

# CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS"—2d Timothy, i. 13.

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## THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR

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ST JOHN, N.B.

IN THE LAST PEW.

She sits, bent o'er with wrinkled face,

Poor and forlornly old; no grace

Smooths the sharp angles of her form,

Long buffeted by life's slow storm.

All else around is fine and fair;

The stained light falls, a golden glare,

In seeming mockery on her loose, gray hair.

The preacher, faultlessly arrayed,

Tells how our hearts afar have strayed,

And how all souls should be content,

With these good blessings God has sent,

And one, of all that self-poised throng,

Hangs on his words nor deem them long,

And humbly thinking only her heart is wrong.

She meekly mumbles o'er the hymn,

Her eyes with age and tear-drops dim;

What can this gay world hold for her—

This worn and weary worshipper?

Now, rustling down the aisles in pride,

They toss bright smiles on every side,

For does she know the hearts such fair looks

hide.

And still she sits with tearwet face,

As loth to leave that sacred place;

The organ, with quick thunder riven,

Lifts her sad, trembling soul to heaven;

She feels a sense of blissful rest,

Her body hands across her breast,

She clasps, and slowly sighs, "God knoweth

best!"

One day, within some grander gate,

Where kings and ministers must wait,

While she hopes humbly for some place

Far from the dear Lord's shining face,

Above the chant of heavenly choir

These words may sound with gracious fire:

"Well done, good, faithful servant, come up higher!"

## Contributions.

For the Visitor.

MATRICULATION INTO ACADIA COLLEGE.

The "Calendar for Horton Collegiate Academy and Acadia Seminary for the year 1881" has been placed in my hands.

It announces an important departure from previous usage in regard to matriculation.

On page 12 of the above mentioned Calendar.

Any one bestowing careful study upon this new method of admission into

College must deem it imperfect, partial and

unlucky of the highest and best interest

of both Horton Academy and Acadia College.

It is difficult to conceive how such a

backward step could have been taken in

the last two years.

At present candidates for matriculation

that prepare at Horton are examined, not

by the Professors of the College as formerly,

but by the Teachers of the Academy. I

will quote for the sake of those who may

not have received the Calendar.

Classification in Horton Academy.

Every recitation is marked on a scale of

10.

Daily marks are combined with the

Second grade—those whose average is from 4.5 to 6.5.

Third grade—those whose average is below 4.5.

By vote of the Faculty of Acadia College, first grade students from Horton Collegiate Academy are admitted to College as full matriculants (?) without examination,

on presentation of a certificate from the Principal of the Academy. Students of the second grade are admitted on probation for one term; if, during that time, they improve their standing they are then fully admitted.

Students must have been in the Academy at least three months to get the benefit of this arrangement! (The italics are mine.)

So reads this wonderful piece of legislation. This system of marking may answer well enough for the standing of students in the Academy; but it is an unexampled instance, so far as I can learn, of an Academy passing its students into a College by means of its own marking.

Entrance into College demands the fulfilment of two conditions, viz.

1st. That the candidate be possessed of fitness to enter.

2d. That the examination be impartial.

We claim that the latter is violated, and that the former has been and in all probability will be violated. Examinations are wholesome or injurious according to their character. If rigid, thorough and impartial they have a powerful influence in advancing education, especially in the direction of thoroughness and comprehensiveness. They are reckoned an essential in all progressive institutions. But on the other hand, loose, imperfect, partial examinations are a curse to the examined and the school in which they are held. To insure thoroughness and breadth of culture, the functions of instructor and examiner should not be performed by the same person. Instruction is apt to run in grooves when these two functions are combined. Their separation is a principle of nearly universal application, and is regarded by educationists and practically acted upon as one of the fundamental principles of written examinations. Note a few of its applications. Law students, medical students, teachers, civil service candidates are examined by men who have not been their instructors. This principle is in operation in many Universities and ought to be in all.

By the present system, admission to College is in the hands of the teachers of the Academy. Without entering into a discussion of the question whether self-interest has not here an unrivalled opportunity of gratification. I would like to ask who are the right and most competent judges of fitness to enter College—the teachers of the Academy or professors of the College? I will illustrate: In the year 1877 an unsophisticated youth came to the Academy. The Freshmen secured their prize. He was examined and passed into the Sophomore class. It was considered a good joke on the Sophomores. Are the authorities at Wolfville joking? According to this theory, every teacher who can prepare a student for College is qualified to judge of that student's fitness to enter College and to pass him in. Will the teachers of Horton Academy object? Surely not, else they arrogate to themselves a superior wisdom and an unenviable distinction. Let us have the best examiners and the proper ones.

Sufficient has now been written to prove the dangers and defects of the present system of Examination. It violates the fundamental guarantee of fitness, it encourages the sending of unprepared students into College, it presents an open field for the working of self-interest, and does not secure the proper or most competent examiners. One of the gravest faults of the present administration of affairs in Horton Academy is to rush as many students as possible into college without due regard to thoroughness in elementary education and mental discipline. I have heard Dr. Sawyer declare repeatedly that Acadia College was not eager to secure a large number of undergraduates, but that she preferred few and well trained to many and untrained. Many have stated to me that they regretted now, but too late, that they had not spent another year in the Academy. They were crippled in the beginning of their course and went halting through it, and will through life. Thoroughness in the Academy implies thoroughness in College and vice versa. But if, under the former method of matriculation, some have entered College not prepared as fully as they ought to have been, what will be the result when the authorities in the Academy have the power of matriculating as many as they choose. Never was there ever invented a surer method to lower the standard of admission, to send unprepared men and boys into College, to deteriorate the College and blow one's own trumpet without let or hindrance.

It may be said that the Professors have the power to dismiss the second grade student, if after a probation of six months, he has not improved. Probation is a farce. The same result is always reached—the student is retained.

But this system is unfair. Rank in class

and matriculation prizes depend upon the entrance examination and require the same set of examiners. Now, those who prepare at Horton have one set of examiners and those who prepare elsewhere have another set. But what means that last sentence in the quotation from the Calendar: "The benefit of this arrangement!" What benefit? That of being examined by the teachers of the Academy instead of the Professors? Very doubtful benefit to the student, the Academy and the College. Or is it the benefit of getting into College by an easier way than that open to the poor fellow outside of Horton Academy, that of climbing up some other way? But what about the "three months" attendance at Horton? What great and elsewhere unattainable good will he get by being three months in Horton? What is the object? shall we say that it looks like an attempt to get the credit of sending so many into College by holding out, as an inducement to pass through the doors of Horton Academy, the privilege of entering College by a way to which some unknown benefit is attached, thus appropriating the results of other men's labors? But behold there are too doors of entrance to Acadia College! Some time since there were two ways of obtaining an Academy License in Nova Scotia—one through the Halifax University and the other through the regular examination of teachers. The students of Acadia, backed by the Faculty, petitioned to have that injustice done away. Let us not stultify ourselves and perpetrate a like injustice. Fair play is Englishmen's play. This injustice is felt by many students and teachers throughout the Provinces. Talk about raising the standard of Education. The present system has the inevitable tendency to lower that standard. The standard cannot be raised more effectually than by rigid, thorough, and impartial examinations. Then, when this is attained, and the functions of examiner and instructor are separated both in the Academy and the College, a brighter day for Acadia will dawn, and she will have less cause to blush on account of some of her graduates. If Horton Academy wishes to have the honor of fitting a large number for Colleges, let her, by the quality of instruction she imparts, command it; but let her not seek to gain notoriety by unfair means.

CRITO.

For the Visitor.

OTTAWA CORRESPONDENCE.

THE OTTAWA CHURCH ACCIDENT.

MR. EDITOR,—I am quite sure that our Baptist friends in New Brunswick will sympathize with the Rev. A. A. Cameron and the church over which he presides in the sad loss which befel them on last Sabbath morning. About one o'clock the people living in the vicinity of the Baptist Tabernacle were aroused from their slumber by a loud noise. When daylight came it was discovered that nearly the whole of the ceiling of that fine edifice had fallen. The congregation assembled for worship in the basement that morning. After service was over the writer accompanied by several gentlemen from the Maritime Provinces were admitted to the audience room of the building, and found that about three fourths of the ceiling including plaster, lath strapping, and arch timber had parted from the rafters and had fallen a distance of some thirty feet or more, carrying with it the chandeliers, and lay spread out over three fourths of the pews.

Had the accident occurred a few hours later when the congregation were in their places, the loss of life must have been fearful. Very few indeed could have escaped serious injury if not sudden death.

The accident—if accident it can be called—is certainly due to carelessness on the part of some one. Looking at the wreck as it now lies it seems evident that proper care was not taken in the construction of that part of the building.

The loss is estimated at something like twelve hundred dollars and will bear heavily upon the resources of the church, as I understand there is a debt still due upon the original construction of the building amounting to a large sum.

THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT.

The friends of Temperance in the Maritime Provinces must experience a feeling of relief to know that the attempt which has been made in the Dominion Parliament to render inoperative the Canada Temperance Act, has signally failed. It will be recollected that last year a Mr. Boulbee, in the interest of the Licensed Victuallers' Association, introduced an amendment to the Act which would require a majority of all the votes in any county to be cast in favor of the Act to ensure its adoption.

During the recess the Dominion Temperance Alliance and the different temperance organizations, warned by the occurrences of last session, have taken steps to checkmate any second attempt, should it be made, and the result has been that a similar amendment has been voted down in the Commons by a majority of twenty-eight.

One thing is assured by this vote, the Act will now have time given it for a fair trial, and it is expected that the Government will at once set to work to make some needed amendments to the Act which will prevent litigation in some of the counties in which it has already become law, and ensure its adoption in most counties of the Maritime Provinces.

The future of prohibition depends upon the success of this law. The friends of temperance now, more than ever, require to work. Should they fail in their duty the act will be repealed and years must again elapse before it would be possible to secure anything like prohibitory legislation in the Parliament of Canada.

I hope the day is not far distant when the provisions of the Canada Temperance Act may be applied to this city, and that in its application the bars that are in full blast may be closed forever. Any one who has been present during any of the protracted night sittings of the House, must have been forced to conclude that the sale of intoxicating liquors is something that should no longer be tolerated in a place devoted to the making of laws for the good government of the country. N. B.

P. E. I. CORRESPONDENCE.

APPRECIATIVE.

DEAR BRO. H.—Do not think because I have been silent so long that I have forgotten you or the cause generally. My hands and my heart being so fully employed in the work is the principal cause of my long silence. Be assured, dear brother, we prize your labors very highly in conducting the VISITOR. The pittance we pay for it is but a small remuneration for what we receive. I am surprised that any Baptist family in New Brunswick could be satisfied to do without it. I congratulate you on having secured such a staff of correspondents, and hope to be pardoned for making special reference to your English correspondent, Rev. J. E. Cracknel. His writings have the ring of a true Baptist, and a warm hearted Christian.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

I left Charlottetown on Monday Jan. 31st by train to attend the Quarterly Meeting at Knutsford, about 40 miles west of Summerside. The snow was deep and the weather stormy but we reached the place in time for the evening meeting. The settlement is comparatively new. Previous to the summer of 1877 there were only three Baptists in the place. The Lord sent Bro. E. H. Sweet here in the summer of 1877, whose labors were blessed in the awakening of the people and in the conversion of several. He then being called away to attend his mother's funeral, Rev. Isaiah Wallace spent a few days and carried on the work. He spent one Sabbath and baptized 14 persons on a profession of their faith. Brethren D. G. McDonald, E. H. Sweet, D. H. Simpson, J. S. Brown and E. B. Corey then labored a short time in the field and many were added to the Lord. Pedobaptists seeing converts multiplying gave some lectures on baptism which were met by Rev. D. G. McDonald. The result of this controversy was to establish the truth as it is in Jesus more fully in this place. The brethren then felt encouraged to organize a church. Still they experienced great difficulties having

NO HOUSE OF WORSHIP.

Rev. E. N. Archibald is now laboring here part of his time, and with his accustomed zeal and faith, encouraged the church to arise and build a house for God. They now have the outside finished, and good seats with a nice pulpit, so that it is comfortable for holding meetings. The brethren have accomplished all this with only \$40 in cash at their command. John R. Calhoun, Esq., of Summerside, with his usual benevolence, has presented them with a splendid chair for the pulpit, also six dollars in cash towards finishing the house. The church at Bedeque gave them a very good second hand stove which warms the house nicely. Rev. W. B. Bradshaw, whose health I am glad to say has greatly improved, preached the opening sermons Sabbath 50th. As the storm prevented the brethren attending the Quarterly Meeting the pastor resolved to hold

SPECIAL MEETINGS,

which, notwithstanding the storms have been well attended, and with encouraging prospects. There seems to be a general awakening and some have found Christ. On my return to Charlottetown yesterday I found Pastor MacDonald engaged in extra meetings and much encouraged. Three were baptized last Sabbath and others are expected to follow.

MISSIONARY MATTERS.

We are laying plans to hold Missionary meetings all over the Island. By the way I would advise the brethren not to talk so dispondingly about the resignation of Bro. Armstrong. The Lord is able to provide, and is providing men for the field. Besides, if Bro. Armstrong cannot look upon some things that he considers defects on our part, it is not likely that his labors

would be very largely blessed. It is my opinion that both the salary and the general treatment received by our Foreign Missionaries are far superior to our Home Missionaries. If Bro. Armstrong can find a more congenial field of labor, why not allow him to go in peace.

DONATION.

A large number of friends met at the residence of Dea. T. K. Wood's this evening and after spending a very pleasant evening gave me a purse containing fifty dollars, (\$50) which is a great blessing. They seem already to have received a rich reward in the shape of good feelings, but a greater reward awaits them.

Yours in the work,

D. W. CRANDAL.

HOME MISSIONS.

The Baptist Home Mission Board of the Maritime Provinces met in monthly session, in the vestry of the First Baptist Church Yarmouth, Feb 14th.

REPORTS

were read from missionaries Skinner, Howe, Jordan, Whitman, James Gerow, Henderson, Bars, Mutch, Kidson, Saunders, Smith, Caldwell, Hayward, Grant, Manzer, and McGregor.

The quarterage voted on the above reports amounted to \$417.94.

THE TREASURER

reported receipts of the month \$235.04. About \$600.00 still remaining unpaid on orders drawn at previous meetings, it will be seen that we need at once \$1000.00. Many of the brethren to whom the amount is due, greatly need the sums voted them. Will not all the churches and brethren send help at once? The whole amount received for the half year ending Jan. 31st, is only about \$1000.00, and when it is remembered that there was a deficiency of \$554.24 at the close of the last year it is clear that the present debt is not on account of extravagant expenditure.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS.

The following from the reports will show that God is blessing some of the stations occupied:

Bro. A. Whitman writes:—"We have been holding special meetings in Greenfield and they have not been in vain. The church has had the joy of salvation restored to her and sinners have been converted to God."

Bro. Henderson, Andover.—I have been much encouraged in the work during the quarter. My mind has been directed to a new settlement called Birch Ridge, about 15 miles from Andover, where about 30 families have settled within the last two years. I found eight Baptists belonging to four different churches. Have held some meetings and there seems to be a deep work as if the Lord was moving the hearts of the people. Four have been baptized, and a church will shortly be organized."

Bro. Kidson reports:—"The cause in Sydney is progressing favorably. At South Bar the cause is in a prosperous condition. Several of the converts have proved to be valuable to the church in the exercise of their talents. Point Edwards is comparatively a new station. The attendance is good and the meetings interesting."

Bro. A. H. Hayward, Carleton Co., N. B.—"We feel encouraged in regard to the field of labor. Two churches have been planted during the past year, and we have now in contemplation the organization of a third, in a place called Windsor, where we have been holding special meetings for the last month; we have already baptized 12 converts, and expect to baptize others."

GRANTS MADE.

1. Twenty-five dollars to the Brooklyn church, Kings Co., N. S., to assist in retaining the services of Bro. Fletcher till June 1st, 1881.

2. Seventy-five dollars in Sydney and Grand Mira, C. B., to assist in retaining Bro. F. A. Kidson for one year, from Jan. 1st, 1881.

3. Seventy-five dollars to the Shediac church, N. B., to assist in securing the services of a pastor for half of the time for one year.

4. To the 2nd Falls church, St. George, N. B., fifty dollars to assist them in retaining the services of Bro. Stewart for part of the time for a year.

5. To the following grants in York Co., N. B., as grouped by the convention of the York Co. Quarterly meeting.

(1) The Canterbury field including Canterbury Station, Howard Settlement, Barbony Dow Meeting House and Eel River. At the rate of \$100 per year, till August 1st, 1881.

(2) Springfield field including Springfield, Maple Ridge, Millville, Temperance Vale, Upper Queensbury, and Bear Island, at the rate of \$100 per year till August 1st, 1881.

(3) Keswick field including the 1st and 2nd Keswick churches, at the rate of \$100 per year till August 1st, 1881.