

For the Christian Messenger
To the Members of W. M. A. Societies.

Dear Sisters.—

I have for some time had it on my mind to send a few words to you by way of the *Christian Messenger* relating to our Missionary work, but a lingering illness has prevented. A letter from our dear sister, Mrs. Armstrong, reached me a day or two ago, containing some information which you ought to know. After a few lines of sympathy and condolence with me on the loss of health, she says:—

"It is no slight cause of gratitude that we have been able to purchase a dwelling without the loss of time and money necessary in building. We find ourselves, too, in a position to invite a

drew nigh they gradually came nearer to the centre of the grounds where preparations had been made by the laying of a temporary platform.

The large room in the Ladies' Seminary is used temporarily as the College Library, and the Presidents study since the fire. Here the Faculty gathered and from hence a procession was formed of the governors and friends towards the platform at the N. E. end of the new College building. On arriving there the Rev. S. W. DeBlois, at the request of President Sawyer, offered prayer; after which Dr. Sawyer made a highly appropriate

INTRODUCTORY SPEECH.

He said: The old college building around which so many memories clustered, to which so many looked, from which so many good influences had already gone out, and from which so much had been expected in the future, was gone. It had been destroyed on the memorable night of Dec. 2. By this disaster the college was literally turned out of doors. The museum, the library-room, the President's dwelling, were all gone. On the 6th of December the Faculty and the Executive Committee decided to rebuild, and asked the Faculty and the Executive Committee to consider the kind of buildings required. At the next meeting of the Board, March 7th, the Executive Committee were instructed to obtain suitable plans for the College and a Ladies' Seminary and to solicit tenders for the erection of the buildings. On the 20th of May they were prepared to advertise for tenders. These were in and one was accepted on the 7th of June. On the 10th work commenced and we are here now, one month after, to lay the corner stones of these buildings. The College building will be 138 feet in length, with towers on each end, giving it a total frontage of 154 feet in all; the depth in the wings is 68 feet. The first floor will be devoted to class rooms and assembly halls for the students of the College and the Academy, the latter to occupy the east end of the building. The second floor will have rooms for the Library and Museum, the former 28x40, the latter 28 x 44, both with ceiling 20 feet in the clear, and galleries. It will also contain a large audience hall, with gallery capable of seating probably 700 people."

He would not further enlarge on an occasion so full of suggestion of future work in Higher Education, but would call upon Rev. Dr. Crawley to speak.

DR. CRAWLEY'S ADDRESS.

"Special occasions in life call for special observances, otherwise life might become a blank, for its most important events might perish from the mere indolence of mind that refuses to give attention. With respect to personal interest such observances may be sufficiently marked in the unseen tablets of individual memory; while an uncommon occasion, affecting an entire community, may demand the ceremony of public acknowledgment. Laying the corner stone, as it is called, of important public buildings, so generally observed, must be regarded as an observance of this character. This is the purpose of our present gathering, and it may be proper at this time to endeavor somewhat briefly to vindicate the occasion as justly entitled to more than ordinary notice. We claim for the present circumstances that they are entitled to the character of one of those peaceful triumphs which, though unattended with the 'pomp and circumstance of war,' the noise of battle, or the blaze of military glory, are of equal if not of greater value, as indicating in the community the existence of those higher qualities that are admired in the successful soldier, without the attendant drawbacks of violence and blood."

In the gathering gloom of evening the enemy burst suddenly upon us with the fearful cry of 'fire.' The alarm was but too true. Wrapped in flame, we beheld our late College edifice, consecrated as it seemed by a thousand precious memories, rapidly consumed and sinking in its own ashes. Thus a few moments sufficed to carry us away from the condition of ordinary prosperity and comfort, into that of a painful consciousness of a heavy, and in some respects an irreparable loss. But though acutely sensible of the pressure of a heavy calamity, our people have risen against it with a noble fortitude. They face the danger with the same temper that man's the trenches in a siege, or storms a Redan or a Malakoff. The first open indication of this courageous spirit was testified by our students the morning after the fire, though suffering, many of them, large personal losses, in that triumphant procession during which they rejoiced to proclaim, again and again, that Acadia College had not perished, but still lived in mind and determined spirit, a material that is of necessity superior to wood and stone, and over which the destructive power of fire can exert no control, and most nobly was this spirit carried out, both by the students and the community at large, when a few evenings afterwards a subscription at Wolfville, for the rebuilding of the college and the erection of other needful edifices, was so rapidly run up above the sum of 9,000 dollars. This, we believe, we are justified in terming a peaceful triumph of magnanimous spirit, better even than victory in

battle; and of the presence of this spirit in the hearts of our people, the laying of the corner stone of the new college building to-day may be accepted as a visible token and memorial. But the language which the present ceremony speaks does not end here.

If it is to be taken as a commemorative record of the past and present tone of mind with which God has permitted and enabled a heavily smitten community to rise superior to their affliction, it is important to observe that its meaning bears also, as we believe, in some sort, a prophetic character.

The boy, it has been said, is the father of the man. No less true is it, in a wider sense, that the present is productive of the future. As necessary results then, proceeding from all the facts to which we have already referred, which may be heralded as another peaceful triumph or rather many such triumphs, betokened by the laying of this corner stone. Already, indeed, has knowledge largely triumphed over ignorance through the instrumentality and labors of the friends of education among us. We may be still much behind many communities in the civilized world in degree of mental progress, and yet, the most modest men in our community need not hesitate to claim that Nova Scotia and her sister Provinces in general, and the Baptist population in particular, have, within the last half century, wonderfully grown in intelligence and its accompanying improvements. But that growth is to continue. Improved schools; colleges better provided with necessary buildings; with enlarged libraries; with more teachers of the highest ability, and all other facilities for progressive science—all these announce the mental character of the future. Ignorance shrinks back abashed before these footsteps of the forward march of mind and the quiet touch of the trowel on the corner stone shortly to be laid this day, peaceful and unobtrusive as it seems, is equivalent nevertheless to the most vociferous shoutings of victorious warriors in the announcement which it makes of the victories in these provinces, and among our Baptist people, which shall yet be won by knowledge over ignorance, by mind over the thousand forms of material substances that shall be hereafter subdued by our tutored sons, so as to enlarge manufacture and art; to multiply the currents of profitable commerce, and greatly to enhance our temporal prosperity as well as to give a general character to thought and expression such as is wont to mark a cultured people; victories that shall justify hereafter a far louder utterance of peaceful triumph in infinite modes of national progress than the most sanguine among us as yet anticipate.

Nor let this promise of future good be deemed too bold an assumption. It is no more than venturing to declare that God's natural laws will reign no less certainly than his moral laws. Things will take effect in the world in obedience to the nature which the Creator has stamped upon them; and such is the nature of the laws of mind that improvement in knowledge in any community is almost equivalent in meaning to progress and improvement in all possible forms within its bounds. We can foresee but one probable impediment to this result. It can arise only on the supposition that while God's natural laws are observed his moral laws shall be neglected. The universe is constructed on the supposition of the harmonious working together of both, and the law of progress therefore demands their union. In view of this truth it is encouraging to remember that our fathers earnestly dedicated to God our Academy and College at their earliest origin, and we trust their descendants have never desired to withdraw or undo that early act of dedication, but that it remains to-day the sincere and deep desire of us all to walk, in this respect, in the footsteps of the first founders of our schools, and that therefore in every progressive movement made in connection with our beloved Academy and College in Wolfville, we shall continually pour forth as our best and dearest utterance the prayer, May God bless these institutions; may He bless them as in the past and yet more abundantly; may He bless this rising edifice to the best and holiest of the uses of education; may He bless this solemn ceremony, and may the laying of this corner stone mean for us and our descendants that God shall be our corner stone and the corner stone of our Academy and College, so long as this world shall last, and may His moral laws so harmonize with the laws of nature, which He has established, that the highest usefulness of these institutions in every part of these provinces, shall ever go hand in hand with the largest increase of the kingdom of Divine grace, the kingdom of mercy, and salvation by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Secretary of the Board of Governors, Rev. S. W. DeBlois then read the following

LIST OF ARTICLES DEPOSITED IN THE CORNER STONE.

A copy of the College Catalogue, containing the names of the Governors, the Teachers of all departments, all the graduates of the College and all students now connected with it and the prescribed courses of study.

A copy of the last Catalogue of the Academy.

A copy of the last Annual Report of the Executive Committee of the Associated Alumni.

A copy of Dr. Cramp's Inaugural Address, delivered June 20, 1851, with copies of the first Charter of the College and the succeeding modifications.

The original manuscript of first Financial Statement of the Treasurer of the N. S. Baptist Education Society, in the handwriting of Mr. J. W. Nutting, containing, among other items, Accounts connected with Dr. Crawley's visit to England and the United States to obtain funds for the Academy, and bearing dates 1829 and 1830.

The Original Subscription List of 1850, by which \$8000 was raised in three months to discharge the indebtedness of the College at that time, the first name on the list being that of Mr. J. W. Bars, who subscribed £333 6s. 8d. This list is presented by the Rev. John Chase, who was agent for raising the money.

An Account of the Burning of the Old College and two views of the Old Building.

A list of the Building Committee for the erection of the new buildings, the architects, the supervisor, the contractors, the superintendent of the mason-work, the contract price of the buildings—which are as follows: Building Committee—A. W. Sawyer, D. D., J. W. Bigelow, Frederic Johnson; architects of the College, J. C. Dumaresq and C. O. Wickenden, of St. John; of the Seminary, Mr. Andrew Dewar, of Halifax. Supervisor of the whole work Mr. Wm Rounsefell, of Wolfville; contractors for the erection of the buildings, Messrs. Rhodes, Curry & Co., of Amherst, N. S. The superintendent of the mason-work, Robert Sutherland, of Windsor, N. S. The contract price of the College is \$20,679; of the Seminary—\$13,821; \$34,500 in all.

Copies of the last week's issue of the *Christian Messenger* and *Christian Visitor*, the last Baptist Year Book; a copy of Belcher's Almanack for 1878; a copy of the last report of the Superintendent of Education in Nova Scotia, and also of the report of the Superintendent of Education for New Brunswick.

A detailed account of the village of Wolfville at the present time, containing a statement of the religious societies, voluntary associations existing here, and of the various kinds of business here carried on, with the names of parties engaged therein. This has been prepared by Mr. Albert Coldwell.

A copy of the first newspaper printed in King's Co., called the *Canning Advertiser*; an English gold coin, an American trade-dollar and some lesser coin.

The choir then under the leadership of Mr. Burpe Witter, sung an appropriate hymn.

The above articles being enclosed in a leaden box about 10 inches in length were then deposited, and

THE CORNER STONE WAS LAID.

by Avard Longley, Esq., M. P. P., representing the Board of Governors, he being chairman at their last session in June.

THE DEDICATORY PRAYER.

was offered by Rev. Dr. Cramp. The venerable Professor emeritus then gave the following brief address:—

REV. DR. CRAMP'S ADDRESS.

One of the writers of the Psalms, probably in the time of Hezekiah, referring to the manifold trials through which Israel had passed, uses these words,—"We went through fire and through water." Acadia College has had similar experience. The water trial came first, when our beloved Professor Chapman and his companions sank yonder beneath the flood. That calamity was regarded by many as a death blow. Yet the college survived, and its annals record a successful career. Then came the scouring fire, reducing to ashes, in a few hours, the building which had stood for many years as a beautiful monument of affectionate zeal, and involving a heavy loss of valuable property. The loss is now to be partially repaired, I say partially, for the loss of the museum is irreparable. In the building to be erected on this spot the work of the college will be resumed and carried on, year after year, for generations to come, and it is hoped, with manifest indications of His blessing, without whom 'nothing is strong, nothing is holy.'

Here the present high standard for matriculants will be maintained, with variation only as may be rendered necessary by improvements and advances. The Faculty will continue to show that their object is to train and form character as well as to secure intellectual elevation; and the young men who will be collected together here will find themselves under the operation of a system of discipline adapted to a state society equally removed from the ascetic and the luxurious, and where the dignified, the courteous and the pure, and all that is akin thereto, will be cherished and exemplified. The result will doubtless be that those who go forth from the college, from year to year, to occupy stations in society, will exert powerful influences for good, and that graduates of Acadia will be in demand wherever educated talent is required.

A hundred years hence the buildings about to occupy this space will probably have done their work. In the report

which will be presented by the Governors who will be in office in the year 1978, occasion may be taken to review the history of the college during the century, and to convince the audience that will then be convened that in the educational progress of the times this institution has fully shared. The details of that report cannot of course be anticipated; nevertheless, I venture to say that a clause to the following effect may possibly be listened to:—

"The Governors congratulate the denomination on the progress made in regard to theological education. A century ago we were almost entirely dependent in this matter on New England. That state of things has been gradually changed. The desirableness of home education for the rising ministry has been at length generally admitted, and adequate provision has been made by the benevolence of the people for the supply of that want. The arrangements of the theological department of Acadia College are acknowledged to be eminently suitable to the requirements of churches located for the most part in agricultural districts, and it is stated with satisfaction that applications for admission have been already received from young men connected with churches in New England."

I make no apology for introducing this reference, because I entertain a strong conviction that the current of opinion on theological education is destined to take a different course as enlightenment grows, and that long before the close of another century the Baptists of these Provinces will have been thoroughly aroused to a sense of their obligations and responsibilities, and will have framed a plan of instruction and training which, though it may not be formed on the model of Newton or Rochester or Crozier or Chicago, will be found to be adapted to the special wants of our churches in these Maritime Provinces—possibly also in the Dominion of Canada.

With these observations, Mr. President, I take my leave, thanking you for the opportunity you have given me to testify once more my attachment to Acadia College and the deep interest I feel in all that relates to the prosperity, the improvement and the elevation of the Baptists of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

This closed the proceedings at the College proper, but the Ladies' Seminary, which is rendered absolutely necessary by the change in the interior arrangements of the College Building was now made the point of attraction, and the company soon wended their way up the hill a few rods to the acre or more of level space set apart for the Seminary building and grounds.

After some more music by the choir, J. W. Bigelow, Esq., the Secretary of the Building Committee read the following description of

THE LADIES' SEMINARY.

The cellar will be constructed the entire size of the building, that is 44 x 90. In this will be three large tanks for storing water, and drains of various descriptions to meet the wants of the building.

In the basement story, in the N. W. corner will be the dining hall, 22 x 30' accommodating seventy-five boarders. In the N. E. corner will be a large closet for the table crockery, and also a serving room conveniently fitted up. Adjoining this is the kitchen, 24 x 17, to be fitted up with ranges and other conveniences.

In the S. E. corner will be the servants' rooms. Opposite these will be a store-room and the place for the heating apparatus of the building. Alongside of this will be the laundry and drying room.

The entrance from the outside to the basement will be at the south end.

The entrance to the first floor will be at the middle of the west side. A corridor will run from one end of the building to the other with stairways at each end leading to the floors above.

On the first floor will be two parlors, with a bedroom attached to each; four parlors, with two bedrooms attached to each, and a reception room, 24 x 17, with music room connected by folding doors. The second floor and the attic are occupied chiefly with parlors and attached bedrooms, but on each of these floors is a bath-room and two or three music rooms. The rooms thus described are thought to be sufficient to give comfortable accommodation to at least fifty pupils. Four chimneys will be constructed and ample provision will be made in connection with these for the ventilation of all the rooms in the building. A lift, to be constructed of brick, will reach from the basement to the attic floor, by which all heavy articles will be raised and lowered.

The contract does not provide for heating and lighting apparatus; but it is hoped that means will be furnished to warm all the students' rooms with hot water and light them with gas.

The contract price for the erection and completion of the building thus described is \$13,821.

MRS. J. W. LOVETT OF YARMOUTH having shewn herself deeply interested in this structure, and having already made a donation of \$1000 had been invited to

LAY THE CORNER STONE

of the building in the form of a small

Christian Visitor July 17/1878

p. 226 column 4

imperfections in print of

Rev. Dr. Cramp's address

A more perfect copy may be found in a copy of

the Brunswick paper (Willy)

The Star of July 18 1878

back page Copy given

to Reader Library on

February 5, 1960.

have diminished the last two years, probably in consequence of our having no one in the work specially looking to us for their support, and, if possible, it is still more grievous to read the letters from the Secretaries or Treasurers, lamenting over the difficulty of keeping up the interest and attendance at the meetings. In some places, where once there were large and flourishing Societies, the meetings have ceased. Sisters, ought such a state of things to continue? Surely you will say NO.

At the same time, be encouraged to know that the monies given since we have had no missionaries in India, have been the means of doing some good. By the table given below, you will see how the Central Board has apportioned the sums entrusted to them, besides leaving sufficient to send out one, if not more missionaries when required.

Your fellow-worker,

MARIA R. SELDEN,
Treasurer Central Board of N. S.

SUMS OF MONEY VOTED BY THE CENTRAL BOARD FOR MISSIONS.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1875. "In reply to an Appeal from missionaries....." | \$400 00 |
| 1876. To Mrs. Armstrong, to be divided..... | 400 00 |
| "For erection of school-house at Kimsdy....." | 100 00 |
| "On application from For'n Mission Board, St. John....." | 1000 00 |
| 1877. \$100 each to Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Churchill, & Mrs. Sanford..... | 300 00 |
| "To Mrs. Sanford for building school-houses....." | 500 00 |

\$2700 00

From Mission Bands during the same years, for the education of children in India, 186 03

\$2886 03

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., July 17, 1878.

THE ACADIA COLLEGE NEW BUILDING.

THE LAYING OF THE CORNER STONES.

Our readers will be prepared by our article last week for an extended account of the ceremonies of Tuesday the 9th Inst., on "College Hill" at Wolfville. The day was all that could be desired. A large company assembled on the beautiful slopes of the College grounds. The occasion was one full of interest to old and young. Of the former there were quite a number, and of the latter a much larger congregation. As the hour named