

sell the land. Rev. G. R. Gleig, in his Indian history, when speaking of the position of the rajah or king among the Hindoos, says:—"There was not a Brahmin in his dominions, however poor, that would condescend to eat from his dist. or whom he was not bound to treat with a certain degree of respect as spiritually his superior."

3. The *Vaisya* caste. The members of this caste, according to the tradition, came from the thighs of Brahma. They were generally engaged in trade, commerce, husbandry &c., a sort of mid-way position, neither aristocratic nor servile. Many of the respectable, well-to-do business men are of this caste.

4. The *Soodra* caste. These, having come from the feet of the creator, occupied what were considered inferior positions, such as farm laborers, servants, and workmen of various servile occupations. They were the lowest of the four, and were despised and wronged. A hindoo precept says:—"Do not speak to a *Soodra*; the gods do not; or if you have something to say to him, speak to some other person standing by, and say, 'Tell this *Soodra* so.'" If a Brahmin killed a *Soodra* he was just about as guilty as if he had killed a rat.

These appear to have been the four original castes, but in the course of ages, they have been so divided and subdivided and multiplied that it is said there are now about eighty distinct castes, rigidly separated from each other. To such an extent has this been carried that most of the trades and occupations now form separate castes. Thus there is the carpenter caste, the goldsmith caste, the weaver caste, the blacksmith cast &c.

Below all the regular castes are the *pariahs* or outcasts, having no social standing, although decent respectable people. Quite a large proportion of the population are pariahs.

All the foreigners are of no caste at all, so that a heathen Hindoo of any caste would not for any consideration pollute himself by eating with the highest English officer, or the best Christian missionary in India.

Caste, it is scarcely necessary to say, is hereditary. A man's children belong to the same caste that he does, and usually follow the same occupation, and so it continues generation after generation. There is no such thing as promotion, or rising in the social scale.

The most fearful thing in the opinion of a Hindoo, which could possibly befall him would be to *break caste*. That would bring a stain never to be cleansed, a curse never to be removed. And they seem to think that the surest way to bring upon themselves this unmitigated and irreversible calamity is to eat with a foreigner. Of course when they become Christians they break caste, and thereby become outcasts forever. Strong as the tie is, thousands have broken it for Christ's sake, and there are to-day in India many who were formerly of high caste, now humble Christians, proclaiming the Scripture truth that God "hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth."

The different castes have no social intercourse with each other. They cannot intermarry. They will not even eat with each other, seeming to suppose that such contact defiles them.

The three highest castes wear a distinguishing badge of which they are very proud. It is the *sacred thread*, a small simple white cord which passes from the girdle up across the breast, over the shoulder, and down again to the waist.

To give some idea of the pride of birth felt by a Hindoo of high caste, the following extract from Dr. William Butler's "Land of the Veda," will serve:—"The Brahmin is a member of the most exclusive and singular of all earthly orders. He holds himself to be a member of the most ancient aristocracy upon the earth. His dignity is one entirely independent of landed possessions, wealth, or manorial halls. Indeed these have nothing whatever to do with it. The man may have literally no home, and not be worth five dollars of worldly property; he may have to solicit his next meal of food from those who respect his order; but he is a Brahmin, and is prouder of that simple string over his shoulder, and across his naked breast than any English Earl is of his coronet. These men laugh at such a mushroom aristocracy as that of Britain, or France, created merely by the breath of a human sovereign whose word raises the plebeian to the noble order; for the Brahmin holds that his nobility is not an accident, but is, in the highest sense," by the grace of God. "It is

in his nature, in his blood, by the original intention and act of his creator. He was made and designed by God to be different from and higher than all other men, and that from the first to the last of time."

Such in brief is the system of caste. It may be to a slight extent weakening and breaking down through contact with foreign nations, and by the logic of events, but it still exerts a mighty power over that whole nation. Things in the East grow slowly and last long.

Among the many evil results of this institution, may be mentioned contempt for manual labor, and honest work among the higher grades of society. Many different kinds of labor are considered ignoble. Even the higher servants in a household would not demean themselves by carrying anything home from the market, but will hire a coolie to carry it after them. The ruinous effect of this sentiment on the industries of a people may be imagined.

Another evil result is that *friendship and hospitality are restricted* to members of one's own caste. Bishop Heber relates that, "a traveller fell down sick in the streets of a village, and since it was not known of what caste he was, nobody would go near him for fear of pollution. He wasted to death before the eyes of a whole community, and the children were allowed to pelt him with stones and mud." On this point a recent writer says, "The Hindoo will give alms freely to the revolting religious mendicant, and think it a virtue to feed the most loathsome and venomous of the brute creation, but turns away with calm indifference and haughty disdain from the sufferings of a perishing fellow creature" if he belongs to a different caste.

Various important lessons might be learned from the consideration of this strange subject. For instance, the utter folly of aristocratic notions, especially those of a "mushroom" aristocracy. The most ancient and unmingled aristocracy on earth is that of the Hindoo Brahmins, and what a monument of folly it is!

Again, the *wicked tyranny* of any course but that which freely allows to all men, whatever the circumstances of their birth, those inalienable rights and privileges which are theirs by nature. And again, the *gross injustice* of monopolies, especially those which pertain to educational advantages and influential positions.

W. B. BOGGS.

Truro, N. S., May 31, 1878.

## The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., June 12, 1878.

### ACADIA COLLEGE ANNIVERSARY.

The Anniversary Exercises of Acadia College this year were surrounded with several circumstances and considerations which rendered them more than usually interesting. The past year has indeed been a most memorable one, in relation to the institutions at Wolfville. The great fire which consumed the venerable college building that has hitherto been the central point of interest has opened up a wide field of anticipation respecting the future which is highly appropriate as we stand on the confines of the past fifty years and enter upon the second half of a century of the history of higher education in relation not only to the Baptist body in these provinces but to all the friends of advanced education free from the restrictions by which it had before been surrounded.

The arrangements previously made to give this Anniversary a distinctly commemorative character appeared all the more appropriate, seeing that the building in which the work of fifty years has been performed has been so recently swept away, and provision has been already made to supply in its place a new one more commodious and better adapted to the present necessities.

It had been determined last year to make this a sort of public celebration by having a review of the past, bringing together the materials of its history into a shape in which they might be preserved for the use and instruction of future generations. Having still with us representative men from amongst the founders of the institution, it was deemed suitable that they should be invited to collect together these facts and reminiscences in papers to present at the Anniversary of 1878. It was by the Faculty and Governors deemed appropriate that the delivery of orations by graduates which have been so interesting and attractive in past years be dispensed with to allow the aged seniors to present their historical papers

on this completion of the 50th year of educational work at Wolfville.

Although the main building is gone, yet the institutions live, and the work has still gone on almost without interruption. The energy developed in providing temporary class-rooms soon gave opportunities for continuing the work already in progress, so that the professors were able, although under great disadvantages, to meet the students and to proceed with their lectures and instruction, after losing but a very few days more than the usual winter vacation.

In those "shanties," as the class-rooms have been termed, the cultivation and development of mind has gone on, and now at the close of the College year were to be shown the results so far as the Exhibition would make them appear. The past week was pretty fully occupied in this process.

The Classes, we learned, had been for some days undergoing their rigid written examinations of the work done during the term. These terminated on the 4th, and as we are informed, shewed that a large percentage of the students had secured a high standing. The subjects which these examinations embraced were in *Latin*, *Ovid*, *Tacitus*, *Terence*, *Cicero* and *Plautus*.

In *Greek*, *Homer*, *Euripedes*, *Thucydides*, *Sophocles*, *Aeschylus*, and *Aristophanes*.

*Mathematics*, *Algebra*, *General Geometry* and *Differential Calculus*, *Mechanics* and *Optics*.

In *Science* *Chemistry*, *Geology*, and *Mineralogy*.

In *English*, *Logic*, *Literature*, *Moral Philosophy*, *Constitutional History of England* and *History of France*.

The French language.

#### THE PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

The Academical classes were under examination on Tuesday and Wednesday. Professor Tufts conducted the examinations, comprising in classics *Latin*, *Cesar* and *Virgil*; *Grecian* and *Roman History*. Mr. Coldwell in *Geometry*, *Arithmetic* and *Algebra*; Mr. Shafner in *Geography*, *English* and *General History*; Miss Huguens in the *French Language*; and Miss Woodworth in *Rhetoric*.

It was evident that the students had been most thoroughly taught and that the work done by the Teachers and their classes was no superficial performance; but that the understanding had been reached and the judgement informed as well as the facts and figures treasured in the mind. The promptness of the replies given by the pupils shewed that learning had been mastered and was being pursued for its own sake, and study was being enjoyed as well as pursued.

On Tuesday evening there was a competitive reading exercise in the Academy Hall, the results of which was to decide the title to a prize offered for excellence in that art.

Twenty-six students are prepared for matriculation, and are expecting to enter College at the commencement of the next term. These have all had their preparatory training in the Academy. The oral examinations gave good indications that in going into the higher Collegiate course they will reflect credit on their teachers, on the institution, and on themselves. We hear that their standing is above the usual average.

The Rhetorical and Musical Exhibition on Wednesday afternoon was held in the main audience room of the Baptist Church according to the following

#### PROGRAMME:

- DUET—Rigoletto.—Par les Freres Bill-ema. Misses CANN and PERRY.  
ESSAY.—British Enterprise. MR. EMERSON REED, Kingston.  
ESSAY.—The Unknown. MISS CARRIE HAMMOND, Andover, N. B.  
SOLO.—Sonata. . . . . Mozart.  
MISS ALICE HAMILTON.  
ESSAY.—The World of Books. MR. J. A. FORD, Bothwell, P. E. I.  
ESSAY.—Le Mois de Juin. MISS JENNIE LOVETT, Kentville.  
DUET.—Overture de L'opera Die Felsen-huile. . . . G. F. Ressler. Misses NEWCOMB and KILLAM.  
ESSAY.—"Jorsan et haec olim meminisse juvabit." MR. S. DANIELS, Falmouth.  
ESSAY.—The Failure of Ideals. MISS MARY McLEOD, Brooklyn, Queen's Co.  
SOLO.—Volkslied. . . . . Mendelssohn.  
MR. THURGOOD.  
ESSAY.—The Survival of the Fittest. MISS LAURA GOURLEY, Great Village, Colchester Co.  
DUET.—Radiense-Volse Brillante. . . . Gottschalk. Misses SAWYER & BROWN.  
ESSAY.—Fundamentals. MISS ELLEN FREEMAN, Canning.  
SOLO.—Rondo Capriccioso. . . . Mendelssohn. MISS CANN.

The large company of parents and friends present to witness these proceedings were greatly pleased at the

evidence of careful preparation and maturity of thought in the Essays.

The ease with which each student came forth and presented his or her part of the proceedings gave a charm to the whole and rendered it a rare treat. The music was excellent and shewed that the pupils had been taught to enjoy their studies, and that their accomplished teacher Mrs. VanBuskirk had inspired her pupils with love for this divine art as well as given them a taste for its more delicate touches of light and shade.

The closing part of the afternoon meeting—the presentation of Prizes—was highly satisfactory to the happy recipients of them as well as those who rejoiced with them. But we must not forget that there were three young ladies who having satisfactorily completed the usual three years course received their diplomas and were pronounced graduates of Horton Collegiate Academy. The names of these were Miss Ellen Freeman, Miss Laura Gourley, and Miss Mary McLeod.

Professor Tufts then announced the names of those who had been awarded prizes for Scholarship during the term

#### PRIZE LIST.

- LATIN 1—1st. Lyman Chute, 2nd. Rettie Chute.  
2—Minnie Perry.  
3—Alice Hamilton and Alice Fitch.  
GREEK 1—Lyman Chute and Rupert Dodge.  
2—W. C. Goucher.  
FRENCH 1—Ellen Freeman.  
2—Laura Gourley.  
3—Minnie Perry.  
ARITHMETIC 1—(Dufferin Medal), Chipman Parker.  
2—Mattie Cox.  
ALGEBRA—J. B. Bogart.  
GEOMETRY 1—George Andrews.  
2—Albert Eaton.  
GEOGRAPHY 1—Annie Cann.  
2—Flora Bishop.  
HISTORY—Ellen Freeman.  
ENGLISH STUDIES—Emma Olding.  
LITERATURE—Ellen Freeman.  
ELOQUENCE 1—Laura Wallace.  
2—Mary McLeod.  
DEPARTMENT—C. Haverstock.  
NEATNESS OF ROOMS.—Lottie Whitman, Laura Gourley, Jane Lovett.

These prizes were all valuable books, except the one for literature which was \$5.00, and the Earl Dufferin Medal.

On the same day and soon after the close of the Academy Exhibition THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNI OF ACADIA COLLEGE

held their Annual Meeting.

The business of the Association was transacted and arrangements made for the distribution of the prizes amounting to \$115, to the most successful students in the College Classes. After which the officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:

President—Albert Coldwell, Esq., B. A., of Wolfville.  
Vice-President—Rev. Geo. O. Gates, B. A., Liverpool.  
Secretary—Treasurer—B. H. Eaton, M. A., Halifax.

#### Directors:

Rev. J. W. Manning, B. A., Halifax;  
Robt. N. Beckwith, "  
H. H. Bligh, M. A., "  
J. W. Longley, M. A., "  
E. D. King, M. A., "  
Rev. George Armstrong, M. A.  
Rev. E. M. Saunders, M. A.

#### THE ALUMNI ORATION.

Rev. C. H. Corey, a graduate of 1858, now Principal of the Baptist Theological Institution at Richmond Virginia, having accepted the invitation to give the oration, was present and after the opening exercises proceeded on Wednesday evening to deliver a most able and appropriate address on "The design of the Universe the development and perfection of Character," or "The final cause of the Universe a perfect manhood."

We must reserve our report of this excellent address for our next.

The culmination of the exercises is always in

#### THE EXHIBITION ON THURSDAY.

As usual there was a large assembly gathered long before the time of meeting which was delayed somewhat by the taking of a photographic view of the faculty, governors, graduates, students and friends on the ruins, before leaving them for the anniversary exercises in the Baptist Church.

On entering, the fine organ—the gift of Mr. Richard Pineo, of Ceylon, becomes the most prominent object of sight, and, on this occasion, did excellent service in a voluntary, to receive those who had come from the Hill in procession.

President Sawyer now called upon Rev. I. E. Bill, who opened the exercises by offering prayer. He then announced that as the occasion was to be a sort of

#### JUBILEE CELEBRATION,

the usual orations by the graduates would be omitted and addresses given by the gentlemen appointed last year for that service.

Rev. Dr. Crawley was called upon for his Oration on "The rise and progress of Higher Education in the Baptist denomination in Nova Scotia."

No other person was so well qualified or could do this so well as Dr. Crawley. He having been familiar with all the persons and facts in relation thereto for the past 50 years and more. Any synopsis of the elaborate paper he read would do injustice to it. We have some few notes taken during the delivery, but on looking them over have come to the conclusion that if the address were given verbatim, although it would occupy considerable of space, it would prove much more satisfactory, and any abbreviation would be undesirable.

After an excellent anthem by the choir and organ, Rev. Dr. Cramp was called upon for his paper on "The History of the Religious Revivals in connection with Acadia College."

What we have said in relation to Dr. Crawley's paper we might repeat in reference to that of Dr. Cramp. Although more brief yet it gives a very full and complete view of the manifestations of religious fervor and the conversion of scores and hundreds of persons whilst pursuing their studies at Wolfville. This we also hope to give to our readers or see published shortly in some permanent form as a memorial volume.

A paper was also read by Rev. S. W. DeBlois giving some account of each of the graduates from the first class in 1843 down to that of 1857. This was a somewhat delicate task, but it was done with much appropriateness and good taste. The references to the departed ones were in many cases most touching, and the notices of some of the living ones were full of wit and good humor. The addition of this to the volume or whatever form of publication may be decided upon will be most desirable. It was stated by the president that B. H. Eaton, Esq., and H. C. Creed, Esq. had been appointed to give a sketch of the more recent graduates, but as the time would not permit and the latter gentleman had been unable to be present they must be deferred for the present or published without delivery.

The Graduating Class was then ushered in by the Secretary Rev. S. W. DeBlois, and presented to the President for their diplomas admitting them to the degree of Bachelor in Arts. The names of these young gentlemen were Messrs. Matthew R. Tuttle, Stellarton; Pryor, Coldwell, Gaspereau; B. W. Lockhart, Lockhartville; W. O. Wright, Hopewell, N. B.; F. A. Faulkner, Grand Pre; Truman Bishop, Greenwich; Raleigh Bishop, Greenwich.

The Secretary of the Associated Alumni then proceeded to present Prizes, as follows:

Matriculation Prizes—Awarded, September, 1877.  
First Prize, \$20.00 to F. Howard Schofield, of Black River.  
Second Prize, \$15.00 to Frank Andrews, of Wilmot.  
Third Prize, \$15.00 to Albert J. Pineo, of Berwick.

These three prizes amounting in all to \$50.00, were presented on behalf of William Vaughan, Esq., of St. Stephen, N. B., it should also be stated that no matriculate is entitled to either of these prizes; whose standing on the matriculation examination falls below 7.5. No doubt therefore such prizes with such conditions will do much to promote ripe scholarship on the part of those intending to enter College. The prizes are not limited to students matriculating from Horton Academy, but are open to candidates from all schools and academies.

#### CLASS PRIZES.

Freshman Class, \$20.00 to F. Howard Schofield.  
Sophomore Class, \$20.00 to G. Wilbert Cox, of Upper Stewiacke.  
Junior Class, \$20.00 to Charles K. Harrington, of Sydney, C. B.

These prizes are given for the best scholarship, that is to say, to intelligent mastery of the subjects embraced in the College Course.

Monthly Essay Prize, \$20.00, to Chas. K. Harrington.

This prize is open to all the undergraduates. It is given for the best series of monthly essays during the college year. The winner of this prize is well entitled to congratulation.

The President's Prize, \$20.00. This prize is given to the member of the Senior Class who shall have maintained the best standing during the entire college course. Mr. Matthew K. Tuttle