

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL FETE IN GODERICH.

(From the Huron Loyalist of 26th July.)

This event which happened on Friday the 25th ult., realized the most sanguine wishes of its friends, and we must say, we have seldom witnessed a more beautiful and yet solemn scene than that which was presented on that occasion. There was the simplicity of childhood, the expanding beauty of woman-hood, the steadiness of man-hood, and the gravity of old age, all represented on the spot, but the climax to the happiness of the scene was the presence of that venerable prelate, our Bishop, the "patron of religious education," the champion of our dearest rights as Churchmen, and unflinching advocate of God's holy Gospel. Gay banners floated in the air, bearing suitable inscriptions, "God save the Queen" "Lord remember us in the days of our youth" and at the entrance to the Rectory was a handsome new flag, supported on either side by Judge Acland and Dr. Hamilton, with the words "Welcome Patron of Religious Education," on it. Divine service was performed by the Rev. E. L. Elwood, M.A., T.C.D., and a beautiful address delivered by him to the Sunday School teachers and children, upon their respective duties. A procession was formed, and they proceeded to the Rectory when the Lord Bishop of Toronto afterwards addressed them on the lawn, in the most impressive yet simple language; and there the boys and girls sat down to the number of 120, under an extensive awning which overspread tables, groaning under the weight of cakes and tarts, and sweet meats, tea, &c., &c., and good things.

We felt extremely happy in seeing so many of the teachers in the procession, and we can safely assert that they seemed to take especial pride in their "delightful task." After they had refreshed themselves, our learned friend, John Stewart, Esq., delivered what we may truly term, an eloquent address. He spoke as follows:—

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,—Another year has rolled round since I had the pleasure of addressing you on this spot. I am delighted to find that your numbers are increasing and your progress is onward. Through the kindness of your instructors and the indulgence of your worthy Rector, who takes such a deep interest in your temporal and eternal welfare, you are invited to celebrate another Sunday-School anniversary; and while they are straining every nerve to make you happy, and to imbue your young minds with such sound principles of religion and piety as will make you respected through life, happy at death, and happy through all eternity; you have also a solemn duty to perform towards them. You owe them a debt of gratitude which you can only repay by obedience to their commands and a ready and cheerful compliance with their requests. They do not wish to burden your young minds with more than you can bear, but to lead you on, by gentle means, into the paths of wisdom and knowledge, and to strew your paths with flowers as you advance. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" and that fear they are trying to implant, by making you acquainted with that holy religion which is the glory of one world and the guide to another—the beginning of that wisdom they are inculcating by making you acquainted

with the fundamental precepts of this inspired volume, without whose guidance we must drift into the comet blaze of uncertainty and error. Its light is light from heaven, and like the fiery pillars which conducted Israel through the wilderness, it will also conduct you safely through the wilderness of this world, and finally lead you as the pillar did them, to the Canaan of your rest. Then, my young friends, store up in your minds and practice in your lives the precepts taught in that holy word.

Your smiling looks, though silent, bespeak your joy and to add to that graced by the presence of that venerable prelate to whom you have given such a cordial welcome. The motto, I perceive on your flag is "Welcome patron of religious education." Richly does he merit the appellation, whose life since he came to the province, (a period of 50 years) has been devoted to the literary, moral and religious instruction of its inhabitants. But his last great public act of philanthropy crowns all his other labours.

When a creedless, heartless, godless majority of our present parliament, passed a law banishing the worship of God, and even exorcising his name from our first seminary of learning in the land, his Lordship could ill brook a godless university, and that in the very city where his own pious example had long been as a beacon-light to the people. He, therefore, forsaking the pleasures of home, despising the dangers of the deep and reasoning like the Apostle, that he was "now ready to be offered up" if it were his Master's will, visited christian England and her christian universities, and after labouring long and ardently, with his wonted assiduity, raised the means of laying the foundation of a seat of learning in this province, which will be to him a monument more perpetual than brass, long after those venerable locks of his, now silvered over with the snows of three score years and ten, shall have mouldered in the dust, and his spirit shall have returned to God who gave it.

It affords me much pleasure on this occasion, to see this youthful and loving little community assembled from the bosom of so many different churches. This is just as it should be. I have charity for all, and trusting we are all right, I am ready to adopt, as my own, the sentiments of the great bard of England, Pope, in his universal prayer:

Let not this weak unknowing hand
Presume thy bolts to throw,
And deal damnation round the land,
On each I judge thy foe;
If I am right, thy grace impart,
Still in the right to stay,
If I am wrong—Oh! teach my heart
To find that better way.

We were all wrecked on the same rock and are all rescued by the same Redeemer.

Mr. S. then went into a detail of the original intention of Sunday schools in the great manufacturing cities of the mother countries, pointing out their triumphant results, which our reporter could not catch for want of accommodation, but suffice it to say, that it was unquestionably a feeling and eloquent address, which could only have emanated from a sincerely good and philanthropic person.

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