

—except as medicines or in cases of emergency,—there can be no doubt but that their productive forces both of hand and brain would be largely increased and the sum of happiness would be augmented. And if the money now being spent for stimulating drinks were wisely turned to positive account and fairly distributed for the promotion of human welfare, all that is wholesome for the physical and intellectual life of men might be provided in abundance. Look for instance at the drink bill of the United States: In 1899 the people of the United States consumed alcoholic drinks to the value of \$973,589,080, and \$173,308,742 worth of non-alcoholic stimulants. The latter item included \$134,695,145 worth of coffee, \$33,613,588 worth of tea, and \$5,000,000 worth of cocoa. The whole represents a yearly per capita expenditure for beverages of \$15.09, assuming that the population of the United States last year was a little over 76,000,000.

The Ordaining and Deposing of Ministers.

EDITOR MESSENGER AND VISITOR.—Will you kindly give me through the MESSENGER AND VISITOR a little information regarding the ordaining to and deposing of persons from the Baptist ministry.

The pulpit at Sackville is now vacant. As I understand it, if they should decide to do so they could engage some man not now recognized as a clergyman by any denomination, then call a council, selecting such persons as they themselves might choose,—say the pastor and a lay delegate or two from the Amherst, Moncton and Salisbury churches. The members of this council would come together and, if in their opinion it was advisable, proceed in a semi-official way to set apart the man the church had selected to the work of the gospel ministry. It might be that this man had made application to the convention which had last preceded his ordination and that body to a man had refused to entertain the application, but at their next meeting in he walks a full-fledged minister, with equal rights with any person there and eligible for the office of moderator. Later, if this man who has been so set apart commits an act, which in the judgment of certain members of a church, say in Nova Scotia, demands his expulsion from the ministry, another council is called at which, it may be, none of the original council are present. They may not even know that the latter council is called, but the offending member is deposed from the ministry, and when next the convention assembles it is found that one member who was present at the last meeting is, without any action or, perhaps, desire of theirs, expelled and disqualified from membership.

Is this correct? If so, I, rather hesitatingly I admit, being a layman, venture to express the opinion that improvement in the method of procedure is not only possible but advisable.

To begin with, it would seem to me that no person should go forth clothed with a certain authority to speak in the name of the denomination, as every ordained minister does, unless he has received that authority from the denomination itself or from some person duly representing it; and in the next place that authority having been once given it should be revoked only by the body conferring it.

That is, that the convention, or one of the associations, better the former in my judgment, acting on behalf of the denomination alone should set apart any person to be recognized as a Baptist minister, and that should occasion arise that body alone should displace him from the office to which he had been so set apart. L.R.X.

Reflections by the Way.

BY J. D. F.

THE LONG PARALLEL.

The Imperial Limited is speeding west across the prairies. From the rear platform of the last car we look backward over two lengthening lines of glistening steel. They seem to converge. Could one believe the testimony of his own eyes, he would affirm that the distance between the rails is rapidly diminishing. A mile back they are apparently but a handbreadth apart. A moment more and they must surely clash. Yet we know 'tis but an ocular illusion, we have come over those rails in safety and comfort, they link us to our home, they stretch in one long parallel from ocean to ocean, not an inch do they swerve from an equal course throughout their vast trans-continental span. From end to end of the splendid system they maintain their harmonious and mutually complementary relation.

And is it not thus with the road which God has builded for his people across the continent of this earthly life? The rails over which the car of heavenward destiny runs follow the lines of Divine Sovereignty and Human Freedom. If at any time as we view them from the swiftly moving train, these two great facts appear conflictive, we must ascribe the phenomenon to defective vision. A correctly analyzed personal experience and an understanding of the purpose of the road dispel the illusion. There is no clash. "The elect" are the "whosoever will." From end to end of the gospel system God's

electing grace and man's free choice of Christ constitute a persistent parallel.

THE CURVE.

Still the Imperial Limited speeds west across the plains. On these vast level stretches the track might be laid straight as the crow flies for a hundred miles. Yet presently we find ourselves sweeping round a tremendous curve. We ask for an explanation and the conductor answers after this fashion. The curve is inserted to steady the train. Upon a perfectly straight track a train can only run safely for a limited distance, after that it will grow dizzy, as though intoxicated by its own movement it will sway upon the track, unless its equilibrium is restored presently it will jump the rails. The curve restores the equilibrium, and the train balanced, sobered, steadied, flashes on its way once more in safety.

When the conductor had passed this thought remained. For a like purpose doth God put the curved line into the experience of his people. Teach me, my Lord, this lesson, that thou hast sent me round the curve to steady me, thou seest it is not safe for me always to glide forward on a straight and level track. Thou knowest this foolish head and heart, and how soon the intoxication of prosperity sets me rocking on the rails. Therefore in mercy thou didst send that sickness, and impose that burden, and deny me that ambition. They are curved lines inserted in my life to quiet me, lest I leave the track. Even so, Father, for so it seemeth good in thy sight!

THE GAP.

Still the Imperial thunders on its westward course. Now we are climbing the "foothills" which rise in tiers of sculptured heights to the mighty mountain range beyond. An hour more brings us under the very shadow of the castellated heights, which tower abruptly above us, a seemingly impenetrable barrier. Who can pierce those iron hills, or climb those awful steepes? But presently a bend in the line brings the train between two almost vertical walls of dizzy height. "Through this gateway" says our guide-book, "the Bow river issues from the hills." This is the famous Gap by which the Rocky Mountains are entered. A little later we find ourselves in speechless wonder and delight amid the surpassing splendors of the peaks.

Once more the heart receives instruction by the way. An inward voice is whispering, there's always a gap in the hills. When God sends a train to the mountains he cuts a gorge for its passage. Let me not grow discouraged when the way seems steep and duty frowns like a precipitous wall of rock above my head. Let me walk by faith. "When God commands me to go at the wall, it is for me to go at it and for God to see that I get through it." He will surely show me a cleft in the rock. Perhaps when I least expect it a bend in the road may reveal the passage through the rent mountain side. "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass." Let me remember also, that

"The path of Duty is the way to glory:
He, that ever following her commands,
On with toil of heart and knees and hands,
Thro' the long gorge to the far light has won
His path upward, and prevail'd,
Shall find the toppling crags of Duty scaled,
Are close upon the shining table-lands
To which our God himself is moon and sun."

Acadia Notes.

ATTENDANCE.

The registration of students at the three institutions to date is as follows:—College, 137; Seminary, 50 residents, 44 non-residents; Academy, 44 residents, 23 others taking more or less work. Additions will be made to the enrollment of each of the institutions after Christmas.

ACADEMY BUILDING PROJECT.

At a recent meeting of the Governors, the subject of chief interest was the project for enlarging the accommodation and equipment of Horton Academy. It will be remembered that the Convention at its last meeting, on the recommendation of the Governors, adopted a resolution to expend \$15,000,000 on the Academy, on condition that the work of construction should not be begun until the entire amount had been raised. The consideration of this resolution in detail was then committed by the Governors to a special committee, with instructions to report at the November meeting of the Board.

The committee met on the 21st of last month, and devoted a day to this special matter, reporting to the Board at the meeting immediately following. The report of the Committee, which was adopted by the Board, embodied the following recommendations:—

1. That the idea of utilizing Chipman Hall in connection with the Academy building scheme be abandoned as impracticable;
2. That an effort be made during the present College year to raise \$11,000 for the Academy, which sum, added to \$4,000 accruing from the Forward Movement for building purposes, would make up the \$15,000,000 required;

3. That Principal Brittain be requested to undertake the work of solicitation;

4. That the further consideration of building plans be postponed until the effort for raising the means shall have been completed.

Principal Brittain will test the situation, by beginning the canvass during the Christmas vacation. If, as is earnestly hoped, the encouragements prove to be substantial, arrangements will be made under the direction of the Executive for such further abences on the part of the principal as may be necessary to carry forward the scheme to completion. Mr. Brittain is proving himself a very capable head of the Academy, with organizing ability, a special aptitude for handling boys, and general capacity for developing the institution along sound and healthy lines. The Governors are satisfied that if the increased equipment contemplated can be furnished, the usefulness of the Academy will be correspondingly enlarged. In view of the fact that this is the department which has been especially starved and neglected, the demand for \$11,000 is a very modest one indeed, and one that should awaken a prompt and cordial response. Principal Brittain will make his own representations respecting the scheme from this on.

SEMINARY RECITAL.

On Monday evening, the 3rd inst., the teachers of the Seminary gave a public recital which was highly creditable, and much enjoyed by the audience. The performers were Miss Gilmore, Mrs. Chubbuck, and Miss Reynolds, teachers in piano; Mr. Max Weil, teacher of violin; Miss Drew, teacher of vocal music; and Miss Brown, teacher of elocution. The pianists presented selections of a high order, and rendered them with admirable execution. Under Miss Gilmore's directorship the piano department of the Seminary is excellently served. Mr. Max Weil, who is perhaps the foremost violinist in the province, and who appeared before a Wolfville audience for the first time, showed himself a masterful and finished artist, to the great delight of all present. The Seminary is very fortunate in having secured the services of so distinguished a teacher as successor to the late Professor Siebels. Miss Drew, as a recent acquisition to the staff, was received with great favor. She has a rich and thoroughly trained contralto voice, as well as a self-possessed and pleasing manner before the public. Her selections were of the best, and her rendering of them was full of spirit, sympathy, and artistic expression. Miss Brown, the elocutionist, who is also a newcomer, did what we think it would be well if elocutionists would oftener do: she took a piece of good literature, full of movement and color,—La Esmeralda, by Victor Hugo—and in a free, happy, natural way, without mouthing or stagey excess of any kind, interpreted the piece to the audience. It was highly pleasing and effective. One is disposed to wish that Miss Brown would pursue that vogue: it is the one sure way to establish elocutionary performances in connection with young ladies' schools in the favor of intelligent people. Altogether the Seminary is to be congratulated in respect to its staff, and on the excellence of the programme at the recent recital.

PATRONAGE OF THE SEMINARY.

When we add to the opportunities for intellectual and artistic culture which the Seminary furnishes, the social and Christian elements of its life, one cannot get over his wonderment that the numerous Baptist constituency of these provinces should not be sending more than 50 young ladies to enjoy these advantages. The constituency ought easily to give to Principal McDonald the 80 young lady residents who could be taught by the same staff, and whose presence would not only enlarge the Seminary's usefulness, but would solve the financial problem, and make life a joy to those who are carrying the administration. Brethren and sisters have you not daughters who should be here, and whom God has made it possible for you to send here? If so, open correspondence with Principal McDonald without delay.

Wolfville, Dec. 5th, 1900.

T. TROTTER.

Literary Notes.

The Influence of Christ in Modern Life will be the title of the Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis' new book which will be published early in December by The Macmillan Company. It will be a study of the new problems of the church in American Society.

We have just received from The Copp, Clark Co., Limited, Toronto, a new catalogue of their Christmas books, entitled "A Feast of Good Things." It has been designed to assist the undecided in choosing holiday gifts, but we think the booklet will be treasured for its own sake, as it appears in such an attractive form, made bright with extracts from the several stories, and illustrations from the books.

During the year The New York Outlook has more than maintained the high standard of previous years. Its discussions of current events and issues are always of great interest and value. Its editorial articles are of high character and its contributed articles are a very strong feature. Among recent articles of special interest and value may be mentioned those by Dr. Arthur Smith and others dealing with China and the Chinese question. The series of articles on Shakespeare, by Hamilton W. Mabie, and the autobiographical articles, by Booker T. Washington, now running, constitute very attractive features. The Outlook's illustrations are remarkably fine.