

wearied in the exercise of charity."

"Hum," quoth my little friend, peering over the petals of my rose.

"So you are still there, my small mentor? Well, you may have your say now without incommencing me, as you can certainly not now reproach me with a want of charity."

"Oh, indeed," was the curt rejoinder.

"Well, and pray what have you to object to now?" and I settled myself back haughtily. "I am sure I have been very busy carrying out your injunctions. Pray what is troubling your mind now respecting my proceedings?"

"Not much. I was only remembering, 'Charity seeketh not its own.'"

"And of course I was seeking my own while plodding about those weary streets! You are remarkably cool in your conclusions."

"You are seeking praise."

"I?"

"Yes; praise from those you ministered to."

"I dare say," I replied, sharply, feeling all the more nettled that I could not deny the fact. "Perhaps if you were tired to death you would not object to a little sympathy."

"It was not sympathy you wanted, it was praise."

"You are a little demon; and I have done with you," I retorted, as I whirled my chair round, with my back to the tiny monitor.

"Demon or not," urged the voice behind me, "demon or not, I have not done with you. Do you hear your children shouting over their work in the next room?"

"Yes; they are preparing their Christmas-tree for to-morrow."

"Why are your brother's children not with them?"

"My brother's children!" I faced angrily the impertinent questioner. "Perhaps, since you know so much about my affairs, you are aware that my brother and I have not spoken for years."

"Yes."

"And pray what do you mean by asking why his children are not with mine?"

"Are you going to let another Christmas pass, and enter upon a new year, without making up that quarrel?"

"Make it up? It's more his doing than mine. Let him make it up; I have no objections."

"He is the offended; and you may be sure he will not come forward."

"He ought to."

"You have not to concern yourself with his duty, but with your own. Go at once to him, and strive to make up the breach."

"I have no such intention," I replied, sulkily. "It is not my place."

"And yet you are a clergyman, and intend preaching a sermon upon charity. Shame upon you! That is not charity."

"It is—the highest."

"Charity thinketh no evil," says the book you ought to know well.

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind."

"I am sure I suffered long."

"Charity beareth all things."

"Dear me. I am sure I have borne long."

"Yes, but not forgivingly."

"Well, if I were to attempt a reconciliation, I am sure Tom would frustrate my intentions; he would be most unwilling to make it up."

"Charity hopeth all things."

"But what has that to do with it?"

"Everything, if you are wishing to practise the virtue."

I mused, "Well, it is worth trying. I shall think of it to-morrow."

"To-morrow has plenty of work of its own; and, first and foremost, that said sermon on charity."

"Ah, well; I can see about it next week."

"Then you will have lost the opportunity of a Christmas reconciliation."

"What matter, so long as a reconciliation is effected?"

"Did you never hear that 'procrastination is the thief of time!'"

"Well, I certainly cannot think of going out to-night."

"You can if you choose."

"I can't if I don't choose."

"No, certainly not. Hark!"

It was my wife and children trying over their new Christmas chant, and the sweet voices rang out to the notes of the harmonium. I felt the sacred words echo through my heart, "On earth peace, good-will toward men."

Good-will, ah! and, with a sudden determination, seized my hat, and again departed on an errand of duty.

Our friends are always more ready for a reconciliation than we fancy. Need I say that my long-estranged

brother greeted me with open arms, that his wife received me warmly, and that before half an hour was passed there were little ones climbing on the knee of their new uncle?

An hour later I was, telling my wife of the additional guests to be at our party.

"Your brother?" she said, greatly startled; "you don't mean Tom?"

"Yes."

"Did you go to him?"

"Yes."

"James," she said, with a proud, loving look, "you are a saint!"

I knew it was the partial commendation of an affectionate wife, but still it greeted my ears pleasantly. "At least, I try to be," I said, as I re-entered my study; "I try to be, and I trust success may attend me. Well, small one, are you satisfied?" This to the sprite in the flower.

"Not quite."

"What in the world do you want now?" I cried, quite aghast.

"The most difficult thing of all—that you should not make such speeches, or think such thoughts, as those of a moment ago."

"Eh?"

"Charity vaunteth not itself—is not puffed up."

A pang of remorse twitched me, and almost for the first time in my life I uttered a fervent prayer for humility.

It was a very merry party next evening, and we elders watched with delight our children gambolling round the gift-laden tree, but amidst all our glee the true words of my little mentor forced themselves on my thoughts.

"James," said my wife to me, late in the evening, "I forgot to ask you what your text for to-morrow is?"

"Charity vaunteth not itself—is not puffed up."

She looked puzzled a moment.

"Well," she said, "it is a very good text, and one to which I am sure you can do justice."

"Can I?" Next day I was complimented on my sermon. I trust that one of the most earnest listeners was the preacher.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., December 26th, 1877.

TIME, A. D., 1877. ETERNITY.

These two words in juxtaposition are highly significant. In relation to each other, they are similar to this world and infinite space. We may well speak of the former—in both cases—as but a fragment of the latter. When giving them but a moment's consideration we may well say, "Time is short," whilst eternal duration is altogether beyond our comprehension, and so of space, which must be boundless. We may speak of thousands and millions of years, or thousands of millions of miles, but they are terms to which our limited comprehension are so vague that we cannot begin to appreciate either of them.

When we imagine any lengthened period we may name, of such distances or ages, still there is back beyond them eternity of the past with its mysteries, and the eternity of the future with all its grand developments before us, so that we come back relieved to think of the little day and space allotted to us here, which, for convenience, we divide up into years and all the fractional parts of the year. The rapid flight of time naturally comes up before our minds as we approach towards the end of one of these cycles, and we are led to think of its beginning and enquire where we are. And so comparing our standing with that at the end of former years, calculate our relative position with reference to the whole period allotted to human life. The end of one year and beginning of a new one, like the recurrence of birth-day anniversaries, may be regarded as Time's milestones, to enable us to tell how far we have passed over the journey of life. This season also affords a good opportunity for reflection and serious enquiry, whether or not we are on the right road; and, if not, how we may change our course so as to be assured that at the end, when stepping out from this temporary abode, where we have passed our probationary state, we shall enter upon another and more permanent, joyous condition of existence, with improved powers capable of higher pleasures and more enduring service.

We are often made painfully conscious that it is far easier in this world to do evil than to do good. Effort is demanded to effect the latter, and a much greater expenditure of time. We need to help to do evil, but to do good, and for it to have permanence, we need

Divine direction and aid. The erection of a noble edifice is by a long continued employment of skilled labor and a large amount of wealth, but this good may be all destroyed in one evil hour. Again: our physical development is accomplished by years of careful training, but a sudden stroke or a careless exposure for a day may break down the strongest and even take the life of the most vigorous. A fall into water or fire takes but a moment, but it it destroys all life and power, however precious or beloved. Moral character too, by a careless moment may be irretrievably lost, and thus the result of years of careful training and well directed education be gone for ever. Crime may be committed in one day which may take years or a lifetime to expiate its guilt. In this relation how important it is to remember that Time is short, and endeavor to redeem the time. All opportunities will soon have passed away. Each year seems to fly more rapidly than its predecessor.

In seeking to do good to others, we must be prepared to meet with all sorts of rebuffs and disappointments. The enemy only has to sow the tares. This may be done in a very short space of time. A word of depreciation of truth and of the friends of truth may be heard, which will weaken and undermine its force in the minds of all who hear, like making a hole in the bottom of a ship, it may lead to a worse shipwreck, even that of faith and of a good conscience. Every one having experience in giving instruction to the young will have observed how difficult it is to overcome prejudice or doubt, and how long it takes to remove such things from the mind when once they have found a lodgment. When we think of this difference between our power of effecting good and of doing evil, we become painfully conscious of human weakness and the need of Divine wisdom and aid to accomplish any good for ourselves or our fellow men.

Were it not that we may look to the Divine Redeemer to cover over all the sins and omissions of duty of the past we should find these closing days of the year the most melancholy of all, but the fact which Christmas is intended to bring prominently before us is the incarnation of the Son of God. The Star of hope appears amidst the songs of angels, bringing to us tidings of "great joy." Let us then be glad at this season, and imitate the heavenly messengers by echoing their songs, and spreading abroad "Peace on earth and good-will to men."

WORDS OF KINDNESS.

are always acceptable. Although we do not allow ourselves to speak in full appreciation of what appears from week to week before our readers, yet we cannot prevent our friends saying to each other what they think. One of our subscribers who reads a good many other periodicals, says, in writing last week, "I am glad to observe a steady improvement in the *Christian Messenger*. Every member of our churches should not only subscribe for it, and pay for it, but read it carefully. Our learned men can do much to keep up its standing by writing for its columns."

Another says, "I enclose two dollars to pay for the *Messenger* for 1878. I wish that all the members of the Baptist churches, and others, would take it. I believe it to be the best paper printed. Wishing you the blessing of God. Yours, &c."

And another, "I could not do without the *Messenger*. It is worth to me far more than its cost."

Perhaps there is no paper in Nova Scotia that has a greater number of, more or less, learned contributors. A glance through the fifty-two numbers of the year will show that the pens employed in various ways in supplying our columns may be counted by hundreds.

We might give the names of many of our correspondents in this Dominion of ours, in the United States, and in other lands also, but if we should do so it might turn out that we had unintentionally omitted some of them, and so lead to the supposition that they were not appreciated. We leave it therefore to be understood that all of them are very highly valued and their contributions are always acceptable. Those who have written will, we believe, continue, and others who have not as yet done so much, will come to consider that here is a field of usefulness which they may more fully cultivate; and so have the present reward themselves of greater accuracy, according to the old proverb "writing makes a correct man," and at the same time be giving pleasure and instruction to their readers.

It must be gratifying to the friends of Acadia College to find that so many who were supposed to be unconcerned are really its warm friends and in hearty sympathy with them, and willing to shew their sincerity by contributing towards the fund for rebuilding. A thousand hearts had their pulses quickened when they first heard the sad news of the loss of the fine College building. If at that time they had had the opportunity of rendering service in restoring what had been consumed, they would have been willing, we believe, to make sacrifices to enable them to help in such an enterprise. We learn that something is being done in many places after the example of Wolfville in calling together the friends and giving tangible expression to their determination to help in this work.

We are glad to see some encouragement coming from abroad. President Eliot, of Harvard University, writing to the Boston *Advertiser* says of Acadia and its disaster:—

"Its loss is a severe blow to an institution which, for nearly fifty years, has done good service in the cause of liberal education in Nova Scotia."

In its present distress Acadia College should command the especial sympathy of the friends of Harvard, who remember how their own college was supported under that dire misfortune, the destruction of Harvard hall in 1764, and how it was recently helped to bear its share in the great disaster of 1872, the Boston fire.

I have visited the site of Acadia College (the scene of Longfellow's Evangeline), and am acquainted with its history, condition and prospects. The college has sent to Harvard University a number of its graduates, who have proved excellent young men, as regards both capacity and character. Its standard is higher than that of any other college in the lower Provinces. It was founded and was mainly carried on by Baptists, but it is catholic in spirit, and applies no religious tests either to professors or students. When this calamity came upon it the institution was more prosperous than ever before; two hundred students were attending its several departments. These students have resolved to stand by the college, and rough board buildings are being erected for their temporary accommodation. At a public meeting held in the little village on the Thursday after the fire, \$9000 was subscribed toward the cost of new permanent buildings. The professors and other teachers are already canvassing the three lower provinces for contributions, large and small. The immediate friends and supporters of the college will do their utmost to retrieve the disaster; but the St. John fire has seriously crippled these provinces, and help from without is earnestly solicited.

Professor J. F. Tufts, a graduate both of Acadia, and Harvard, and one of the faculty of Acadia has come to Boston for the purpose of asking the aid of generous friends of good education. To such personal earnestly commend his cause.

Your obedient servant,
CHARLES W. ELIOT.

Harvard University, 15 Dec. 1877.

This opinion, from a perfectly independent quarter, and recommendation are of much value; and will, we trust, commend the matter to some of the wealthy, benevolent men in the Great Republic, so as to induce them to appropriate a portion of the means at their command to aid in the work before us. The following circular issued by the Executive Committee will shew in some measure what are their plans:—

The Executive Committee of the Board of Governors of Acadia College beg to call the attention of the public to the following facts and considerations:

The destruction of the college Building is a loss of a very serious nature, and renders it necessary to make a special appeal to the Denomination and to the friends of Education in general.

The building destroyed by the fire contained commodious rooms for the Library and the Museum, and a residence for the President, besides lecture rooms, Reading room and Dormitories for about twenty-five students. It included also a Hall and Class-rooms for the use of the Academy. To afford an equal amount of accommodation, while guarding, at the same time, as far as possible, against the risks of fire, it is thought necessary to erect several buildings in place of the one that has been consumed:—

1. A building or buildings to afford accommodation for the Library and Museum, and Lecture-rooms for the College.
2. A building to contain a Hall and Class-rooms for the Academy.
3. A Seminary or Boarding House for Young Ladies. This is rendered necessary by the fact that the building now occupied by the young ladies is ill suited to that use, and will be needed to afford dormitories for students until a better building can be provided.
4. A residence for the President.
5. A building or buildings for College dormitories.

The entire cost of these buildings, all of which must be provided before our institutions will be properly equipped, will amount probably to Seventy-five or

Eighty thousand dollars. At least Fifty Thousand Dollars of that amount should be raised immediately, to enable the work of the Institutions to go on.

It will be better, so far as donors are willing, that contributions should be made towards a General Building Fund, from which the Board may draw for building purposes as the needs of the several Departments may require. But donations made to a specific object will be devoted to the object for which they are given. It is desirable that a considerable part of the subscriptions should be paid in by the first of April, 1878. Large subscriptions might be made payable in two or three equal instalments, the last payment to be made not later than April 1st, 1879.

By order of Executive Committee
D. F. HIGGINS, Sec.
Wolfville Dec. 12th, 1877.

This plan for rebuilding must commend itself to all prudent men as affording greater security of life and property, and as involving less of risk from fire in future. Having the institutions in different buildings will render the management less difficult. Those most urgent may be first erected, and the others as early as the funds are obtained. A combined effort of all its friends will soon see Acadia again arise from its ashes.

In our last fact was mentioned that a kind letter of fraternal sympathy and been received by the Faculty of Acadia College from the Faculty of King's College. We have since received a copy of said letter and of that sent in reply. It affords us much pleasure to be able to place these documents before our readers. Such acts of comity go far to mitigate the suffering endured by the loss of the valuable property at Wolfville, and the great inconveniences consequent thereupon:

KING'S COLLEGE, Dec. 4, 1877.

Dear Sir,—

We desire to express our sorrow at the loss which Acadia College has sustained, and our sympathy with you and your brother Professors in your present trouble. Although the loss has fallen on you especially, it is one in which all are deeply concerned who have at heart the interests of Education in these Provinces. We sincerely hope that the energy which has always characterized the supporters of Acadia College may not be wanting on the present occasion, and that the immediate loss may prove your future gain.

Meanwhile please to accept this assurance of our profound sympathy.

We are your faithful servants,

JOHN DART,
HENRY HOW,
JOHN OROM.

W. E. WILSON,
ALFRED DE FOURMONTAIN,
REV. A. W. SAWYER, D. D.

(REPLY.)

ACADIA COLLEGE, Dec. 10, 1877.

Gentlemen,—

We very gratefully accept the kind expression of your sorrow at our recent heavy loss and your sympathy with us in this severe distress.

It is very soothing indeed to know that the oldest College in the Maritime Provinces and the one that has the honor of having led the way of higher education amongst us, should also be the first in offering kind condolence on this occasion, and in generous acknowledgement that the loss we have suffered is one in which all are deeply concerned who have at heart the interests of education in these Provinces.

We trust that we may find, as you suggest, that the energy our people have shown on some former occasions will not fail in the present emergency, but may fulfil your hope that our immediate loss may eventually prove our gain.

Once more assuring you, in behalf of the Faculty of Acadia College, of our grateful sense of your kind sympathy.

I am, gentlemen,

Faithfully your servant,

A. W. SAWYER.

REV. PRESIDENT DART and the other members of the Faculty of Kings College.

The following are additional contribution from Halifax towards rebuilding Acadia College:—

Mrs. Chas. Murdock.....	\$ 15 00
John S. Maclean.....	25 00
Geo. H. Fielding.....	25 00
Miss Phoebe Fielding.....	25 00
James Fraser.....	5 00
J. W. Johnson.....	20 00
J. W. Longley.....	20 00
S. M.....	20 00
Hinckle Condon.....	20 00
W. H. H.....	10 00
A. Friend.....	100 00
R. S. Fitch.....	10 00
Geo. A. McDonald.....	5 00
Martin Smith.....	5 00
Mrs. S. N. Binney.....	50 00
J. Y. Payzan.....	100 00
J. Johnston Hunt.....	30 00
Fred. Bosson.....	30 00
Previously acknowledged.....	1500 00
Total	\$2015 00