

THE WESLEYAN
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UNMERITED HOMAGE.

Of all our popular idols there is none which is more generally worshipped than that known by the name of *Talent*. To different minds the word has different meanings; but among the ordinary multitude, talent expresses the individual's idea of smartness in public address. Volubility, aptness of illustration, of argument; the facility, in short, of uttering readily one's thoughts, whatever may be their nature—this, in its ordinary acceptance is talent. Before this, the unthinking, admiring crowd, pours out its incense. On this, this alone, hundreds are resting, and out of this, this only, they are making vast capital, licensed so to do by the recommendation of the unthinking classes aforesaid.

To our mind this applause, this worship, is all, or to a considerable extent, unreasonable. Talent, as above defined, is so common that it really deserves but little notice, certainly does not merit exceptional respect. We may find it any day, in almost any sphere. In the streets, the shops; at the bench, the plough, the anvil, and the wheelbarrow, may be heard men who can, with great readiness, communicate their opinions to a listener. Women are the most talented of any. In the professions, talent abounds. That is natural. Education gives the power of ready expression, unless the student have some unconquerable mental or vocal defect. There is nothing here, therefore, worth worshipping. Nothing on which to base a reputation. A single gift, by no means extraordinarily scarce, talent, as thus understood, is but an element of character, important of course, to all public men, but not deserving of being canonized among the most honoured gifts. We say nothing just now of talent, as we ourselves understand its meaning. In calling things by their proper names, we reserve the designation of talent for something more elevated, more spiritual we would say, than this of the multitude.

One of the evils with which the professions are now afflicted, is the pressure upon their ranks for admission of men who have been encouraged by misguided opinion to leave positions in which they had been succeeding, for higher places "worthy of their talents." If the honorable and independent vocation of tilling the soil—that basilar profession of our social structure—is obliged to go begging for support, the blame belongs particularly to its own guardians. Young men have been so deluded by complimentary allusions to their gifts, that they come to look upon the plough as a degraded implement, and the professions alone as worthy of their aspirations. The same argument applies to the mechanical pursuits. How many thus have abandoned certain independence in quest of very doubtful competency!

Our principal argument at present, however, is that talent of itself does not entitle any man to respect, inasmuch as it is but one, and a very common qualification. Behind talent must be character, integrity, good judgment and spirituality. Our observation has convinced us that this combination is not so frequently found as it ought to be; assuredly, wherever it is found, the possessor rises into the first rank among his fellows. It, therefore, becomes at once a very serious question with everyone having an honorable ambition to succeed, whether with the cultivation of merely extraneous gifts there ought not to be a most diligent and self-denying purpose to make character the principal thing, as the foundation of prosperity.

HALIFAX DISTRICT.—Some very encouraging features of the meeting of the Halifax District, held, last week, in Brunswick Street Church, ought to be made public. A very considerable increase of members was reported, nearly

700 in all, and leaving, after dropping hundreds of names for removals and deaths, about \$60. In almost every instance the financial receipts were quite in excess of the anticipation; those for missions showing an addition to the handsome lists of the previous year of \$600. All the Funds were well sustained. Several laymen were in attendance contributing, as the Miscellaneous Resolutions for Conference will show, very actively to the counsels and suggestions of the occasion. Some nine or ten of these Resolutions, involving very important questions, and affording texts for serious thought and spirited discussion, were passed during the session. Two candidates were before the District. Two probationers—Revs. W. J. Johnson and A. H. Clayton—ceased to hold connection with our ministry. A beautiful incident crowned the generous exercises of the second day. Rev. W. H. Hertz, with an eye ever open for worthy claims of benevolence, discovered that the minister at Margaret's Bay, Rev. James Scott, had suffered in salary owing to the failure of the fishery along the shores. Mr. Hertz challenged the District to meet his own liberal donation. In less time than it takes to write it, Mr. Scott found himself in possession of \$105 to supplement his salary. Anything more prompt or hearty we have never seen performed in the enterprises of love. Religion may be selfish and a sham elsewhere; the observer of Thursday last could scarcely admit it was so in the Halifax District.

INCONGRUITY.—Here is an approach which we cannot well understand. A religious, Sabbath-school paper, sends numbers from the United States to the British Provinces, specially marked (which always means—"please say a good word for us"); yet, when we open these suppliant sheets they are seen to contain spread-eagle paragraphs upon the Battle of Bunker Hill, "the victories gained by our fathers over the British," &c., &c. Of course it is always soothing to a reader to learn that his kindred have been beautifully whipped on several battle-fields; but it is something new to find such information used as an inducement toward complimenting the paper which takes pains to enlighten its religious readers upon this subject. Is it not about time that the boastfulness of bloody scenes were quite discarded from our children's and their teacher's publications?

EXTRACTS

From the Minutes of the last Meeting of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MR. ALLISON INSTITUTIONS, Ordered to be published.

"On motion of Rev. Mr. Lathern, seconded by Rev. Mr. Pope, it was unanimously resolved,

1. That this Board has heard with very great satisfaction the Reports of President Allison, Principal Inch, and of the Chaplain, the Rev. Dr. Stewart, in regard to the educational work and general morale of the students during the year just now closed. The members of the Board are pleased to find that the department of the students has been excellent, and that without any unusually severe strain the discipline of the institution has been efficiently maintained.

2. That the members of the Board are gratified to find that in a year of business depression, and of exceptional financial difficulty, the attendance has been good; and they are encouraged to believe that with their excellent staff of Professors and Teachers, and with increased facilities for securing thoroughness and comfort in educational work, a still larger number of young people will be found in the future, to avail themselves of the opportunities and advantages thus brought within their reach.

3. The Board has listened with special interest to the statements of President Allison and Principal Inch in relation to the building operations which during the year have been brought to completion. It finds more than ordinary gratification in the fact that with the erection of a new and spacious building for academic purposes, and with the extensive additions and improvements in the Ladies' Academy, which has been rendered more convenient and attractive in appearance, involving a necessarily heavy expenditure, the financial exhibit shows only a moderately and easily manageable balance of debt.

4. That looking at the operations and results of the year, as far as the members of the board have been able from examinations, reports, and public exhibitions to measure them, they have continued confidence in commending to our people and to the public generally these institutions as worthy of their increased patronage and most liberal support.

On Motion of President Allison seconded by Rev. H. Pope, it was unanimously resolved:—
 That the thanks of this Board be presented to the Rev. Dr. Pickard, the Endowment Agent, in acknowledgement of

his untiring and intelligent exertions on behalf of the Endowment Fund, to which this Board largely attributes the success which has attended the raising of that Fund.

On motion of Prof. Smith, seconded by Rev. Mr. Pope, it was unanimously resolved,

That the Board has great pleasure in recording acknowledgement of the generous contributions which the Methodist and general public have made in aid of the Endowment Fund.

And further resolved—
 That from the liberal support of this Fund in the past the Board believes it has reason to hope that in the future a much to be desired increase in the Fund will be secured.

On motion of Josiah Wood, Esq., seconded by G. W. Burbridge, Esq., it was unanimously resolved:—

That the board learns with great satisfaction of the organization of a Theological Faculty, and would express its gratification at the prospect which the auspicious inauguration of the department affords of its further success, and of the benefit likely to accrue from it to the Institution to the Church and to the Country.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE MOUNT ALLISON ENDOWMENT FUND.

Mr. Epton.—Truth seems to demand that your last week's editorial, concerning this Fund, would be followed by a statement of the facts in its history.

The immediate necessity for such a Fund was rendered apparent to the Board of Trustees in 1872. When the Legislature of New Brunswick resolved to withhold the annual grants of \$3,400, which had previously been made to aid in the maintenance of the Institutions, at the Annual Meeting of the Board, held May 27th, 1872, it was resolved, "That in the opinion of the Board, the time had come when an appeal should be made to all liberal friends of the Institutions, to place them by an adequate endowment fund, upon an independent financial basis, and that it was desirable that a sum of from \$75,000 to \$100,000 should be raised, but that a sum of \$60,000 was considered absolutely necessary, in order that the educational operations of the Institutions should be carried on with undiminished vigor, and that provision should be made for enlargement of facility in accordance with the progressive policy which had prevailed."

The Conference of Eastern British America, at its session held in Halifax the following month, expressed its full concurrence in the opinion of the Board of Trustees and Governors, in regard to an Endowment Fund. And its members, "as an indication of their strong conviction of the necessity for such a Fund, pledged themselves to contribute from their generally so scanty personal resources, sums to amount in the aggregate to at least one-fifth part of the sum (\$60,000) named by the Board of Trustees as indispensably necessary." And upwards of \$10,000 was immediately subscribed by the members of the Conference then present; and about as much more by friends in Halifax within a few days,—and such was the enthusiasm which was awakened that it is not improbable that, if an energetic agent could have then been set apart for the work, so that the canvass could have been pressed, the subscriptions might have been made to amount to one of the larger sums named.

But this, it seems, could not be done, and at the end of a year it was found that only a little more than two-thirds of the sum deemed "indispensably necessary" had been subscribed; and of the amount subscribed only a very small part had been collected or put in form to be productive for the purposes aimed at; and in the meanwhile an adverse change in the "times" had commenced, so that at the Board Meeting in May, 1873, it was clearly seen that it would be a work of great difficulty to secure even the \$60,000 as an available Endowment Fund; and, from that time forward at least, no sober-minded friend of the movement has, I think, expected, however ardently he may have wished, that more than this sum would be obtained at the immediate result of the efforts being put forth. To secure this the "Board" made what seemed the best arrangements practicable, requesting the Conference to appoint the writer as Agent for the Fund: and the Conference "recognizing this to be an interest of paramount importance," acceded to the request (see Minutes of Conf. 1873, page 41); and accordingly, on my return from England in the autumn, entered upon the work, and applied myself to it as best I could during the remainder of the Conference year. But at the final session of the Conference of E. B. America in 1874, it was found that the gross amount of the subscriptions was only \$52,118.84—of which there had been collected \$13,557.15, and settled by subscription notes \$21,814.84, making the productive portion of the Fund then amount to \$34,719.99 leaving upwards of \$25,000 still to

be obtained from new subscriptions, and the \$16,746 of their unsettled subscriptions, in order to bring the Fund up to "indispensably necessary \$60,000."

In order that this end should be reached it was estimated that at least \$10,000 would need to be obtained from new subscriptions. And at the Conference in Charlottetown the question considered in regard to the Fund, was whether the effort to obtain new subscriptions should be continued for the purpose of obtaining, if possible, the sum so estimated as necessary to make up the \$60,000; or whether the effort should be chiefly confined to securing as much as possible of the subscriptions already obtained, which would leave the Fund not more than \$50,000.

It was seen, and felt, and said, that the talk of securing the additional needed subscriptions and of rendering the Fund productive to the extent of \$60,000, was a far more arduous, and in view of the changed circumstances, than the one which had then already been accomplished. And I brought myself to consent to undertake it only by considering the importance of its accomplishment to the continued success of the great church work to which so large a portion of my life had been devoted.

Immediately after the close of Conference I entered upon the supplementary canvass with a subscription book headed with the statement that "the estimated worth of subscriptions up to July 1st, 1874" "was \$50,000," and I stated always as I considered and do still believe, I was authorized to do, that the object of the renewed or continued effort was to secure an additional \$10,000 and that when this should be considered as having reached a successful resting place at least; although I endeavored to insist upon the truth that a "fund \$75,000, or \$100,000 was exceedingly desirable." And I trust that our men of wealth will not lose sight of this truth. I have met with at least two of our friends in the course of my agency who have assured me that they had remembered the Mount Allison Educational Institute in their wills—I trust that others have done so, or will do so. But I would suggest as a still wiser course to those who can do so—that it will be well to invest here while they yet live.

In conclusion I wish to say again, that I am profoundly grateful for the success which has crowned the efforts to secure an Endowment Fund, which not only makes up to the Institution the income of which it was suddenly deprived by legislative action in 1872, but also provides some additional means for enlargement of facility for carrying on the Educational work.

It is a success which is at least twice as great comparatively as that which has attended the much longer continued efforts to secure an adequate Endowment Fund for Victoria College.

The efforts on behalf of this Fund commenced several years before ours—and had the great advantage of the assistance of Dr. Punshon in lecturing and speaking in many public meetings on its behalf during the first years of the movement. Then there have been generally two special agents constantly employed. Moreover the membership of the church in connection with the former Canada Conference was about four times that in the Conference of E. B. America, and the movement in the Canada Conference had the advantage of two or three years of special prosperous times:—so that everything being considered the success of the efforts there to equal ours should give a Fund at least \$250,000; whereas if I have been correctly informed the income accruing from it in four years after the movement began was no greater than that from ours—and even now with the advantage of recent great success in their agency work the Fund, instead of amounting four or five times as much as ours does probably does not amount to much, if any more than twice as much—So that I think we need not feel any temptation to envy their success—much less to ungratefully speak disparagingly of our own.

H. PICKARD.

THE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION.

The attendance at the Exposition is now steadily increasing. On Decoration Day, fully 50,000 people passed the gates, and the Main Building and Memorial Hall were, for the first time, uncomfortably crowded. The twenty-eight groups of judges have completed their organization, and the members are busily at work preparing their reports. The system adopted of dividing the duties, each member making his own examination of the articles submitted, instead of requiring the exhibits to be investigated by committees of several judges, and has heretofore been done in other exhibitions, is said to work admirably, saving an immense amount of time to the commission, and without doubt, it will give as good satisfaction to the exhibitors. Considerable comment has been aroused regarding alleged injuries to the pictures committed

by careless visitors, and the Austrian Commission had their gallery closed until railings around the works of art were erected. It has since been found that but two pictures were damaged, and in neither case could the mishap be charged upon visitors, as the injuries were discovered to have occurred during transportation. Horticultural Hall, in which the display at the opening was not large, is being rapidly filled. The latest arrival is a fine selection of tree ferns from Australia. The English rhododendrons are now in full bloom, and present a magnificent appearance, although they show evidence of the long voyage disagreeing with them. A much handsomer display of these beautiful flowers may be seen at the present time in Llewellyn, Orange, N. Y. Between the British Government and the T. A. B. fountain, a Canadian lumber merchant has erected a house built of rough lumber, just as it comes from the yard. The roof is made of huge unbarked timbers, each twenty-four inches in diameter and the sides are composed of boards piled to form a wall a foot thick. Inside a monster section of a pine tree is exhibited. The big Krupp cannon has at length reached the grounds, and is being placed in Machinery Hall. The pumps annexed to that building are now at work, producing a miniature Niagara for three hours daily. The Brewers' Building is rapidly approaching completion. A curious section of elevated railway is being constructed between Agricultural and Horticultural Halls. The cars are built something after the Swiss cottage pattern.

JAPANESE BRONZES AND LAQUERED WARE

We have already alluded to, as one of the most remarkable portions of the general display. The grotesqueness of Japanese art is employed in these with wonderful effect. There are cups and saucers of laquered wood, as light as corks, coloured with reds, blues and yellows, protected by the famous Japan varnish, which will withstand the hottest water. Perfection of joiner work, unique ornamentation, and exquisite selection of colors are especially noticeable in the cabinets, some of which scarcely larger than a modern music box, range in price from \$125 to \$1000. It is in the modelling and the preliminaries to the casting of the bronzes that the peculiar genius and perseverance of the Japanese are disclosed. The models are made in wax; and in that material everything down to the smallest feather of a bird's wing or the hair of a spider, is elaborated with scrupulous care. The wax model is then painted all over with a coating of finest sand, held together by a fire proof mullage. The first coat is laid on with exceeding care, so as to fill every tiny interstice. So with the following coats, which may number hundreds, until sometimes six months are consumed in the work of painting a cumulative mold three or four inches thick. When the latter is rendered sufficiently strong, the wax model inside is melted and removed. The bronze is then poured in, and the whole object completed in a single casting. The mold is subsequently removed with care only second to that employed in its construction, leaving the bronze without a crease or a flaw. From this process emerged the magnificent incense burner which stands at the entrance of the Japanese section. It represents a vessel elevated upon worn sea rocks, inhabited by a dragon and surrounded by an eagle and flanked by flocks of birds. The price was \$4,500, and it was purchased for the English South Kensington Museum.

As there are no patent laws in either China or Japan, the mode of preparing the patina given to these bronzes has remained secret for ages, and has been handed down from father to son. Chemical analysis has, however, revealed the composition of the alloys, and M. Morin has discovered that the patina of the celebrated black bronzes is due to the use of an alloy composed of 80 per cent. of copper, 4 of tin 10 of lead, 2 of zinc, 4 of iron, besides small proportions of gold, nickel, arsenic, and sulphur. Some of the bronzes analyzed show a proportion of lead varying from 10 to 20 per cent., added at the expense of the copper, and a quantity of 7 per cent. of tin. Molded in thin plates, this bronze is very easily worked, and the patina appears of itself when the metal is subjected to a high temperature in a muffle furnace. It is, however, very brittle. Chemical analysis is certainly of little use in this case, unless it leads to synthesis; and in that respect the labors of the French investigators have been attended with remarkable success, and have resulted in the production of bronzes even better than those the Japanese, since they have a strength equal to that of ordinary bronze. The process consists in preparing a ground by the action of chemicals having oxides and sulphides of copper as their bases. If different tints, black, brown, red, or green, be desired on the same object, it is sufficient to cover with a protecting varnish all portions of the surface except those to which it may be desired to give a certain hue; then when they have been treated for a sufficient time, they are covered up with varnish, while the other parts of the surface now exposed are subjected to the action of the chemicals, and so on for as many tints as are required.

(Conclusion next week.)

NEW BRUNSWICK
 Two horses were barn at Earleton. A human skull was discovered in excavation.
 A new fog was placed at Sambro. On the 9th inst. Dorchester was captured.
 The steamer tons of steel rails. There has been Hill, Yarrow. The head of seawater Messrs. S. C. trust from the I. of coal.
 A rough, narrow board the bright in jail there for. The new embryo in lieu of the last been completed.
 According to that he was the now freestone be.
 The body of P. since last Septem pool Wharf last.
 The barque "been sold to Mr. private terms.
 Capt. George "Newfield," has the service for all.
 The house of M. totally destroyed \$1,300.
 The officers of cricket match w Saturday, 26th.
 A pair of oxen, shown at Truro. C. Smith.
 The store of M. Halifax, was enten ten revolvers stolen.
 The chimney of Eastern Passage, day last, and con torn off.
 Capt. J. Pur "Ella G. McLennan" steamship place of Capt. Geo.
 Mr. J. E. Wood at Percuss next register. She has Watville for Eng freight for these ti.
 On Tuesday, w while cutting stave Messrs. A. Steph River, cut one of hing the fingers fro.
 There was Janu Robert B. Nichol on the 8th inst., a tons, called the "West India trade."
 John S. Macleu Men's Christian A welcome from the meeting on the oc England.
 The Lockport at Halifax from officers and crew ("Ironides," whic Wednesday the 21.
 A boy named feet on Tuesday, at top of his head, a and a gash over hi it. That the chil short of a miracle.
 A cow owned by a gold mine shaft 50 feet, and was so few minutes in the one, and had but re by its owner.
 The explosion of house on Upper W on which slept a the bed clothes to bility have caused light been seen by window, and with tinguished the fla.
 In consequence at the marine slip, County of Pictou, large number disc the latter sum of mechanics from N \$1.75, but in addi from their work d pense of their empl.