

progress of knowledge at the present time, in various departments of literature, science, and art. At one time it might be the most recent advances in science and art, extending over a few months previous; at another, progress in Geographical or Archeological discoveries for the same time, at another, an obituary list of distinguished men, at another, recent changes in literature, whether polite or scientific, classical or theological, at another, important changes in schools of learning or facts of a more general bearing in connection with them. It must be perceived by all persons of a proper understanding of the necessities of a place of education, that such an arrangement as the last named, cannot but have highly important utility, if properly executed. The writer is not aware that it has existence in any other institution in this Province or elsewhere, in the same systematic form. Of course much of the information conveyed, will come up in regular class instruction, and often it may be in a more impressive manner in institutions fully officered, but in some respects the mode here presented will have its advantages over the other. Again, it may be supposed that the presence of reading rooms in places of education will enable the student to get the information thus supplied. Acadia College is by no means deficient in reading room provisions. We are happy to be informed that it is well furnished with the important periodicals and papers of the day in nearly every department; but the very fact of finding such a mass around him renders it necessary that the student should have the emphatic points sifted out and brought together in orderly associations, so as to fasten them in his mind. This is the more needful from the fact, that his regular course of study and library reading will leave but little time for anything beyond them. This part of the proceedings it may be named has often been enlarged and enlivened with miscellaneous notices from the President.

Such then is an outline of a work which the officers of Acadia College have performed during these two terms, extraneous to their regular class business, (in itself more onerous than is at all likely to be known,) for the instruction and advantages of the young gentlemen committed to their care, and others who at the same time have given their attendance. It may not be considered an unimportant fact, by parents of youth at the Academy, or those who contemplate sending their sons thither, that these advantages are participated in by the Academy equally with the College. Besides the description of exercises thus far represented, it seems a proper connection in which to state, that in addition to the regular College Anniversary, in June, with the nature of which all are acquainted, and in addition to the quarterly examinations of the College classes, and the semi-annual examinations of the Academy, there are literary exhibitions, both of the College and Academy, once in each year. These consist of the speaking of pieces; in the College, original, in the Academy, mixed. And it may be remarked, that the recent occasion of this kind which occurred in the Academy, as already stated in your columns, was of a highly creditable character to all concerned, both to the skillful and excellent instruction, Messrs Harit and Johnston, and to the young men and lads under their care. The audience experienced a profound delight.

This notice is already far extended. At the close of the Term, the anniversary exercises, and the course of instruction for the year, will probably be reported. Just now, one reflection arises, and a serious reflection. It arose in connection with the monthly series of lectures. How long is this scheme of arrangements, and this entire organization for the instruction of the youth of our country to continue? Was that lecture to be the last? it was asked; and no friend of these important institutions could have been present and heard it propounded, and thought of the aspiring and promising minds around him, and of the fact that any measure of doubtfulness could cleave to their coming together again on a similar occasion, and not have his heart ache within him. O! it is a noble thing to witness the palpitations of the youthful heart beating high with the life-thrills of the glorious thirst for knowledge. No grander and more inspiring spectacle does earth know. When imbued with a holy unction and lighted up with the fires of heaven, none is more pregnant with promise for the onward marches of the Church of the Redeemer.

Shall Nova Scotia and New Brunswick expatriate their sons to other lands that they may slake this immortal thirst? Shall the Bap-

tists of these Provinces pass under the dark shades of ignorance, by a suicidal stragulation of a valued place of learning? Is such a cloud of gloom as this destined to overshadow them? Forbid it, thou Sovereign Providence! Forbid it ye right arms of strength, which on former occasions have made the forests tremble, and caused them to do your bidding, in a structure which is now and ever must be a monument of invincible Baptist energy. Forbid it, that strength of will which always discovers itself to be the determining feature in every species of ability. Let this sea of power once be moved in its underlying masses, the united will of the Baptist denomination of these Provinces, and what is the argosy of ten thousand pounds on its surface? How soon will it be freighted to the desired destination! And how soon shall we see not only the present number of officers of instruction established at their posts, but their hands strengthened by more, and the faces of scores of buoyant hearted young men beaming with triumph in the halls of learning of their own native land!

Wolfville, May 6th, 1852.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

DEAR SIR,—The sublime description which is given of the Judge of the world, and the judgment-seat, in Rev. xx. 11, revives in my recollection an anecdote, related by the late venerable Dr. John Erskine, of Edinburgh, which may prove acceptable to your readers.

A young gentleman, lately returned from finishing his education at College, chanced to fall into the company of a number of Christian Ministers, whom he thought to astonish by reciting sublime passages from the poets and orators of the day; and among other things of this description, he quoted with great emphasis and effect, the well-known lines of Shakespeare:

"The cloud-clapt towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself;
Yea, all which it inherits, shall dissolve,
And, like the baseless fabric of a vision,
Leave not a wreck behind!"

Having finished the quotation, he began to pronounce an eulogium upon it, boldly affirming, that there was nothing to be found equal to it in sublimity and grandeur in either ancient or modern literature. An aged Christian, who had attentively listened to the whole harangue, at length interposed, and ventured to question the decision, affirming that he could produce a passage equally sublime. The young man, started with surprise, instantly challenged the point, on which the old gentleman, in a grave and solemn tone responded, "And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the Earth and the Heavens fled away; and there was found no place for them." "Well," said the young man, overpowered with astonishment, "you have indeed made good your point—that does infinitely surpass it, but pray, allow me to ask, where did you meet with it—in which of our classical authors does it occur? In all my reading, I never met with it." "O," said the old Christian gravely, "it occurs in a very common every-day book;" and, calling for a Bible, he turned to the twentieth chapter of the Apocalypse, and laying his finger upon verse 11—"There" said he, "read for yourself." This completed the young gentleman's confusion; he declared that he had read the Bible over and over again, but that he had never noticed that verse before; and with difficulty could he be brought to believe his own eyes!

Unhappily the case of this young man was far from being singular. What wonderful things are there in the book of God, which we all overlook, while our attention is beguiled from day to day with the trifles of nature and with the art of man!

Your's Dear Sir, sincerely,
R. THOMSON.

OBITUARY.

The following obituary having reference to the father of our esteemed brother Rev. Chas. Spurden, we select from the London Baptist Magazine.—Ed.

Mr. Spurden, of 42 Friday Street, London, departed this life in the sixty-fifth year of his age, August 26th, 1851.

His death was affectingly sudden. He was visiting a friend at Bath, and appeared to be in the enjoyment of more than his usual health. After evening prayer, when preparing to retire to rest, he was struck by sanguineous apoplexy, and in two hours, notwithstanding

the best medical assistance, he had ceased to breathe. The mode of his death was one for which he ever expressed a preference. A day or two before it occurred, when speaking on the subject, he had said to his friend, that, were it the Lord's will to give him some preparatory notice of approaching dissolution in order that he might magnify the Lord's grace to him, he could be well content, but that for any other purpose he had no wish for a previous illness, but had rather die suddenly. This wish was connected with the firm assurance he possessed of his interest in the Redeemer's death, and the glory that should follow. At one time of his life Mr. Spurden sought to establish his own righteousness, being ignorant of the righteousness of God. He was satisfied with the integrity of his character, the correctness of his morals, the regularity of his attendance upon the services of his Church. To use his own expression, "I was as proud a Pharisee as ever walked the earth." But it pleased his heavenly Father to visit him with sore affliction, and to sanctify it to his soul. He was brought to see that all his righteousness was filthy rags before the Lord, however sumptuous it had appeared in his own eyes. He was led to the cross as a humble penitent, and was soon clothed by the Spirit's power with the righteousness which is by faith in Christ, and thenceforth was filled with joy and peace in believing. This happy frame he never lost. Introduced into a new spiritual region, he continued to walk therein to the end. Nothing gave him more delight than to descend with some sympathizing friend on the free grace of his Lord. He enjoyed all the gifts of this life with cheerful gratitude, and that enjoyment is enhanced by the thought that they were all purchased for him by the blood of the Lamb, as well as the glorious wishes of his future inheritance. Spiritual mindedness he found to be life and peace. Hence he was ready to live or to die, as it pleased his Saviour—to live with thankfulness, or to die with triumph. Thus his assurance was founded upon the daily evidence of his heart and life that he was a new creature in Jesus Christ; and being such he was ready, in the fulness of health and strength, to depart and to be with him, which is by far better, even when this life is crowned with mercies.

For some time after his conversion, he continued a member of the Church of England, attending the ministry of Mr. Saunders, of St. Ann's, Blackfriars. His two elder children were led to adopt the principles of the Baptists. This induced him to inquire into the subject, and the inquiry ended in his being publicly immersed by Dr. Steane, of Camberwell, with two of his younger daughters. He subsequently joined the Church at Salter's Hall, by which he was chosen to the deaconship, an office which he continued to discharge with singular prudence, forbearance, and integrity till taken to his reward. He was buried in Bunhill-Fields, on September 2d, in the family vault, where his two wives and many of his children sleep in Jesus. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours, and their works do follow them."

The subjoined resolution was adopted by the Church at Salter's Hall, on receiving information of Mr. Spurden's death:—

"That this Church and congregation deeply feel the loss they have sustained by the removal of their late esteemed friend and deacon, Mr. Spurden. His piety was deep, his christian humility and amiable temper very remarkable, and his benevolence, the result of his christian excellence, great. While mourning over our own loss as a Church and as individuals, we beg to communicate the expression of our deep sympathy with his bereaved family, and our hope that the Father of mercies will bind up the broken hearts, and comfort them with the assurance that their loss is his eternal gain."

American Seamen's Friend Society.

The Twenty-fourth Anniversary of this Society was held at the Broadway Tabernacle, on Monday evening, May 10th, P. Petit, Esq., presiding. An abstract of the annual report was read by Rev. H. Loomis, one of the Secretaries:

The receipts from all sources during the year, including a balance of \$243.64 from last year's account, have been \$23,417, an increase of \$2,970.43 over the previous year; the expenditures during the same time, \$23,591. This does not include the amounts raised and expended by local branches and

auxiliaries, and other Seamen's Friend Societies.

The Sailor's Home under the patronage of the Society prospered. The number of seamen who have boarded at the Home within the year, is 3,027, of whom 211 have become officers of ships; 993 have signed the temperance pledge, 370 of them apparently reformed inebriates. Inmates of the Home have deposited in the Savings Bank over \$41,000. Two hundred and eighteen shipwrecked and destitute men have been relieved at an expense of \$683 08, besides a considerable amount in clothing contributed by Ladies' Societies. The number that have entered the Home in ten years, since the House was first opened, is 33,527. Its present condition and future prospects for extensive usefulness were never more flattering.

Another fact denoting progress, is that there are now over \$5,000,000 on deposit in the Seamen's Saving Bank, a considerable portion of which is the property of seamen; the pound expended for them, has thus gained more than "ten pounds."

The Society still continues its missions in China, at the Sandwich Islands, at Valparaiso, in the West Indies, in France and Sweden. It has also sent out chaplains within the year to San Francisco, Panama, Rio de Janeiro, and Denmark, and has one under commission for St. Helena. The chaplains at Valparaiso and Rio de Janeiro are sustained in part by the American and Foreign Christian Union; and the one at Bordeaux in part by other friends of seamen. The Society has also aided three chaplaincies in this country.

These devoted missionaries of the Society have preached the Gospel in public and in private, and in the Bethel, and from ship to ship; have ministered to the stranger, visited the sick, and buried the dead; have distributed Bibles and evangelical books, in many languages, to such of the hundred and seventy thousand seamen annually arriving at their stations, as could be brought under their ministrations or care.

God has set his seal to his word. In nearly every station there have been more or less hopeful conversions to Christ; and others under awakening have gone out, to be converted at sea; and revivals have occurred on ship-board.

The report takes a cursory view of the doings of local societies on our own seaboard, and on the western waters. In our own seaports there are twenty-seven chaplains laboring among the 250,000 seamen annually arriving in them. Twenty-four ministers and thirty-two canal missionaries also have labored among the 250,000 boatmen and inland sailors of the West. Here, too, as well as on the foreign field, God hath wrought with his servants, and honored his own Gospel; many have been the triumphs of his grace. In some of the Bethels on our seaboard, have been revivals of considerable power and extent; in nearly all of them individual awakenings and conversions:

WHIPPING THEM INTO THE TRACES OR OUT OF THE GEARING.—The *Canada Christian Advocate* closes an article on the Methodist reform movements in the United States in the following language:

"When the spirit of the movement becomes insulting and disdainful, when the church is scandalized and its ministry and government contemptuously treated by these officious laymen, it will be time enough, and God will give us grace for the battle, to whip them into the traces or whip them out of the gearing altogether. Until then we will be happy and united—and with them pray, 'heaven speed the right.'"

SINGAPORE.—From a letter, dated Singapore, March 6, it appears a very lamentable accident had occurred at Palembang, by which nearly all the Dutch officials at that station met a watery grave. On February 20, the European residents, twenty in number, were crossing the river in a cutter, there being a strong wind and current at the time. By some accident the vessel upset and went down. The resident, Lieutenant-Colonel de Brsaw, and nine other gentlemen, were saved, but the remainder perished.

THE Rev. C. Moore, who lately, in full canonical, cursed a magistrate of the county as he was getting into his carriage at the Flordon station, has been deprived of his license by the Bishop of Norwich.