

## Messenger and Visitor

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### CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

The Consolidated School in connection with the public school system of the country is still in the experimental stage in this part of Canada, but its principle is one which generally commends itself to educationists, and enough is known of the working of the consolidated school elsewhere to justify the expectation that it will be successful here. These are obvious advantages in bringing together in one large school or academy the pupils from a considerable district of country, instead of having them taught in small schools scattered over the district. There is the very important consideration that it makes possible the grading system, by which the pupils are arranged in departments according to their attainments, and each department is placed in charge of a teacher who is especially acquainted with and adapted to the work required to be done in that department, thus economizing labor and securing much better results than would be possible in a mixed school in which one teacher must attempt to meet the needs of pupils of very different ages and attainments. It is easy to see, too, that in the consolidated school there will be advantages for the pupils, not only in the quality but also in respect to the range of instruction given, which are not at all to be had in the ordinary country school. The aim of the consolidated school is in fact to give the country districts equal, and in some respects superior, advantages to those now enjoyed in the towns. Not only will the pupils have the advantage of instructions by competent teachers in all the ordinary studies of the different departments of a high school or academy, but instruction in special subjects, such as Manual Training, Domestic Science, Music, Physical Exercise, etc., is made possible. Besides this, the indirect educational influences of the consolidated school are important. Every one knows how unattractive the ordinary school house and its surroundings are apt to be and how destitute of everything that appeals to the aesthetic side of a child's nature. In the consolidated school, with its large and handsome building, its attractive, and well kept grounds and its gardens where the mysteries and utilities of plant life may be studied, the impressions received unconsciously by the developing mind of the pupil would certainly be very different from those received at the ordinary country school, and they would be in the best sense educative.

As said above, the consolidated school is as yet in the experimental stage in this part of Canada. But the plan has been tried and found both workable and highly valuable elsewhere, and we have no doubt that its value will be demonstrated in these Provinces. One such school has been in operation in Middleton, Nova Scotia, during a part of the school year just now closing, and as we understand, with very satisfactory results. The principal difficulty apprehended in connection with the working of the school was that, during the time of cold and stormy weather and bad roads, it might be impossible for the vans, by which the pupils from the more distant sections of the district are brought in, to make their regular rounds on time. We understand, however, that little or no difficulty has been experienced in this respect, and indeed the average of attendance at the consolidated school has been better than that at the district schools under the old system. At Kingston, Kings County, N. B., a fine building for a consolidated school has been erected, and the school will be opened under very favorable auspices at the beginning of the next school year. A consolidated school is also to be established at Mount Herbert, near Charlottetown, P. E. I. The establishment of these schools has been made possible with little or no additional expense to the rate-payers by the McDonald Fund donated by Sir William McDonald of Montreal for that purpose. It is altogether probable that the object lessons which these schools will afford will lead to the establishment of other similar schools in many other parts of the Provinces. These other schools will have to depend upon local resources with such increased aid as the Provincial Governments may give. However, the expense of maintaining a consolidated school will not probably be very much greater than that of maintaining the present district schools in the territory which the consolidated school

would cover, while the advantages to be secured would almost certainly pay for the increased expenditure many times over. A short time ago Dr. Inch, Chief Superintendent of Education for New Brunswick, addressed a public meeting at Hampton, showing the advantages of the Consolidated School and intimating that, the Government was prepared to give substantial aid to any district which might decide to establish such a school. There is said to be a probability that on P. E. Island two consolidated schools will be established besides that at Mount Herbert.

There is little doubt that all the Provincial Governments will recognize the fact that the large advantages which the consolidated school affords will fully justify a considerable increase in the school grants for the purpose of establishing these schools at suitable centres, and accordingly if the people feel inclined to establish such schools, they will probably receive substantial encouragement from the Government in doing so. Aid might be expected also from private sources. Other men of large means may emulate the munificence of Sir William McDonald in helping to improve the common school system of the country. It may be expected, too, that in different localities men who, though not millionaires, are possessed of some wealth, would feel moved to bestow some of their surplus for the aid or the endowment of the consolidated schools in their neighborhoods. Under the present district school plan the cause of public instruction is not likely to receive much aid from such sources, but with the consolidated school taking the place of the little red school house, the public school system might reasonably expect to benefit by the donations and bequests of benevolent and public-spirited citizens.

### THE ART DEPARTMENT OF ACADIA SEMINAR

THE MESSENGER AND VISITOR has been called to account (quite properly of course) by Principal DeWolfe, for not having included in its report of the recent Anniversary proceedings at Wolfville, any special mention of the work of the Art department of Acadia Seminary. It is perhaps not worth while to explain the cause of the omission. It might have been due to the limited space at command, or to a failure of memory, or to the fact that the Art department, while it was open to visitors one afternoon, was hardly regarded as having a place in connection with the public exercises of Anniversary week. However, the Art department of Acadia Seminary richly deserves mention, and we hasten to say that it was no lack of appreciation of its work, its aims and ideals that prevented some special reference to it in our report. The writer had the privilege of spending a little time in the studio where the Art work of the Seminary was on exhibition, and though he cannot pretend to any technical knowledge of the subject, and his praise or his blame is of course to be rated accordingly, yet he must say that the impression made upon his mind by the work exhibited was highly favorable. Some of the work appeared indeed to possess remarkable excellence and to indicate far more than ordinary ability on the part of the student, as well as high excellence in ability and method on the part of the teacher. Considering the fact that, as we were told, the drawings and paintings exhibited were for the most part not mere copies from other pictures, but were done from natural or artificial objects, such as fruits, vases, pictures, etc., the results attained in many instances seemed to be deserving of the highest praise. Miss Chipman, the head teacher in this department, is certainly to be heartily congratulated on the evidence which the Art exhibition at Acadia this year afforded of the excellence of her methods and the high value of the instruction imparted. We are glad to know that the department is becoming increasingly popular in the Seminary, and we are quite prepared to believe, as we are assured is the case, that as to ideals, methods and results its work will bear comparison with that of any school in these Provinces. We may say further that we have no doubt as to the high value of a course of instruction in drawing and painting, when founded on correct principles and in the hands of a competent instructor. The result, if the pupil has any aptitude for the work, must mean something much more than a tawdry accomplishment. It means a wholesome and valuable training of the mental faculties, a development of the aesthetic sense and a refinement of the whole being. For those who have a taste and an aptitude for art, there is, it seems to us, hardly any other subject in the curriculum which can be regarded as more truly educative.

### Editorial Notes.

—The Anti-Cigarette Bill, prohibiting the importation, manufacture or sale of cigarettes, cigarette paper or anything as a substitute therefor, introduced in the Dominion House of Commons by Mr. W. S. McLaren, member for Huntingdon, has passed its second reading with the respectable majority of 22 in a House of 78. It is hard to say what fate the Bill will meet with the Committee. There is strong antagonism to the measure, much of it no doubt inspired by material interests, and the enemies of the Bill may be depended upon to do their utmost to defeat it.

—We learn from Zion's Advocate that material is being collected for a brief story of the life of the late Dr. Alvah Hovey. There are many who will be glad of this, and there are many others who would be glad if the proposed biography could be made something more than a brief story. An account by a competent hand of the development of Dr. Hovey's mind and thought as manifested in connection with his professional work and the events of his time, in which his influence, though quiet, was always steady, sane and strong, would make a book of much interest and value especially from a Baptist standpoint.

—During the present week programmes of much interest are to be carried out at Annapolis, St. John and St. Croix Island in connection with the ter-centenary celebration of the discovery of these places and the adjacent lands by Champlain and De Monts. In St. John it promises to be a busy week and one of exciting interest. British, French and American warships are expected, and the presence of a number of distinguished men of the different nationalities will lend eclat to the occasion. The attractions will be many and hosts of visitors are expected from different parts of the country. Everyone interested is hoping for fair weather for the grand celebration.

—In the course of some notes relating to the recent meeting of the Presbyterian General Assembly, the editor of *The Presbyterian*, of Toronto expresses his appreciation of the city of St. John and its people as follows: "St. John, as an Assembly city, is in many respects ideal. The beautiful surroundings, the bracing air, the well kept streets, the handsome stores and residences, the hospitality of the people, combine to make memorable a visit to St. John. Too much cannot be said in praise of those upon whom the burden of preparing and caring for the Assembly mainly fell." *The Presbyterian* also says that "The Maritime Provinces are remarkable for many things and not least for the great men whom they have given to Canada," and adds that "the Presbyterian church has reason to be proud of the brilliant group of young men who have come to the front in the Maritime Synod."

—Shortly after the Anti-Cigarette Bill was introduced by Mr. McLaren in the House of Commons an item appeared in some newspapers to the effect that Lord Roberts had approved cigarettes and had said that they proved very beneficial to the soldiers on their long marches in South Africa. Miss Richardson, a member of the W. C. T. Union of Montreal, in order to know the truth as to Lord Roberts' sentiments on this subject wrote him to closing the clipping and enquiring as to its correctness. A few days ago Miss Richardson received from the distinguished Field Marshal, signed with his own hand, the following reply:

Dear Madam: I have had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 6th May in which you inform me that the Women's Temperance Union of Canada is endeavoring to abolish cigarette smoking among the boys of that country. I do not know how your opponents could have told you that I consider cigarettes are a necessity and that cigarette smokers can march much farther than non-smokers. My opinion is that every one would be better without smoking, and that so far as boys are concerned it is a pernicious and injurious habit."

—Certain new sayings of Jesus, the discovery of which at Oxyrhynchus was noticed some time ago in these columns, have been published by the Oxford University Press, with a critical commentary. There appears to be reason to believe that the papyrus found at Oxyrhynchus contained a genuine record of sayings of our Lord. But it was but a fragment and in so mutilated a condition that its discovery does not probably add much of importance to what was before known of the teachings of Jesus. Of five sayings contained in the fragment the following is given by the *New York Independent* as the "longest and most important," the words enclosed in brackets being, as we suppose, conjectures of the editors for words which are missing on the mutilated fragment:

"Jesus saith (Ye ask? Who are those) that draw us (to the Kingdom, if the Kingdom is in Heaven? . . . the fowls of the air and all the beasts that are under the earth or upon the earth, and the fishes of the sea (these are they which draw) you, and the Kingdom of Heaven is within you; and whosoever shall know himself shall find it. (Strive therefore?) to know yourselves, and ye shall be aware that ye are the sons of the (almighty?) Father; (and?) ye shall know that ye are in (the city of God?) and ye are (the city?)"

—A correspondent writes: "Not long since I had the pleasure of visiting Yarmouth and meeting a number of the Baptist brethren there. Their spirit and words were encouraging, I might almost say "inspiring" only I am afraid some one would ask me to define my terms. Rev. Mr. Price, Pastor of the Milton church, is happy in having the house of worship entirely free of debt. The little church has been faithful and deserves the gratitude of the body for its long struggle now crowned with success. Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Bain, Deacon Corning, Deacon Gudey and others who once lived for the cause, have passed away, but the church goes on as before. The First Church is awaiting the coming of their pastor, Rev. C. W. Rose, B. A., B. D. Mr. Rose has had some experience in the ministry and has taken an extended course of study. His professors and those who have known of his work elsewhere believe the Yarmouth brethren have secured a good minister. The