

ished our course, we shall stand fully acquitted in the righteousness of our Lord and Master, and receive the high approval in store for His faithful servants.

May God grant us grace to have all our efforts directed to his end!

Very gratefully and sincerely yours,

ALEXANDER MCKAY.

To Alexander McKay, Esq. }
 Geo. Sutherland, Esq. } *Committee.*
 Rod. McKenzie, Esq. }

HALIFAX YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The second lecture of the season, before this association was delivered on Tuesday evening last. The hall was crowded to overflowing, many being unable to obtain admittance. After the usual religious exercises, the chairman, the Rev. Mr. McNutt, introduced the Rev. G. M. Grant as lecturer for the evening.

Mr. Grant in starting, made a few remarks on the topics that generally form the subjects for lectures before such associations, and announced as his theme "The Young Man's Life." Passing over what the lecturer termed the "infantile" period, he pointed to a young man's first entrance into actual life: in one of the colleges or seminaries of learning, and painted in vivid colors the effect which the cold and rigid formulas of such institutions had upon a buoyant spirit and a soul thirsting after a knowledge of the truthful and beautiful in nature. Receiving his first impressions under such circumstances, the lecturer pointed out the coloring which it gave to after life—making the man dissatisfied, and ever seeking among the theories of ancient philosophers for that truth which could alone be found in the wide-spread book of nature and Divine revelation. He cautioned young men against the "demonade literature" of the present day. He spoke of the general character of such institutions, in Great Britain and the States, as the one before which he was lecturing—of their libraries, religious gatherings, &c., and remarked that while the machinery which met the public eye exhibited much that was good, the veil of *cant* in too many instances shrouded their inner sanctuary. The Rev. gentleman drew a truthful picture of the lessons received by the young man on his entrance into the religious world: On the Sabbath, surrounded by the minister and elders of his church—he was instructed in all the principles of their creed,—encouraged to the practice of every scriptural injunction, according to the version of it;—while for this week-day guidance, he would learn, in many instances from the same source, that in political matters, he was at liberty to lie, dissemble, and intrigue, in order that this or that political clique might gain the ascendancy—perish honor and truth provided the

party was served—the administration saved! He also noticed the devastating effect produced by religio-political press on the morals of a community, and especially among the young—blighting as it did all religious feeling. "What thy hand findeth to do—do it with all thy might" was the Divine injunction which he recommended young men to keep constantly in view. The "idle loafer" he held in unmitigated contempt—styling that class a disgrace to manhood.

We regret our inability to give a more perfect synopsis of the Rev. gentleman's eloquent address, which was one of the best conceived that we ever listened to in the same place,—and characterized in its delivery by an earnestness and eloquence calculated to produce a most convincing effect on the mind of every hearer. The Rev. lecturer will take his place amongst the most gifted of our Nova Scotians.—*Colonist of the 19th.*

LETTER FROM THE REV. SIMON M'GREGOR TO COLONIAL COMMITTEE.

My Dear Sir.—Three months after my arrival in Nova Scotia I accepted a call from West Branch and East River congregations, in the County of Pictou; since which time I have been labouring as a settled minister. For the first three months after our return to Nova Scotia, Messrs. Grant, Cameron, McMillan, and myself laboured as missionaries over the whole bounds of this Presbytery, preaching at every station. Everywhere we met with the greatest kindness, and were often pleased to witness the deep and unwavering attachment of our people to the Church of their fathers. Many of them have had no regular ministrations among them since the Secession of 1843. Notwithstanding this, they have joined themselves to no other communion, but still remain as ever, members of their much loved Church of Scotland, and earnestly hope at some day not far distant to have permanently placed over them ministers of our Church. The congregations of Burney's River and Lochaber are particularly interesting. They are for the most part composed of Highlanders, and are extremely anxious to have the ministrations of a Gaelic-speaking minister. They have, through the Presbytery of Pictou, requested the Rev. Peter McKichan to come and labour among them, and the Presbytery at its last meeting appointed a committee to correspond with the Colonial Committee, and also with Mr. McKichan on the subject. His coming would serve to strengthen our hands very much indeed.

Our people were never more earnest, or more willing to discharge their duty than at present, and perhaps never had we as a Church more reason to thank God and take courage. I trust in a very short time we shall be enabled to free the Colonial Committee of