

the failure of all hitherto attempted solutions. The question re-opened by the failure of the Act of '70, is simply the question of the existence of the agricultural population. In this vital form the Irish problem reaches the final stage of its development. It is a significant fact that not until the question assumed this shape did a British government, untrammeling itself from the prejudicial influence of the land owning classes, come forward to face the real difficulty. The dictum of Lord Palmerston, that "tenant's right is landlord's wrong," has always been the watchword not only of the Irish land-owner, but also of the English, who sees in the threatened changes in Ireland the downfall of the English system foreshadowed. This landed interest has always been powerful in the Cabinet, and omnipotent in the House of Lords; hence the abortive and make-shift character of the Legislation previous to 1870.

The task of making a fresh settlement of this vexed question again devolves upon Mr. Gladstone, and in the present aspect of the case fortunate it is that the right man chances to be in power at the right time. Mr. Gladstone brings to the aid of a far-seeing and enlightened statesmanship the experience gained by years of study in framing his Act of '70 and in critically watching its operation. Above all he is actuated by a sense of duty and justice which secession from his Cabinet and the opposition of powerful enemies and friends alike fail to shake. The principal features in Mr. Gladstone's new Bill are the concessions made in the direction of the principles contended for by the Land League, the basis of the recent agitation being made the ground of remedial action. It is a striking coincidence, that almost simultaneously with this move of Mr. Gladstone, Bismarck is found making concessions in answer to the demands of the German Socialists—a two-fold recognition of the principle that the guide of the law-giver must be the will of the people.

Though the grievances of the tenant are redressed in such a way as to preserve substantially the rights of the landlord, yet the Bill is no compromise but a straightforward progressive measure. By bringing law into harmony with national sentiment it disarms agitation, and promises a better state of things for Ireland. Should it fail to become law, or prove ineffectual, England will have the alternative of making a change of a more radical nature, or of facing an Irish revolution; for the new Bill embodies all that can be done without changing the proprietorship of the land.

The verdict of Irish History, as rendered in the perpetual unrest and dissatisfaction of the Irish people, is that the country cannot be happy and prosperous under a land system which while it enriches the few takes bread from the mouths of the many. Such being the case the success of Mr. Gladstone's new Bill is to be desired, for the issue at stake is nothing less than the raising of Ireland from a chronic state of pauperism and disloyalty to her true place as the strong right arm of the British Empire.

May 5th, 1881.

The eleven Graduates were then presented by the Rev. S. W. DeBlois, the Secretary of the Board of Governors to receive from the hands of the President the diplomas to which they were entitled. After receiving them the class ranged themselves around the front of the platform, and Dr. Sawyer gave them an excellent and affectionate address referring to the pleasant association that had existed between them during the past four years, giving a paternal benediction and wishing them "God speed" in their future avocations.

The next part of the programme was the bestowment of the degree of Doctor of Divinity on Rev. I. E. Bill of St. Martins, N. B., Rev. Geo. Armstrong of Keatville, and Rev. S. W. DeBlois, of Wolfville.

The Rev. J. I. DeWolf and W. H. Robinson were admitted to the degree of M. A. in regular course.

Honor certificates were granted to A. C. Chute (Senior) for proficiency in the Philosophical Departments; W. H. Moore (Junior), for proficiency in Classics; and O. C. S. Wallace (Sophomore), for proficiency in Classics.

The Alumni prize of \$20, for the best monthly essay, was awarded to J. R. Hutchinson and O. C. S. Wallace, (Sophomore) being of equal standing.

Dr. Rand announced that Dr. Schurman, offered a prize of \$20 to the first student of Acadia College who should pass the matriculation of the London University, not later than his sophomore year, with a view to taking his degree of B. A. in that body while taking his course at Acadia. Continuing, he complimented the students on the scholarly character of their essays, and said it seemed to him that the college was never in a sounder condition than to-day.

The President then intimated that the gentlemen who had been admitted to Degrees being present might feel disposed to offer a few remarks on the occasion.

Rev. Dr. Bill then briefly acknowledged the honor that had been conferred upon him. He said he valued this mark of esteem from Acadia more than if the great Universities of London, Edinburgh, Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard and Rochester, had all conferred the honor upon him, because he had been so intimately connected with Acadia during its whole history.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong expressed his gratitude for the kindness of the brethren and his Alma Mater, for the honor they had done him. He hoped and trusted that Acadia College would live, and her power and usefulness increase, as long as the province formed part of the great Dominion.

Rev. Dr. DeBlois referred to the fact that 35 years ago this month he stood upon the platform of the old College building, and delivered his essay on "The rights of the red man." From that day to this, Acadia had lived in his heart. He had lived for it and worked for it. He thanked the Governors for the honor done him. For 25 years with but one exception he had introduced the Graduating classes to the President for their degrees.

Col. A. W. Drayson, R. A., on being called upon, said that after the carefully prepared and admirably spoken essays that he had listened to, it would be little short of presumption in him to address the audience at length. But, being a soldier, he was accustomed to, and would obey the order of the president. Some years ago he had the honor of occupying the position of Professor of Surveying and Astronomy in the Royal Military College at Woolwich, and it was his fortune to finally examine some 30 or 40 young men annually who had gone through various branches of study. One of the great arts in life was to employ time. Waste of time was, the rule, not the exception. The most idle people, those who never did anything, were always those who asserted they had "no time." He urged the students to set a high value on time, and improve every minute. A knowledge of languages was valuable, and very easy to obtain. Success in life depended upon what men were able to do, more than upon what they had done. It was not so much what students had accomplished at college, as what they were able to accomplish in after life as the result of their training. A man with a mind stored, was like a soldier who carried many weapons. A man with a mind strengthened was the soldier who could ably use his weapons. The average duration of life was sixty years. An average of 8 hours per day is spent in sleep—which aggregated 20 years; 5 hours daily, eating drinking and idling—15 years; so that there was only 25 years left for real work and intellectual cultivation. The great question was how best to economize those few years, and make every moment a benefit to himself and his fellow men. From what he had heard, he was convinced that at Acadia College good sound work was done, and the course of study was well suited to turn out men well fitted to deal with subjects in the outside world, where their future career would be passed. He congratulated those students who had gained honors, and also the president and staff on the results which by their labors they had been able to produce.

THE DINNER

was all that could be desired, served in capital style in the Dining Hall of the Academy, and thoroughly enjoyed by about 180 persons. After the more material part had been disposed of, the intellectual was brought forward by the President, J. W. Longley, proposing "Acadia College and its president." To this Dr. Sawyer responded, referring to his long connection with the College and the love he bore for it. He was opposed to any consolidation that would destroy "Acadia" and its old associations. The College question had been a burning one in Nova Scotia for the last fifty years, and he believed it would continue to be for the next fifty—and the result would be that all parties would retain their own peculiar opinions. In the recent discussion in the newspapers there was great want of conclusiveness exhibited. He believed that Acadia would live as Acadia College. Its friends should be gratified with the fruits that had resulted from such a small expenditure. He believed that the denomination was ten times better able to support the College now than ever it was before, and he also believed that the rapidly increasing wants of the institution would be fully supplied by its friends. Dr. S. gave it as his opinion that more great men had come from the smaller Colleges than from the larger ones.

Rev. E. M. Saunders was also called

upon to respond, on behalf of the Governors, and said that he had no faith in the proposed conference, or in consolidation: no hope for it, and very little charity with it. He believed that Acadia would continue independent, and as such would do more good for itself and the country, than it could do if consolidated with any other bodies, no matter how judicious that consolidation might be, or how wise the men might be who were endeavouring to bring it about.

The President read a telegram from Attorney General Thompson expressing his regret at being unavoidably absent.

Col. Drayson, in a short but admirable speech, responded to the sentiment of "the Army and Navy."

Dr. Rand responded to the sentiment, "Memories of College days" and brought forth reminiscences of Rev. Dr. Cramp the president of the College of his day, and of his fellow students, and eloquently recalled the inspiration the situation and surrounding scenery gave to the students at Acadia.

The "Sister Colleges" being proposed Dr. Allison, Superintendent of Education, and President of the Mount Allison Alumni Association, said he believed the Mount Allison College had friends to sustain it in the hour of need. He wished to state its high regard for sister institutions, and its joy at every indication of their prosperity. Speaking entirely for himself he expressed his approbation of the proposed conference of Alumni. There might be two opinions as to the advisability of university consolidation; there were grave, and quite possibly, insuperable difficulties in the way of carrying it out, even if deemed desirable, but what harm could result to any good interest from a frank discussion of the question he could not see. We had always found great difficulty in explaining satisfactorily to educationists why there should exist so many colleges in this country. Why should not the friends of our colleges embrace the opportunity of showing that this system was the only possible, or the best one, as they may regard it? He referred in warm terms to the efforts and sacrifices of the Baptist denomination to fulfil their undertaken obligations. Apart from the question of consolidation, there were inconveniences of working our present system, which, he thought, nothing was so likely to rectify as a conference of representative Alumni.

Mr. Robert Sedgewick, on behalf of the Dalhousie Alumni stated that he was very much pleased with all that he had seen at the closing exercises of Acadia College. He hesitated in referring to the question of University consolidation. He would however, boldly avow that the Alumni of Dalhousie were unanimously in favor of some scheme that would unite the educational forces of the country—would concentrate the Arts faculties and provide for the province a University worthy of the name, and comparable in some respects to the institutions of other lands. He stated his willingness that the name of "Dalhousie," should be given up, that the endowments and revenues of the college should be taken possession of, that even its location might be altered, if it, in union with other colleges, could form a University suited to the wants of the Province. He could easily understand and appreciate the reasons why the old men of Acadia should stand warmly by Acadia's Arts faculty. They had done much, worked nobly and sacrificed most magnificently for Acadia. To them, Acadia in its present state, meant sacrifice, and the sentiment of undying fidelity to Acadia could not but be admired. But he wondered how in view of the present recognized inability of any of the Nova Scotian colleges to do the proper amount of University work, in view of the fact that our best men have to go abroad to be educated in advanced learning, in view of the necessity for teaching in such departments as would tend to develop the resources of the country—he wondered how the young men of Acadia declined even to discuss the question.

Professor J. G. Macgregor of Dalhousie College, stated that he felt disappointed with the action of the Alumni of Acadia College in relation to the college question. He said that overtures would continue to be made in behalf of the widower Dalhousie to the widow Acadia, from year to year, and he believed the time would soon come, when the widow would say "yes." A chair in mining is required, agriculture should be scientifically studied. Confederation would secure these and other chairs, and would, in

the highest sense, pay the people of the Province.

The dinner was concluded by singing the National Anthem.

There were several important items of business transacted by the Governors of the College during the four days of their sitting.

1. The chair of Natural Science becoming vacant by the resignation of Professor Kennedy, Dr. BLAICKIE, of Edinburgh, son of Dr. Blaikie who was on a visit to Halifax last year in relation to the Vaudois and Waldensian Churches was appointed to fill the vacancy.

2. Dr. A. D. W. Barss having resigned the Treasurership of the College, Mr. X. Z. Chipman was appointed Treasurer in his place.

3. The Governors determined to sustain the Theological Department and commissioned Rev. Dr. Crawley, and Rev. Dr. Welton to spend as much of the present summer in an endeavour to secure from the friends of the College an endowment of \$20,000 for that Department.

4. Rev. A. Cohoon having with others, by direction of the Convention, made investigations into the financial affairs of the College, and finding some matters requiring immediate attention, the Governors of the College appointed him to spend a portion of the vacation kindly given him by the Hebron Church, on an agency with the special object before him of looking after notes and pledges, and at the same time seek to secure an increase of the Endowment Fund of the College.

5. Rev. E. M. Saunders also consented to undertake a short agency for the College, without salary, with the hope that there might be some enlargement of the Endowment Fund.

THE MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT ON Thursday evening under the direction of Miss Prudie Hartt, of St. John, was a most pleasing and successful affair. It consisted of solos, duets, trios, quartettes, and choruses by Miss Hartt, Miss Richards, Miss Knight, Dr. Daniel, Mr. and Mrs. Harrington, and others.

The additions of Dr. Blaikie, of Edinburgh, as Science Professor of Acadia College, will be quite an accession, and should be a strong inducement to young men to avail themselves of the great advantage offered by the institution.

We have much pleasure in placing the following letter before our readers. It is a very practical illustration of what we have before stated with regard to the position Acadia College occupies in the hearts of its friends, and the view they entertain respecting consolidation. A personal visit is one of the best means of seeing what is being done at Wolfville.

HALIFAX, June 4th, 1881.

To Rev. E. M. Saunders, one of the Governors of Acadia College.

DEAR SIR,—

I am not a member of a Baptist Church, and have not heretofore been in any way interested in Acadia College. I saw your Educational institutions on Thursday last for the first time, and, up to this date, have not contributed a dollar towards their maintenance. I was most favourably impressed and greatly gratified with what I saw and heard, on this Anniversary occasion, and feel assured that your Academies and College have in the past been a great boon to Nova Scotia, and that they are now doing an admirable educational work for all the Maritime Provinces. This fact, coupled with the firm and decided stand recently taken by the Board of Governors and the Alumni Association against "Consolidation," or in other words "Coalition," between Dalhousie and Acadia, has prompted me to send you the enclosed Five Hundred dollars, (\$500.00), which may be utilized in the interests of the College as the Governors may direct.

I am, dear sir,
Yours faithfully,
ANONYMOUS.

The Alumni Association of Dalhousie College had a meeting on Saturday week, when the matter of University Consolidation was up for consideration. They passed a series of resolutions of which the following are the principal:—

And whereas, This Association is willing that the Governors should, if necessary, surrender the charter and endowments of Dalhousie College in order to consummate a union on any desirable basis:

Therefore resolved, That the Association use every means in its power to promote the consolidation of the colleges, and respectfully request the Governors of Dalhousie College to take such steps as they may deem advisable to attain the object in view.

The affection of the Dalhousians for

the other colleges is of late quite remarkable.

The case of Professor Robertson Smith of the Presbyterian Free Church, has produced quite an excitement for some time past among Presbyterians on both sides of the Atlantic. His orthodoxy has been in question and under grave consideration for two or three years. There have been efforts made to avoid the positive exercise of discipline; but at the recent sitting of the Free Church Assembly, a more decisive finding was arrived at. From the *Witness* we learn that—

"It was decided by a majority of over two to one (440 to 218) to approve of the action of the Commission last autumn in suspending Mr. Smith from his work as Professor. The attendance on the Assembly must have been unprecedentedly large, as the vote was very heavy. Evidently there was a mustering of friends and foes to what they regarded as a decisive battle. The friends of Professor Smith must have seen by this vote that their battle was a hopeless one. The final motion was made by Dr. Adam, and it was carried over Dr. Bruce's amendment by a very large majority, the division standing 394 to 231. The minority protested, and from this we infer that the resolution of Dr. Adam has the effect of removing Professor Smith from his chair.

The result is as we expected. It was a marvel of ecclesiastical tactics on the one side and blundering on the other that allowed the Professor to escape last year. His renewal of the strife by republishing his views as strongly as ever was a cruel blow to his friends, and many who fought for him with the greatest gallantry last year were disgusted and alarmed. The feeling against him became intense, in some cases frantic. No palliation could be listened to; and the worthy professor indeed scorned to conciliate. No one can call him a trimmer: but certainly he failed to show due appreciation of the peace of the Church."

The Ocean Terminus of the Intercolonial Railway has now made a long step in advance, and we are likely very shortly to have all that could be desired in this respect in Halifax. The following letter was read on Wednesday last at the meeting of the City Council:

HALIFAX, May 31, 1880.

To His Worship the Mayor of Halifax: MY DEAR SIR,—I have so far completed arrangements in connection with the ocean terminus of the Intercolonial Railway near West's wharf, as to proceed with the work as soon as the city grant the concessions authorized by the Act of Parliament, passed in the Assembly during its last session, conveying to the Government of Canada the city water lots immediately North of the West's wharf property, and the fourteen feet right of way on Water Street along the Dock yard, crossing the said street, near the brick flour shed of the North street depot, in the neighborhood of the overhead iron bridge.

I may mention that early action on the part of the city in this matter is important.

I am, yours faithfully,
CHAS. TUPPER.

This would give a frontage on the harbor of one thousand feet, with ample room for a Grain Elevator, and all other kinds of storehouses for stowing of freight and other purposes.

Ald. Motton moved the following resolution, seconded by Ald. Graham.

"Whereas, The letter of Sir Charles Tupper just now read informs this Council that arrangements have been so far completed in connection with the ocean terminus of the Intercolonial Railway, near West's wharf, as to enable the Dominion Government to proceed with the work as soon as the city of Halifax grants the concession authorized by the Provincial Parliament;

"Be it therefore resolved, That his Honour the Recorder be instructed to prepare such documents as may be necessary for the purpose of conveying to the Government the city water lots and right of way for the proposed railway extension, within the terms and requirements of the provincial Act of last session, and that His Worship the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the same."

After discussion the resolution passed only two voting against it. Names being called for, appeared thus:

For the motion—Ald. Woodill, Motton, Connolly, Clay, Graham, Spelman, Nisbet, Walsh, McLellan, Hesselein, O'Connor Fraser and Mackintosh—13.

Against it—Ald. McPherson and Story.

To signalize the passage of the resolution, Ald. Mackintosh moved an adjournment without further business, which motion passed unanimously.

Newspaper reporters often find it difficult to get the names correct in the denominational gatherings. We find some of our contemporaries in reporting the Acadia College Anniversary proceedings, make Rev. A. Cahoon, Calhoun, Robert McGregor, Esq., Rev. Robert McGregor.