggression. Both as towards the world which, in words which the Holy Ghost teacheth, we endeavour to convince of sin, and of righteousness, and of the judgment to come, and towards the churches from which we differ our attitude is that of attack. In exposing error and in enforcing the truth, we have frequently to endure no small amount of obloquy and a degree of reproach it is hard to bear. Our adversaries are not always choice with what weapons they encounter us. Our motives are often impugned, our aims misrepresented, and our persons assailed. Under such circumstances there is danger lest we imitate our antagonists, and injure our cause through want of candour, by discourteous words or by angry retort. "Let the same mind be in us as was in Christ Jesus." Let the "sweet reasonableness" of His teaching reappear in our efforts to promote His Kingdom.

Again, there is some danger that we may value in a disproportionate degree those qualities which are best fitted for conflict. Time is passing into eternity. There is, therefore, a tendency to hurry every recruit into the field, to press the immature in the kingdom of God into the great conflict with the powers of darkness, to seize any and every available weapon to hurl at the advancing foe. Yet, brethren, in no controversy of our age is there one that needs greater skill, more matured strength, or more prolonged preparation. Unsanctified learning is a curse in the Church of God; but holy men who have sat at the feet of the Gamaliels of the day, may become, in the hands of the Captain of our salvation mighty warriors in the great controversy of godliness, and the most energetic and successful propagators of the Word of Life. I would not undervalue the Christian labour of the feeblest of the flock; but none the less we need men who are full of faith and of the Holy Ghost—men learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians—men mighty in the Scriptures, in word as well as deed.

Finally, there is danger lest we prefer, in a disproportionate degree, the active virtues of the Christian life to those which are more contemplative. I fear that, in our anxiety to save souls, to make inroads on the kingdom of evil, we sometimes provide insufficiently the means for the growth of the spiritual life, and the cultivation of the practices and virtues of piety. To be justified by faith in Christ Jesus is all important; but not less essential is it to be sanctified by the Spirit of God in order to be perfect in Christ Jesus. Cleaving to the Bible as the very Word of God, let its teachings saturate our whole being, mould all our thought, and direct our every step, so that we may keep a conscience void of offence, both towards God and men. Often shall we find that a godly life is the most impressive proof of the truth of the Gospel, and the observance of the Lord's commands in all the details of life the most instructive lesson to those without, of the love of Him who has redeemed us.

One of the most interesting meetings of the Baptist Union appears to have been a Soiree, at which its members assembled for the purpose of a familiar *conversazione*.

Papers were read by several ministers.

Mr. J. H. Pattison read, with vivacity suitable to such a gathering, an able paper on "Our Testimony."

He confessed to having little sympathy with that molluscus kind of faith, which has scarcely any backbone, and is ashamed of what little it has; and while acknowledging the forced reticence of some, and the deplorable timidity of others, Baptists had somehow, notwithstanding, in all the main questions of the day managed to come out right. The time had gone by, if it ever existed, for the hiding, under the assumption of a spurious charity, of what they believed to be the truth.

Dr. Landels gave what was decidedly *the* address of the evening—a masterly exposition of "Our Position and Prospects." After this Mr. Tymms spoke eloquently and earnestly on "Our Growth, and its effect on Spiritual Life." This was by some believed to be the most successful meeting of the week.

For the Christian Messenger.

MISSIONS AND UNION.

Mr. Editor,—

A few words in reference to Bro. E. M. Saunder's note in last *Messenger*. He and the whole denomination may rest assured that the Eastern Association will do that which is just and right in the matter of the Home Mission movement. The Baptists in the east are those most deeply interested in the subject, and doubtless have "pronounced in favour of union;" yet they do not wish to be hurried into *any* Union without a full understanding of what they are doing. There are some points they wish to consider more fully, and which will come up for discussion at the ensuing session at Pugwash. Some of us, for example, doubt the desirability of having another denominational anniversary. It seems to us away down east too much to ask of us to repair at one season of our short summer to one place to condsider the subject of Home Missions, and a few weeks later to attend another meeting concerning Foreign Missions. For my own part, I believe it cannot be done. Such a Union as is contemplated is to embrace the whole Province, so that one of the Associations, in turn, will hardly be the fitting place for its meeting. We who have to travel long distances believe that the *whole subject of Missions, Home and Foreign*, should be considered at one meeting of the body. In this country, the men who interest themselves in the one cause, are those who give their attention to the other. And why should they ever be dissociated? Any way, we cannot afford *two* Conventions. At present, the Baptists in the east are, I presume, *in statu quo*—in the same position as at the last meeting of their Association. They "accept the principle of union," yet they "desire to have sufficient time to enable them *intelligently* and formally to enter the newly formed organization."—(Vide Minutes of East. Ass. 1872, p. 9.

We think there has been a disposition to hurry matters: we believe it would have been better in view of the scant attendance at Berwick, to have postponed the formation of a Union for another year, until the brethren had been fully aroused to the necessities of the case. As it is, we do not feel that we are committed to attend the meeting in Bridgetown on the 20th inst. We prefer waiting till our own Association that we may consider the whole subject in all its aspects, take advice, and speak our minds.

We shall be happy to see many of our brethren from the West at our Association. A good deal as been *written* during the past winter; now it would be beneficial to meet and *talk* awhile. Let us come together in the fear of the Lord, only desirous to know and do His will, and there must be a result that will satisfy East and West.

D. A. STEELE.

Amherst June 6, 1873.

For the Christian Messenger.

Dear Brother,

I see by the *Messenger* of June 4th, that, the Baptist church of Lunenburg wants a Pastor. Let me speak a word in their favor. I served them—though imperfectly—for a year and a half last past. They are a band of loving, active brethren, though somewhat scattered. They paid me all they agreed to, and made me handsome presents besides. They have two good Sabbath Schools, under the charge of the efficient brethren, whose names are attached to the call. If united as heretofore with the church at New Cornwall, they can sustain a Minister well. I expect to continue my labor in Nova Scotia, after a little rest: and even now I am supplying *Pine Grove* till June 15th at which time Bro. Bancroft is expected with them. Then I am ready for any service that the Master may appoint.

Yours truly,

Z. MORTON.

June 9th, 1873.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., June 11, 1873.

ACADIA COLLEGE ANNIVERSARY.

The past week brought together a large number of the friends of Acadia College at Wolfville. The Academical Examinations were held on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Annual meeting of the Alumni Association was held on Wednesday evening, after a sociable repast in Temperance Hall, to which the Graduating Class was invited. In the course of the evening they were welcomed, by the President B. H. Eaton, Esq., to the fraternity of the Alumni. This was responded to by Mr. J. A. Durkee, in a few well-timed and appropriate remarks shewing that himself and his class-mates recognized the fact that they were now to enter on their *life-work*, that they were prepared for, and intended to do it.

The report of the Secretary was read by the chairman, and the Treasurer's by J. F. L. Parsons, Esq. These documents shewed that the Society was a most important adjunct of the College, and one by which her sons might confer lasting benefit on their Alma Mater. The following are the officers of the Association for the ensuing year:—

Rev. Dr. Cramp, President; H. H. Bligh, M. A., Vice-President; J. W. Longley, B. A., Secretary; L. M. Smith, B. A., Treasurer. *Executive Committee.*—Rev. T. A. Higgins, M. A.; Rev. Edward Hickson, M. A.; Rev. E. M. Saunders, M. A.; E. D. King, M. A.; J. F. L. Parsons, M. A.

On Thursday morning although there had been considerable of rain during the night, and the weather was still unsettled, yet a good while before the hour of meeting, the village became quite lively by the arrival of visitors, who filled the Church building some time before the hour of commencement. At eleven o'clock the usual procession of Students, Faculty, Governors and friends came from the College to the village when the exercises were proceded with according to to the following programme:—

Prayer by Rev. Wm. P. Everett of Brussells Street, St. John, N. B.

Orations by the Graduating Class.

The Past in the Present—Henry Rand, Canning.

We are not what we were—George W. Thomas, Cornwallis.

Affirmations of Conscience—*Isaac R. Skinner, Cornwallis.

The Athenian Bema—A. J. Eaton, Granville.

The Laws of Success—Jas. B. Hall, Lawrencetown.

The Scholar's Mission—*Humphrey Bishop, Greenwich, Kings Co.

Self-Reliance—Theodore H. Thomas, Wolfville.

The Elysium of the Unenlightened—Frank H. Eaton, Kentville.

The Spirit's Dark Hues—Jacob A. Durkee, Yarmouth.

The secret of Intellectual Might—James F. Covey, Indian Harbor.

The Subjective Elements of Man's Greatness—*Joseph Robbins, Yarmouth.

Non Sibi—George O. Gates, Wilmot.

*Excused.

These orations were fully equal to those of preceeding years. We shall not attempt to institute any comparisons between them or remark upon the excellencies or deficiencies as we do not regard them as intended to be furnished specimens or oratory, as one of our morning papers appears to think they should be. Impassioned appeal and energetic dealing with question of *political* life, would scarcely comport with such an occasion where each address is an essay on a separate and distinct subject prepared beforehand and submitted to the Faculty. It was gratifying to observe in them the results of high intellectual and moral training and the genuine christian tone which pervaded them all. The students, twelve in number, appeared on the platform and received their diplomas from the President and then retired to return with the insignia of their Bachelor-hood. The President's address was omitted, there being other matters to come before the meeting.

Honor Certificates were handed to the following students:—

Philosophical—Henry Rand, of Senior Class.

Classical—A. J. Eaton, of Senior Class, B. Rand and I. Longley, of Sophomore Class.

The Alumni Prizes were then presented by B. H. Eaton, A. M., President of Alumni Association.

For Scholarship:

Junior—James I. DeWolfe.
Sophomore—W. H. Robinson.
Freshman—E. W. Kelley.

Monthly Essay Prize—S. McC. Black.

Elocution Prize—J. F. Covey.

Mr. Eaton announced that the $40 Essay Prize had not been awarded.

The Edward Young Gold Medal, for Excellence in the Mathematical Department was awarded to W. H. Robinson.

Dr. Sawyer, the President of the College, then said that another feature would now be introduced, when Rev. George Armstrong, accompanied by several other gentlemen, came forward on the platform and read the following:

ADDRESS TO REV. DR. CRAWLEY.

REV. E. A. CRAWLEY, D. D., PROFESSOR IN ACADIA COLLEGE.

Dear Brother,—

At the request of friends who greatly admire and appreciate you, I stand forth to present you on their behalf and my own, an address, accompanied by a token of the high regard they entertain for you as a man, a christian, a minister of the gospel, an advocate and laborer in the cause of education for the people, an instructor and friend of youth, a Professor in the higher departments of Philosophy and Literature, not only in institutions out of these Provinces, but especially as instructor and Professor in Acadia College.

Some of us recollect you as foremost in founding the Horton Academy, and ever ready to fight the battles so necessary formerly for its defense and preservation, and as exerting yourself in every way to promote the welfare and efficiency of that useful and honored institution. We remember that it was to the noble spirit of independence you possess, which, repelling with just indignation the withholding of a right which you and your brethren believed should have been recognized and respected, led you to advocate with great power the founding of a College in Wolfville, to which, under God, the Baptists of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, are indebted for the origin of Acadia College.

The many sacrifices you made and the privations you endured in the early life and history of the College are fresh in the memory of those here who witnessed them. But sustained by sound principle, by love of education in itself, and for the people, by devotion to Christ and a strong desire to promote the best interests of the Baptist denomination, your courage never faltered and your faith never failed.

We remember that when Acadia College in its early struggles for life and growth was suffering for want of the necessary accommodation to carry on its great and important work, you, with a noble co-adjutor of like spirit, long since gone to his rest, abhoring the lap of indolence and eschewing even the quiet study and its treasures, you went forth among our churches, undeterred by the winter's cold and unenervated by the summer's heat, to arouse and enlist their sympathies and efforts to provide the necessary buildings, to rear up to proper proportions, magnitude and strength, and train, for great and noble work for the highest good of our Province and society, the young giant that was to make his power and prowess known and respected in coming time—ACADIA COLLEGE.

And nobly did the Baptist denomination respond to the powerful and pressing calls then made upon their benevolent and public spirit. The good effected to the country by these labors, it is difficult to over-estimate.

It was in these journeyings, and the warm and cogent addresses then given, that many heard for the first time the principle and doctine of Free Schools for the people; then was much of the seed sown, which, together with that scattered by younger and later workers in the cause of public education, has borne such worthy and precious fruit among the people, particularly within the past nine years under the new School Law.

Those who have had the privilege of your instruction in Class room, Lecture, or recitation, have learned to admire and prize beyond expression what they so often saw presented before them, a wide and vast range of thought on the subject in hand, fine classic taste, free enquiry, sound logic, commanding eloquence and gentlemanly christian urbanity.

And in the higher and holier work of the gospel ministry, we have admired your independence, fidelity, and charity, as an embassador for Christ, beseeching in His name sinners to be reconciled to God, and christians to be more earnest, devoted, and Godlike. You have borne the heavy burdens and hard struggles of your life with heroic courage, holy resignation and cheerful hope.

And now, mellowed by age and experience, and ripening by divine grace and holy discipline for higher and purer employments, intercourse and joys, than can be known on earth, be assured, Dear Brother, that you have a warm place in the affections of your brethren and friends in the Baptist Denomination, and that you have friends in other denominations, some of whom have generously assisted to procure the mark of respect and esteem we tender you this day; because they admire you as a man of high culture, love you as a man of God, faithful to your convictions and earnest for the truth.

And now dear venerated brother, on behalf of the friends, present and absent, who have contributed to procure this testimonial of their high esteem for you and their appreciation of your worth, it affords me very great pleasure to present you with these documents, securing to your use and benefit, and that of Mrs. Crawley and your family, the property recently occupied by the Rev. Robert Somerville, A. M., which your friends have purchased for presentation to you and your family.

I assure you that this freewill offering to deserving and unobtrusive worth is most willingly and cheerfully made.

May you live among us many years, to enjoy this gift which a gracious Providence has put in the hearts of your friends to present, and continue to be as we believe you will be, a blessing to the College, the church, and the world, till toil and work shall end in pure everlasting rest and joy.

Signed on behalf of the contributors,

GEORGE ARMSTRONG.

Wolfville, June 5, 1873.

Rev. A. S. Hunt with a few appropriate remarks presented Dr. Crawley with the keys of the house; thus giving him possession of a property, consisting of a handsome and nearly new house with about three acres of ground comprising a young orchard, barn &c., purchased for $2800. This generous and valuable gift being altogether unexpected by Dr. Crawley, he was taken by surprise, and could only say a word or two in acknowledgment. He said he could not express his feelings on such an occasion for such generosity and unmerited kindness, but tendered his sincerest thanks to the donors for their great kindness in making him this noble present.

A select choir rendered several anthems and pieces in excellent style during the morning, and at the close all joined with them in the National Anthem.

HORTON ACADEMY.

The Terminal Examinations in connection with this institution took place on Monday and Tuesday of last week. Classes were examined in English Grammar, Analysis, English Literature, Astronomy, Chemistry, Geometry, Algebra, Moral Science, British History, Roman History, Virgil, Cicero, Xenophon and Homer.

The classes acquitted themselves very satisfactorily, and showed by their replies that they had been trained to think for themselves, and not merely to repeat the subject matter of their textbooks. The attendance at the Horton Academy, during the past year has been quite encouraging. Over sixty pupils have enjoyed its advantages, about twenty of whom were females. The experiment of the co-education of the sexes tried in this Institution during the last year has proved quite a success. The young ladies seemed fully able to hold their own in the classes with the young men. On Tuesday afternoon the Academy Hall was crowded to witness the graduation of three young ladies, Miss Lois Bent, Miss Emma Smyth, and Miss Ellen Hills. They had gone through the prescribed three years course of study, and had received diplomas to this effect. Essays were read by the young ladies in the following order: "*Nil desperandum*" by Miss Hills; "Influence" by Miss Smyth, and "Wrecks" by Miss Bent. These essays were excellent, and elicited repeated applause. At the close of the exercises the graduating class presented to Miss M. R. Eaton a silver napkin-ring, with a feeling and appropriate address.

General remarks from Revd's. E. Hickson, A. Cohoon and D. Freeman on the exercises of the afternoon and the subject of female education followed, in which the hope was expressed that what had been done was only a step towards securing a great desideratum—the establishment of a commodious and efficient institution for females at Wolfville.

The Academy has prepared fourteen young men for matriculation into the College this year.

REV. J. F. AVERY.

In referring to the arrival of Rev. J. F. Avery last week, from England, we find that we were in error in supposing that the Halifax North Baptist church had corresponded with him, requesting him to spend a short time with them, &c. Knowing that the brethren were waiting with the expectation that on his arrival he would preach for them, we were under the impression that intimation to that effect had been given to him. It is with much pleasure that we give insertion to the following note from Mr. Avery:—

Dear Sir,

Thanking you for your kind notice of my arrival, I wish to state that Dr. Clay had no communication whatever respecting the North Church, in fact its existence was unknown to me. But being informed of the great need in Nova Scotia of ministers of our denomination, my heart was drawn towards my brethren, and after some kind words of counsel from Dr. Clay, and prayerful consideration, my determination was, by God's grace, to go forth trusting to Divine guidance. And although circumstances and friends sought to induce me stay, my impressions respecting the path of duty remained firm, and so far this conviction has been strengthened by the loving reception of the brethren on and since my arrival, and the consciousness of the presence of One whose love is above all others, whose I am and whom I serve.

Yours,

J. F. AVERY.

Halifax.

Mr. Avery preached with much acceptance in Granville Street Church on Sunday evening last. From what we have ourselves heard and from the testimonials he bears from well-known prominent ministers in England, we believe our brother will be a valuable acquisition to the denomination in this