

THE  
CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MAY 8th, 1879.

A WORD FOR OUR STUDENTS.

COLLEGE "commencements," or rather, as they should be called, college "closings," are now the order of the day. There has been a re-enactment of the old scenes, grinding examinations, plucking for some and honours for others, graduation, speechifying, banqueting, and the "Good-bye." And now it is vacation. There has been an opening of the prison to those who have been bound by classics and mathematics, medicine, law, and theology. \* Not a few students come forth from the halls of learning to return no more. Out into the great practical world they go to win a name and a fortune. The Divine presence go with them, and give them the noblest success. With the mass of the escaped students, however, it will only be a few months of recreation, and then back again to complete their preparation. We wish these a summer vacation fruitful in health and enjoyment and usefulness, and an autumn return with recuperated strength and unclouded hope.

The work in our own Theological College in Montreal seems to have been well done for the session just closed. Sixteen young men have been under mental and spiritual discipline, and they have been studious and hopeful. A few of these go forth to enter fully on the work of the ministry, and the good wishes of the churches accompany them as they assume new burdens. One of the students has carried away the Chapman Gold Medal in the McGill University, over which event we feel no little pride. Others are to spend the summer supplying vacant churches, thus supplementing their theoretical acquisitions with some good practical work. To these we would commend a few suggestions, which we are sure they will not take amiss.

The vacation of these young men is to be a working-vacation. We are glad of that. The pressure of class-preparation is so great during the session, that practical effort is almost entirely excluded. Reverse the order for the vacation, and let the practical supersede the theoretical. It is not enough that a student for the ministry should be able to see through a book, he must see through men. He must not only master the theory of a volume, he must master men. We shall never forget a sentence spoken by Mr. Beecher to the class of 1872. "Your aim, my brethren," he said, "is not to make men scholars, but to make men like Jesus Christ." And after all, it is men, not books, with which ministers have to deal; and theories must be accorded second rank to lives. The vacation spent with a church affords a grand opportunity for practical observation and work, an opportunity which we hope our young men will not

lose. Let them remember that to be scholarly is not so noble as to be manly.

The vacation should be used to tone up exhausted physical powers. There are too many sickly students, and ministers. And as a rule, it is because they are careless about the maxims of health. Sessions are hard on both brain and body. Vacations should refresh both. Our young men will not be a whit the worse for early rising, for a good stiff walk every day, for a horseback gallop, for a day's fishing now and then, or an hour at Hanlan's exercise. Rugged powers will grow out of manly effort, and when the autumn shall summon the workers back to their tasks, they will go with a fund of health needed to carry them through. The idea should be discarded that a student should look pale and interesting as a sign that he is working hard. Bronzed cheeks, hardened hands, strong lungs, are grand possessions for a preacher. Health will keep him above the billows of depression, and will help him to enter his Master's service with joy.

Can we send any better wish after our young men in their various fields, than that the summer may find them all both healthful and useful?

CHRISTIANITY A LIFE.

"PLEAD for your Christianity as eloquently as you like, but till I see your professing Christians live different lives from other men, I can not believe in Christianity." These words were uttered recently by an intelligent young German to an English gentleman at Cannes. How many are like this young German? Multitudes. You find them everywhere. They may be called unreasonable. It may be said that Christianity ought to be received on its own credentials. But is there not, after all, in the above statement, a demand for one of its most important credentials—the transformation of the life of man? This kind of evidence is the most tangible. Few have either the ability or disposition to examine the historical evidence in favour of it. But every one can see the evidence which consists in a changed life. When a sordid creature is made liberal, a malicious person gentle as a dove, a selfish, worldly soul benevolent toward all, on-lookers everywhere see this. They cannot gainsay it. Nor do they want to. At heart men are looking for what will make them better. And if they were fully convinced that Christianity would do this, they would without further hesitation embrace it. Of this you cannot, however, convince them by words. You may order your arguments never so wisely, and advance them never so earnestly. It will fail to win them in seven cases out of ten. But a pure life fails seldom. When professing Christians will live differently, in private and public, from those who make no profession of religion, then shall the Gentiles come to the Gospel's light, and kings to the brightness of its rising.

News of the Churches.

REV. R. W. WALLACE, M.A., will preach in Bond street Church next Sunday, morning and evening.

REV. E. EBBS, of Naperville, Illinois, was in the city last Sunday, and was present at the morning service in Bond street.

THE friends at Lancaster, gave a very hearty welcome to Mr. G. H. Fuller, student, on his beginning his labours among them for the summer vacation. The manse has been comfortably furnished for Mr. Fuller and his family. At the welcome-meeting, speeches were made, full of kindly feeling towards the college, its principal and students. Mr. Fuller commences his work with an abundant expectation of good service for Christ.

THE anniversary services of the opening of the Congregational Church, Paris, Ont., took place Sunday and Monday, 27th and 28th ult. Rev. Mr. Barker, of Brantford, who was advertised to preach the anniversary sermons, could not attend by reason of a fall from his horse. His injuries have kept him out of the pulpit two Sabbaths. His place was supplied by Rev. Mr. McDonagh, Methodist, in the morning, and Rev. Mr. McLeod, Presbyterian, in the evening—both of whom preached very instructive and interesting discourses. The supper on Monday night was well patronized. Speaking and singing were good. At this annual supper all appear to be pleased. Every year increases the good name, and general satisfaction of the public with the festival. The pulpit and platform, surrounded with blooming house plants, presented a very beautiful appearance. The singing of the Messrs. White, with guitar accompaniment, delighted the audience, as they always do. The gross proceeds, including special collection on Sabbath, amounted to over \$135. Much credit is due to the ladies for the way they do their share of the work.

INSPECTOR STREET CHURCH, MONTREAL.—The service for the ordination to the Christian ministry of Mr. A. L. McFadyen, B.A., a recent student in the Congregational College B.N.A., was held on the evening of 24th April, in the Inspector street Church, Montreal. Rev. H. Wilkes, D.D., LL.D., presided. On the platform were the Revs. G. H. Wells, Prof. Fenwick, J. F. Stevenson, LL.B., A. J. Bray and J. L. Foster. Alderman Nelson, M.P.P., was also present. Rev. Mr. Foster led the devotional exercise. The Rev. Dr. Wilkes then asked Mr. McFadyen the usual questions on such occasion, all of which were answered in a satisfactory manner. The Rev. A. J. Bray was called upon to offer the ordination prayer, which he did with earnestness befitting the solemn occasion. Rev. Mr. Wells delivered an address on the past history of the church, relating how Mr. McFadyen became known to them. Ald. Nelson, M.P.P., spoke on the same subject, expressing the good feelings in respect to the young pastor that rendered the call to this charge unanimous. Rev. Prof. Fenwick gave a splendid address for the edification of young men preparing for the ministry. The Rev. Mr. Stevenson delivered the charge to the people, in which he referred to the importance of close fellowship and common work between pastor and people, and exhorted the people not to trouble their pastor by small and trifling affairs of daily life which will disappear of their own accord, but to consult him on matters of special moment. On the following evening, the congregation had a social gathering to welcome their new pastor. Mr. R. S. Glendening occupied the chair. Congratulatory addresses were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. Wells and Doudiet and Aldermen Nelson, M.P.P., and Childs. A hearty welcome was extended to the pastor. The pastor replied in appropriate terms. Music was furnished by the Inspector street Church choir. Mr. Reed presided at the organ. Songs were sung by Mr. Greene; duets by Miss Carter and Miss Woodworth. The pastor and people heartily enjoyed their first evening and felt enthusiastic over their work.

It is said that too persons have become members of Father Hyacinthe's Gallican Church, and that Protestantism is gaining strength in France with astonishing rapidity.