

Doubtless many a mind enfolded the slumbering possibilities of colossal greatness, and profoundly conscious of its own inherent worth, has felt as its earliest experience in the race of being the cold icy breath of the tempest, and looked on skies darkly ominous, and has folded its wings and walked among the common herd, where it might have soared in magnificent flight had the sky of hope and of prospect been clear, and had the stormy blast slept. Many a youth of broad capacious brain, with a soul deeply stirred by the loftiest and grandest impulses that animate the higher nature, has struggled manfully and well against the wild waves, that threatened to quench the sacred fire within; but has sunk in the unequal contest,—killed by the relentless force of circumstances. Every avenue of existence is thronged with intellects, whose prospects have been thus darkened, whose hopes have been thus blasted, whose energies thus weakened, whose capacities thus dwarfed and paralyzed, whose usefulness thus destroyed. How many noble men have stood forth as champions, and inspired the highest expectations, but suddenly they vanished from human gaze, why? "chill penury repressed their noble rage, and froze the genial current of the soul." Fast on many a sunken rock, deep buried in many a treacherous shoal, far down in the slimy depths, and amid the rayless gloom of the vast ocean of human life, lie splendid wrecks dashed to ruin in the wild rough play of circumstances. Said one "between two worlds life hovers like a star twixt night and morn, upon the horizon's verge. How little do we know that which we are, how less that which we may be. The eternal surge of time and tide sweeps on and bears aloft our bubbles; as the old burst, now emerge lashed from the foam of ages while the graves of empires heave but like some passing waves." He who is to-day followed by the noisy flatteries of fawning sycophants, and the ringing huzzas of admiring crowds, is to-morrow the miserable object of hisses, and curses. The present weaves a wreath which the future will tear from the brow, and trample in the dust. We mean not that man is totally and entirely the child of circumstance; but that its mission as respects the eternal destiny in the moulding of which it is a potent worker is beyond human control. Men may and do rise superior to circumstances; but they cannot get away from their subtle and potent influence. "Strong as iron though light as air," they magnetize and fetter, and often master, and rule. They encircle every period of life, and modify the decisions of all. They flow with a current now smooth, anon turbulent, always swift. They beat down the hoary insti-

tutions of ages, and heap the dust of forgetfulness on many a cherished shrine. Their black desolating track stretches through universal history, and is a sad monument of their terrific power to warp, to enslave, to hinder the steps of progress, and of truth. To classify or analyze them our perceptive glance is too weak. They cover the world, and crowd into every life, oftimes with maddening confusion and over-powering might. Swifter than the red winged lightning, or death-dealing avalanche, they burst upon human structures, moral and physical, and where are the stately piles? There is not a solid well-grounded fact, there is not a grand achievement emblazoned upon the indestructible walls of mind, matter, or space, that has not been fiercely tested in the blazing furnace of hostile circumstances. Many of the noblest spirits of earth have there developed the pluck and gumption, that crowned them victors in many a stern onset. He who struggles against dark depressing circumstances grapples with a foe mighty, cruel, hideous, clad in mail, finely tempered, closely fitted, skilfully used, and armed to the teeth. He who can fling defiance at his withering glance and parry his wily thrusts, must have a stout heart, and an iron nerve.

Circumstances enfold the destinies of nations, as well as of individuals. In the bud sleeps the full-blown flower. In the bosom of some unnoticed circumstance, repose the grand and vital possibilities of a nation's rise or fall. The cackle of a goose once saved Rome, and a thoughtless jest once shook a mighty empire to its centre.

Away upon the Rocky Mountains, a tiny rill trickles from a steep overhanging cliff, so situated, that a gentle breeze decides whether the crystal drops shall go to swell the mighty volume of the Mississippi, or mingle with the waters of the Rio Colorado. Many a fact pregnant with wealth unknown, has hung tremulously awaiting the mystic touch of surrounding forces to give it a mission.

*(To be continued.)*

#### HORTON COLLEGIATE ACADEMY.

This Institution has for a number of years occupied an important position in the educational affairs of our Province; whether it be considered as a feeder of the College, or independent of that, as an educational institution. In the former sense, by supplying, as it were, a connecting link between our common schools and the College it must ever be considered as indispensable to the growth and prosperity of the higher school. In the latter as supplying a good qualification to per-

sons wishing to follow the profession of teaching, it is of equal importance.

In viewing this Academy from a College stand-point, its importance cannot easily be over estimated. 'Tis to it we look for the recruits to fill up the ranks of our freshman classes, and by means of it, our faculty has been enabled to keep the matriculation standard at a much higher figure than in the other Colleges of these Provinces. The founders of our College well understood that such a preparatory school was essential to its growth and advancement. Hence they set out on their most laudable undertaking, by first establishing on a substantial basis Horton Collegiate Academy.

From that day up to the present it has been advancing steadily until now, under the efficient management of Prin. Tufts, it has become a first-class Training school. The prospect at the opening of the present term is decidedly favourable. The numbers, in both male and female departments, are large. The staff of teachers has been increased by the addition of Mr F. H. Eaton, A. B., and also Miss McGee. Mr. Eaton's reputation as a teacher has already been established, and we understand his efforts in the Academy are well appreciated.

The large and commodious boarding-house for the pupils of this institution is now rapidly approaching completion, and will be ready for occupation in the course of a few days. This building is a handsome structure, elegantly finished, pleasantly situated a little to the West of the College, and is capable of accommodating one hundred pupils, including dining-rooms, kitchen, &c. Much credit is due to Prin. Tufts and Prof. Welton, and also to Jas. A. Macdonald, Esq., of this Village, and others, for the large amount of work done in connection with this building. They certainly deserve, not only the thanks of the Denomination throughout the Provinces, but also the hearty co-operation of every friend of the institution, and of the cause of higher education, in their noble work. We congratulate them on their well-earned success already achieved, and hope that in collecting the amount yet required to liquidate all debts, their success may be more than commensurate with the past.

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