

A DISCOURSE.

DELIVERED BEFORE THE CONVENTION BY
REV. W. P. EVERETT, AT THE 34TH
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(Continued from last week.)

Now we will pass to the third Department of our Convention work, viz., that of

EDUCATION.

Of the immediate and pressing demands of our Educational Institutions, it is scarcely necessary for me to speak, since the Governors of the College keep the matter so clearly and persistently before the Denomination. The endowment of \$100,000 for the College, proposed and undertaken in 1877, should either be completed, or the equivalent of the interest on the balance should be paid annually by the Churches. Enlargement of the College in the line of additions to its Faculty of Instruction, and also to its sphere of operation, should be provided for.

For the law of simple life is ever to demand continuous growth.

This has been demonstrated in the history of Acadia, and we must not only provide liberally for the maintenance of the Theological Department, but at no very distant day, arrangements must be made for a Scientific School,—and some day the sturdy progressive Baptist yeomanry of our land will demand that provision be made for the scientific training of their sons in that culture which is rapidly becoming a most popular and profitable form of culture—I mean Agriculture.

I foresee that one day Acadia College must have a Department of Instruction in Agriculture, and in connection with it a model farm.

Thus it must inevitably happen, that as one generation of instructors and patrons bring the sphere and work of the College up one rise or plane higher than did their predecessors, there will still be looming up other Alps, upon whose successive heights each generation will not only aspire to place,—but, by the logic of events, will be actually forced to elevate our Educational Institutions. Therefore, sober as the fact may seem to be, there will never be a period when our Institutions of learning will not require steady accretions of pecuniary resources.

In the Academical Department which our Denomination needs to be at least one new Academy established to serve as an additional feeder to the College.

The Governors of Acadia should be directed by this Convention to report to this body at an early period on the feasibility and practicability of establishing and sustaining an Academy in the Province of New Brunswick, in such location as promises the most success. Unless this be done soon, many promising students, and many substantial friends may be lost to the College, who might otherwise have been attached to it.

Of the Theological Department, its necessity and status, so much has been ably presented to the Denomination by the facile and graceful pens of Drs. Crawley and Welton that little more is requisite to be said. As to the location of that Department, I imagine that the great masses are willing to continue it at Wolfville, because there it can be sustained more cheaply, and perhaps, under the present circumstances, more efficiently than in any other place.

An annual appropriation of not less than \$2500, however, should be forthcoming for its support. But now, having presented a view of the necessities of those Departments of enterprise which this Convention has actually obligated itself to support, let us glance at the means by which this obligation may be fulfilled. In other words, let us approach the question of

FINANCE.

And permit me just here to express the conviction that the period has now arrived in the history of this Convention when our increased responsibilities render the question of Finance more prominent and imperative than ever before, and the consideration of the wisest and ablest business men of the Denomination is absolutely necessary.

The Convention has now assumed the control of the three great leading benevolent interests of the Denomination. By this consolidation of our work in the Convention, we have expected to increase the harmony and strength of the body.

Now that Home Mission work is to stand with Education and Foreign Missions on the basis of perfect equality, so far as its claims to the pledged support of this Convention are concerned, we must see

that whatever efforts are put forth to secure the necessary financial support of each Department, shall not bring the respective Boards into any collision or that any one Department be permitted to flourish at the expense of another.

Hence the need for the immediate initiation of some general financial scheme whose merits shall command the general co-operation of the whole Denomination, and while the burdens be made to bear equally on the brotherhood; the cause of Education, of Foreign Missions, and of Home Missions, should each have its just proportion of support, no more and no less. And this proportion of support should be measurably determined by this body, and so settled as to shape the course of the respective Boards, and the benefactions of the Churches.

Measures should be adopted whereby the collection of financial resources should be effected in the most economical manner consistent with success, and with the least friction possible.

If this be not attended to, the result will be jealousies, unholy rivalries, and differences between the respective Boards, and finally the disintegration of the Convention itself.

In considering the financial question we ought at the outset to remember that any general financial effort which hopes to prove successful, must first of all recognize a fact which is ever patent to any careful observer, namely, this, that as a Denomination, we have comparatively few who may be considered very wealthy, and that our hope of sustaining our benevolent operations should not rest on the wealthy as a class, nor even on those whose circumstances, are a little beyond moderate. Modern events, such, for example, as the manner in which the severe financial crises of nations, have been met, show conclusively that even the most adroit financiers, when they require large sums, must look to the common people for a response. This was illustrated in the time of the recent civil war in the adjacent Republic, and at a later period in France, at the close of their contest with Germany. To the surprise of the world, the people in moderate circumstances, and not millionaires or capitalists it was that poured in the millions called for, even to the extent of superabundance. And so it is with us as a Denomination. The money to sustain our Denominational enterprises is among the money we must go where it is. And we must not ask them for too much at once, nor for too little, but for just what we can make them see is necessary.

There are 35 or 36,000 members in our 350 Churches, and I believe I can see in their possession an average sum of one dollar each, which they will cheerfully give if rightly approached, to sustain the objects which this Convention has taken in charge, and for which they must procure pecuniary support.

Already a large number of sisters in the Churches have been trained by our wise and thoughtful W. M. A. Societies to give their two cents per week or \$1.00 per year to support Foreign Missions. Can we believe that other sisters and the brethren would, under right treatment, prove less tractable than those who for several years past have been presenting us all with such a noble example?

Will not this Convention, therefore, be pleased to consider some scheme whereby we shall secure this \$35 or \$36,000 which would furnish aid on a scale approximately to the following.

For Home Missions, including Colportage, Book and Tract Depository, say	\$14,000
Foreign Missions	9,000
Education, including College, Theological department and Academical work in two Provinces	9,500
Total	\$32,500

The balance, of \$3,500 ought to pay expenses of collection, and leave over \$2000 to be expended in aiding infirm ministers and indigent students, not only those destined for the ministry, but for other professions and calling. For I believe, we need educated men in the pews as well as in the pulpits, and worthy christian young men should be assisted to obtain an education, even if they do not feel it to be their duty to enter the ministry.

I know there will be difficulties arising in executing any plan that may be devised to raise this large sum by small contributions from the many. But I believe it can be done, and principally, by an agency which has not yet been as fully employed as it should be. The pastors of churches, and many an intelligent member of the church might be drafted into the service, who would help to evoke the requisite enthusiasm, and call out the christian

liberality of their brethren.

Fathers in Israel, Brethren and Sisters of the Churches, I implore you to aid in making ever memorable in our history this session of the Convention held in Truro, with a church, which I am happy to say, is a prime leader in sustaining our benevolent enterprises. Let us, pastors and delegates, who are present, enter into a solemn covenant before God that we will sustain and carry into effect any resolution which may be passed here, looking to the accomplishment of the result I have indicated.

Let us no longer be willing to receive gold from God, and pay out brass. No longer let us allow the habitual rule of our expenditure to be dollars for self and cents for Jesus and suffering humanity.

By all that is august in the authority of God's word,—by all that is affecting in His mercy and love, whose footsteps from heaven to earth, from Bethlehem to Calvary were all toward wretched sinners;—by all that is momentous in the destiny of human souls ready to perish, are we summoned to go up and possess the land in the name of Jesus, and to make the sacrifice that God demands at our hands.

Let us no longer fritter away our time and strength in frivolous and unprofitable debate, but remember the apostolic injunction "But foolish and unlearned questions avoid knowing that they gender strife."

Certainly we have no longer any necessity to test the solidity of the objects or organizations comprised in the work of the Convention. Have they not all passed through ordeals sufficiently severe to prove that none of them are mere beautiful bubbles, that will not bear handling without being dissolved into thin air and impalpable moisture?

Let us determine on a general armistice, and not re-open the discussion of questions which most of us had fondly believed were settled.

It is not seemly in us as christians to become the imitators of the ancient pagan Greeks, who mutually suspended hostilities that they might enjoy the pastime at Olympia, and then when the games were concluded, abstinence having whetted their appetite for war, they resumed their animosity and bloody frays. At the last Convention many of us yielded to what seemed to be the only possible adjustment of a vexed and vexatious question, and we felt ourselves henceforth bound to keep the contest? Let us who live in the largest Province of the three be generous, for we ourselves in the time of overwhelming calamity but two brief years since, were the recipients of a world's wonderful generosity.

Let us be as loving and as wise as was that ancient mother who stood in the presence of Israel's royal sage, and when she saw the glittering sword about to divide her living child, demonstrated beyond doubt, her manifest right to the child by accepting of the alternative less dreadful than death, of giving up possession of the child to the other claimant.

There is no profit, brethren, in death, or what leads deathward; there may be in life.

Let us try and obliterate the geographical lines that may interfere with our blessed work of home evangelization. Let that couplet of the poet be rendered as inapplicable to our Maritime Provinces, as it now is to the England and France, which filled the eye of the poet Cowper, in fine it was rolling, and he exclaimed

"Lands intersected by a narrow frith
Abhor each other."

As we look on our broad fields of labor, "white unto the harvest," let us bear in mind that among agriculturists, he would be considered but an indifferent and shiftless farmer who spent most of his time and resources each year in erecting new fences, or in raising higher his old ones. Such a farm, under such a management, that yielded but little else than fences, would not prove to be a profitable investment, I ween.

Brethren, ascend some Pisgah's height from which you may view our goodly field which the Lord God hath promised to us for a possession. On that Nebo's peak, strive to obtain the spirit of consecration. Hear then the Divine Spirit inviting you to "go up higher." Get higher in piety and nearer to God, so that you may have power to elevate men, and to lead them to Christ. And above all the din of busy life and all the alterations of the potherds of earth, as they strive with each other, listen ye and be inspired by the divine voice of Him who says to us to-day, Behold the Lord thy God hath at the land before thee: go up and possess it as the Lord of thy fathers hath said unto thee:

fear not, neither be discouraged."

Let us from this day put forth all our united energies to hasten on the glad day of the world's redemption, when "the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the wood shall clap their hands, and instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier, shall come up the myrtle tree, and it shall be to the Lord for a name for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

O blessed power! O glorious day!
What a large victory shall ensue,
And converts who thy grace obey,
Exceed the drops of morning dew!"

A Training School For Domestic Help.

BY ADELE M. FIELDS.

We have our Vassar, our Wellesley, our Oberlin, and many other famed and valued institutions for the instruction of female teachers, physicians and artists. We have the appliances whereby to fit those in the higher walks of life for their special vocations; and blessed is America that she possesses all these means of grace. These are at the crest of the wave of civilization, while at the bottom are "Homes," "Retreats," "Refuges" and "Hospitals," for those whom no help can ever in this world lift wholly out of the mire. Between these two, there is a great multitude of women whose needs are wholly unprovided for. Scores of European women are daily arriving on our shores, and coming into our homes for our weal or woe. Most of them are ignorant, impudent, wasteful and dishonest. No two house-mothers talk together for half an hour, without allusion to their trials in the kitchen. Probably there is no way in which so great a boon could be bestowed on American house-keepers, as by supplying them with reliable and skillful household help, and no way in which so real good could be done to female servants, as by giving them an education which would truly fit them for their sphere.

The cost of an institution for the training of domestic help, would be no more than that of other great colleges, and its effect no less beneficent. A three years' course, including careful instruction in reading, writing, the ground rules of arithmetic, moral philosophy, and the Bible, would not be too long for the formation of cleanly habits and sober tastes. The curriculum should include marketing, cooking, kitchen-gardening, laundry work, and all the details of housekeeping. We might hope that one good woman might endow a chair of millinery, and another a chair of dress-making, as our Trevors and Colgates endow chairs of Greek and Hebrew in our Theological Schools. In this way, special skill might be attained in particular branches of domestic labor, while complete preparations would be made for doing the entire work for a small family.

One difficulty in the way of success for such an institution, would be the inability of those who most need this education to pay for it. This might be met by a fund from which worthy applicants could borrow, giving security for the payment of the amount within three years after graduating. Ladies who were interested in the welfare of certain of their own domestics, might send them to be educated, with the expectation of being repaid by their services afterward. As the work of the school would all be done by the inmates, and as there would be an income from the restaurant with which it would necessarily be connected, the expense to each pupil should be no more than the cost of her food.

Another obstacle would be the fact that a very large proportion of the domestic servants in America are Roman Catholic, and such will not enter a strictly Protestant school. But there are a sufficient number of Protestants to fill many such schools, and the extra value given by such an education to Protestant servants, would be giving strength to what is desirable to strengthen in our land.

The effect of such schools would be to make domestic service respectable. One who holds a diploma and performs skilled labor is apt to respect himself and others. It would eventually add immensely to the number of well-ordered homes among working people. It would immediately give comfort to many a care-worn mother and distracted household. The welfare of the state depends on the welfare of the family, and the welfare of the family depends on good domestic management. Where is he who will do for our kitchens what Vassar has done for our parlors?—
Swatow, July 30.

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