

Messenger and Visitor

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The Associated Alumni and the Alumni Professorship.

Some years ago the Associated Alumni of Acadia undertook the work of supporting a Chair in the college. Considerable enthusiasm was called forth at the time in support of this project, and it was hoped that the alumni of the college would cooperate in it so vigorously as to make it possible, not only to support the chair from year to year, but also to raise a fund sufficient to secure its permanent endowment. Probably no one will say that this hope involved an extravagant estimate of the financial ability of the Alumni of Acadia, or that it could reasonably be considered as counting too largely upon the warmth of their feeling toward their alma mater, but, so far, results have fallen far short of realizing the hopes then entertained.

We have not at hand the data for a statement as to what has been done year by year for the Alumni Professorship since the project was undertaken, but the statements which Secretary Hutchins lately sent out to the members of the Association, shows that, for the two years preceding that now current, the falling off in the annual contributions has been very serious, and that on the first of June, 1899, the debt of the Alumni Association to the Board of Governors of the College on account of the Alumni Professorship was more than \$2,000. Moreover in the urgent appeal of the Secretary lately published in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, it is intimated that there is good ground to apprehend that for the current year the receipts of the Association will be smaller, and the disparity between its undertaking and performance wider than ever before.

We cannot but feel that it ought to be possible to make a more encouraging report in respect to this work of the Alumni Association. But at all events it cannot be said, we think, that the lack of results is to be charged to any lack of earnestness and activity on the part of the secretaries of the Association. The members of the Association and the alumni in general, have been addressed from time to time through the columns of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR in reference to the support of the Alumni Professorship, and they have also been approached individually. But while a considerable number have contributed generously, it is quite evident that the contributions have not been sufficiently general and generous to make the undertaking of sustaining a chair in Acadia other than a continual embarrassment for the active members of the Association. Of course it should be considered that a large number of the alumni are contributors to the Forward Movement fund, and that fact doubtless has had much to do with the falling off of the receipts of the Alumni Association during the past two years. We cannot but think, however, that if there were a really general and hearty interest in the matter, it would not be difficult, under present conditions, for the Association to raise the \$1200 a year necessary for the support of the Alumni Professorship, and then, after the Forward Movement fund shall have been completed, gradually to accumulate a fund sufficient for the endowment of the chair.

The living graduates of Acadia, together with those who have studied at the college without completing the prescribed course, must now run up well into the hundreds. Of course many of them are away from these Provinces, but few of those have forgotten their alma mater. Few of them, we suppose, are rich, and yet the aggregate of wealth represented in the Alumni must be very considerable, while both in wealth and in numbers there is a steady increase from year to year. A comparatively small annual contribution from each alumnus would be sufficient to make up the amount required to discharged the obligation which the Association has taken upon itself in respect to supporting a chair. After having entered upon this work it would seem a shame that the Association should withdraw from it, and that in the face of the fact that, as we have said, the members and wealth of the alumni are constantly increasing. But certainly it will be impracticable for the Association to go on, failing to meet its obligations every year and accumulating a debt to the Governors of the College.

It is perhaps worth while to say here that the Alumni Association of Acadia is not composed exclusively of graduates of the College or of persons who have studied at Acadia for a time. We believe that we are correct in saying that any person of good character, who is sufficiently interested in our educational work, may become a member of the Association by paying their annual membership fee of one dollar. We would suggest in this connection that there are probably a number of places in these Provinces where there may be found a number of graduates of the College and others especially interested in our educational work, who might render excellent service to the good cause in forming branch Alumni Associations. Such Associations could be made nuclei of educational influence, gathering in those interested, encouraging all who would contribute to the work of the Association, holding meetings—with occasionally a grand public meeting to be addressed by the President or one of the Professors from the College, and thus doing much to educate the community, and especially the young people, in sympathy with our educational work. We are sure that the Alumni Association, which holds its annual meeting in Wolfville at the time of Anniversary, would gladly encourage such a work and that its officers would be ready to give any information in this connection that might be desired.

Compassion on the Multitudes.

In the Bible lesson for the current week, the thought of the careful student will be arrested by the statement that Jesus was moved with compassion for the multitudes, because they were distressed and scattered as sheep not having a shepherd. Not indeed that this statement indicates anything exceptional on the part of Jesus, for the gospel narratives show that he was always being moved with compassion for the multitudes. But his attitude toward them was so strongly in contrast with that of others—the Jewish rulers and teachers of the day—to whom a large class of the people, in their ignorance and sinfulness, many of them suffering from extreme poverty and various forms of disease, seemed unworthy of any sentiment more kindly than contempt. This people, they said, which knoweth not the law is accursed. And so, neglected and despised by those who should have been their guides and helpers, the multitudes appealed to the compassionate heart of Jesus. They seemed to him like sheep without a shepherd, exposed to the attacks of wolves and robbers, and to all the ills and enemies to which the unshepherded sheep in the east is a prey. Too much of the same old Pharisaic and Sadducaic contempt of the multitudes survives, even in what is called the Christian world, today. There is indeed much more of sympathy with human need and suffering now than of old. This kindlier feeling and the benevolent ministries which it prompts are in great measure, directly or indirectly, the fruits of the Christian spirit working in society. Many are moved with desire more or less strong to do something for the help of the world's distressed millions. But comparatively few are willing to be shepherds to the multitudes according to the conception and the example of Christ, and to accept the service to which Christ called his apostles and to which he is still calling men. Still the harvest is plenteous, and the great need of the wide world-field today is for men to go forth into it, men who are willing to accept Christ's appointment, with his conditions of service, and be his ministers to declare and to embody the divine compassion for the unshepherded multitudes.

2. The treasure of the divine grace is committed to earthen vessels. The gospel which the world needs must be proclaimed by human lips. The Son of God became Son of Man that he might declare the gospel to men, and it is the divine plan that the truth which Christ revealed should pass from heart to heart, and from lip to lip, until the great work of redemption be accomplished. When our Lord would enlarge the sphere of his work in Galilee and Judea in the interests of the needy multitudes, he honors his disciples by associating them with himself in the work. These men who had been attracted to him, who had heard his call, believed in him and learned of him, Jesus now commissions and sends forth to be the heralds of his truth, the dispensers of his grace to their fellowmen. They were imperfect men, with natural faults and failings in common with a sinful humanity, yet the Lord counted them worthy, putting them into the ministry. To be associated with Jesus Christ in his ministry of redemption is the greatest honor possible to men. And we must not think that this honor is open only to an elect and favored few. There are

no arbitrary barriers to Christian apostleship. The door of the Christian ministry is open wide to every believer. It is not for all to go forth as these twelve were called to go. For many the most valuable service for Christ will be rendered within the narrower circle of their own homes and the ordinary avocations of life. It is not for all to assume distinguishing names and duties as ministers of Christ. But it is the privilege of every true believer to be associated with Christ in his work of love and salvation, it is the privilege of every one who "hears" to say "come," and thus to be Christ's minister and apostle in the world. There is room for many workers of many kinds and of various ability. The man of ten talents can find room for the exercise of all his powers, and the man of one talent, faithfully devoting it to his Lord's service, will obtain rich reward. It would be unwise to conclude that, because we know little of the work of a number of the apostles, their ministry was insignificant in results. Consider the men of any particular time, there are but a comparatively few of them whose names survive in the records of history. But among the thousands forgotten there have been many grandly endowed, and whose influence upon the world has been quite as great as that of many whose names shine upon the pages of human history. Among God's most faithful and honored servants there are many of whom the world has never heard. When church history shall come to be studied in the light of a world to come, there will be many surprising revelations.

3. Our Lord did not send his apostles forth into the world that they might occupy important positions, to obtain recognition for their abilities, to establish a name and a record, and to be called Rabbi, Rabbi. The aim of their going was not to get but to give. They went forth as the almoners of the divine bounty. "Freely ye have received, freely give," said their Lord. And though there was no money in their purse and they carried with them only the merest necessities of travel, they did not go forth empty. They carried to the lost sheep of the House of Israel that which is more precious than silver and gold. It is well for us to consider today, as we are impressed with the needs of the world, that still its greatest need is that which is carried by men who have learned of Christ, and have been made the ministers of his grace to others. The multitudes today have many wants, physical, intellectual, social, but their greatest need is to know God and Jesus Christ his Son whom he hath sent.

Editorial Notes

—The Committee of Arrangements for the Winnipeg Baptist Convention have decided to put the opening day forward one day, making it Friday, July 6th, instead of Thursday, July 5th. This, we are informed, has been found necessary because the Ontario and Quebec people wish to travel together by boat, and the boat does not leave Owen Sound until Tuesday evening, July 3rd, enabling its passengers to reach Winnipeg the following Friday morning. See a statement from Rev. C. A. Eaton on page 13.

—At the annual meeting of the Congregational Union for England and Wales, Dr. Joseph Parker was chosen for a second time to preside over the body. The preacher of the annual sermon this year was Dr. P. T. Forsyth, of Cambridge, a man of large scholarship and deep spirituality, who, though a comparatively young man, has come to have a recognized place among the leading men in the denomination. Dr. Forsyth was heard with great interest at the Congregationalist Council last September, in Boston, where he discussed the ground of authority for Christian belief.

—The Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in South Africa is a God-fearing man. It is well known that he discourages the use of intoxicating liquors in the army, and his influence generally over the moral and religious interests under his command is doubtless for good. The London 'Baptist Times' is disposed to claim Lord Roberts as a Baptist, stating that, if not actually a member of the denomination, he is, at least, in full sympathy with the principles for which Baptists stand. When in London he regularly attends Gower Street Strict Baptist church, and when in Devises, one of his country seats, he always worships at the Strict Baptist church.

—Mr. James Barnes, special commissioner for the Outlook in South Africa, writes of Lord Roberts as follows: "One day I saw Lord 'Bobs.' I came upon him at headquarters, surrounded by a group of staff officers. It was quite unexpectedly I ran across him. . . . There was the man of Kandahar! Yet he was so simple, so good to look at, so kindly, so different from what I had expected, that I had to learn him over again, on the spot as it were. He was not old, he was not young, he was not middle-aged. His firm mouth with its downward lines, was neither hard nor soft, but purposeful. Beneath the honest breadth of brow his gray eyes were keen, frank, and youthful, but they suggested that they had seen much. He was small in stature, but he did not suggest lack of inches; he had the well-knit, compact figure of the man who rides cross-country. Manner he had none; he had the glamour of self-forgetfulness that marks the truly great. He was just what he was. I wondered if he were ever dif-

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