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Provincial Wesleyan.  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1874  
AMUSEMENTS.

Sir George Cornwall Lewis used to say that "life would be bearable but for its amusements." Sir George represented a large and busy class whose work is their pleasure. There is another class whose representative might be regarded as saying "amusements are all which makes life any value." Between these extremes lie every variety of view and every variety of practice. To some, life would certainly be burdensome enough were it not for recreation. To others, business furnishes all the pleasure they require. From the time they rise in the morning until they retire to rest at night, they seek no other happiness than that furnished by the excitement of a business which calls into exercise all their trained faculties. Rest is the only thing they call for when the toil of the day are over, partly because they are thoroughly fatigued by the many hours spent in thinking, planning, projecting, giving orders, buying, selling &c., and the weary brain finds inactivity the greatest enjoyment, and partly, perhaps, because unwilling to find pleasure in that which merely amuses, and untrained in aesthetic pursuits. The gaieties of social life seem too much like follies to their earnest, practical minds; music and literature are uninteresting because their acquaintance with them is too slight; and so their days pass between the counting house and the couch, between business and repose.

There are a few persons like the poet Rogers and Grotte the historian who, after the banking house is closed, can pursue literature as a pastime, and find delight in books and solid conversation. But they are very few. The intellectual vigour necessary for this, is a rare endowment, and the early associations are too often such as to throw the young off the track of such pursuits. The great majority seek for the relaxation of some amusement—for an excitement different from that of their occupation.

Unhappily there have been always too many persons ready, for the sake of gain, to pander to this demand. Pleasures have been multiplied beyond the stars in number. Games in endless variety, brutal and innocent, have been invented. Amusements, foreign and domestic, come upon us like Milton's devils.

"Such as sensual leaves that strow the brooks in Valdemora."  
Places of social enjoyment, from the low tavern with its beastly pleasures, where the circian cup is circulated which changes men to brutes, up to a slow gradation, to the "Young Men's Christian Association" parlour, where refined diversions attract the young and restrain them from both worse and better things. From this bewildering multiplicity we must choose for ourselves, whether we will have any, and what. What to choose for ourselves and our children is a question often perplexing, always serious.

Much depends in the choice, upon the taste formed in early life, and much upon natural bias. There are persons naturally grave and persons naturally gay, strong minded persons and weak-minded, firm and flexible. These cannot all be pleased alike, nor even trained alike or reduced to run in the same groove. Nor is it necessary, that service of God is not inconsistent with a vast variety in human taste and pursuits. It is immorally not a gay and cheerful spirit that God hates. Mirth and gaiety, tend, on the other hand, to unfit us for the solid duties of life and therefore their luxuriant growth should be checked. The religion of Christ is cheerful and social as well as holy and sublime. It aims to make the very best of our manhood.

From early life, therefore, the parents should seek to guide the tastes of their children as well as form their habits; to make them sensible as well as virtuous. Home is the best place of amusement. This should be the happiest place in the world. The parents who do not strive to make it so are inflicting a curse upon their offspring. Every consideration should be secondary to the one, "What can I do to improve my children in body and mind,—to make them healthy, virtuous and happy. Gardening when possible, light studies in literature, music, out door and in-door games, intimacy with a few refined and virtuous families &c., all should be employed, without niggardly stint, to secure for our children a disposition to seek their amusement at home rather than abroad; in recreations which do not demoralize but ennoble.

It is difficult to speak with moderation of the criminal conduct of those who recklessly, for love of gain, spread vicious pleasures before the young. They are monsters, cruel beasts of prey, robbers who waylay virtue and plunder and murder her. Whoever gives evidence that he intends to prey upon society, to profit by the vices of mankind, and to increase human wickedness and misery in order to enlarge his trade and enrich himself, should be treated as the basest criminal, and sent to prison to herd with thieves and murderers. But there is often criminal carelessness on the part of parents. They neglect to provide counter attractions for their children. If lust and avarice are busy, should avoid virtue and wisdom. The counter-attractions of vice should be met by counter-attractions. If evil puts on a smiling face good should not be shrouded in gloom. We should give to virtue such a pleasing ap-

pearance that our children should never be repelled from her. She should ever appear as a smiling angel beckoning them on to happiness.

THE PICTOU ANNIVERSARY.

A few days ago Pictou celebrated the 101st anniversary of its existence. The day was ushered in with much pomp and rejoicing. Cannons were fired, bells rung, and flags thrown out upon the breeze. The day was devoted to festivity. One noticeable feature, however, was the absence of any solemnity. No hymn of praise was publicly sung. No sermon was delivered. No recognition of the God of providence was made. The divine hand which led our ancestors to this people to make a home for themselves in a land where they should be free from the oppressive exactions of avaricious landlords was unnoticed. The care which guarded them in their way over the raging sea was forgotten. The love which never forsook them in the years of privation, and which brought them on step by step to the present affluence and prosperity was unmentioned. There were individuals who remembered God; and, doubtless, from many a closet, and from many a family altar, the voice of thankful acknowledgment went up to heaven. But there was nothing in public to mark that there was a Christian people. The same thing prevails in all parts of the Province. Why is this? It would surely not mar the proceedings or damp the general joy, for the people to assemble in one or more of the churches, sing an anthem of praise to God, and listen to an address which should recount the difficulties and dangers of their fathers, and point to the divine providence by which they had been led and delivered.

In the early settlement of this part of Nova Scotia there is the absence of those stirring scenes which give interest to our history. Yet there is enough to call forth gratitude to the divine Ruler, and a manly and honest pride in those stern and stalwart sons of Scotland, whose lot it was to do battle with hardship and privation, but who were just as ready to do battle, if needed, with the foes of their country. There is something truly grand and heroic in the toil of those who enter a new country, and begin the tedious process by which "the wilderness and the solitary place are made to rejoice and blossom as the rose." The qualities it requires are among the qualities which conquer the world. These are conquerors, but their conquest is bloodless. All honour to them. They laboured and we have entered into their labours.

We rejoice in those celebrations. They are evidences of a sound national heart. When strangers whisper that Nova Scotia do not love their country, that they lack patriotism, we cast back the imputation with scorn, and point to these celebrations as one of the smallest evidences that we are proud of the country that gave us birth, and of the fathers who reclaimed the wilderness and laid the foundations of our Dominion. There are mixed with us a few American citizens from whom we do not expect loyalty, and there are a few of our own sons who look with longing upon the great material prosperity of our Southern neighbours, and who feel or feign an admiration for the American Republic. But the great heart of the people is uncorrupted. Some day we may give our loyalty a clearer, fuller expression.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Writing in the midst of sanctified home associations is a luxury; in the roar of Broadway it is a most irksome duty. Nothing but the exactions of office could bring us to the unnatural effort of composing a paragraph under such dissonant and confused combinations of sounds. The wash and the dust of the ocean, as it brings its strength from a hundred leagues to smother the shores of Africa, we can never forget; even Niagara is said to be soothing to the listener, (as the African rollers assuredly are to the weary voyager); but this rasping, deafening noise plays on one's nerves beyond everything. Were it not that other thoughts thronged back upon our memory, we would say that New York is under a curse of turmoil and commotion. Night or Sunday brings no relief; perhaps the millennium may restore peace to this, with all other distracted things and places.

Very general were all the officials at the Book Room and printing establishments, and both being with each other to do us kindness, they made our visit one of great pleasure. Dr. Pierce, Editor of Zion's Herald, appeared quite vigorous and animated, ever preserving those gentlemanly qualities which we had so frequently heard attributed to him. Mr. Wood, the financial manager of the paper, combines great business tact with true suavity and good humour. Mr. McGee, Book Agent, begins to exhibit signs of age, but none of exhaustion.

We were in at the famous Boston Preacher's meeting on Monday morning. Dr. Andrew McKim was chairman. Sixty New Englanders thus to promote so prominently our Provincialists. Would they decry their mighty men? Seriously, though, our British American talent holds well its own on American soil,—that is, where brain really lies behind the fluent lips. Here are our men presiding over gatherings of historic interest; representing the Conference in the delivery of its annual sermon, often by appointment; taking leading Churches here and there. But,—ah!—and here is a qualification; it is not sufficient in New England Methodism to be a preacher and from the Province too; it is to be a man of God, and a man of power if he would obtain or hold a leading position. In this preachers' meeting—a class-meeting it was, to re-open after vacation—there were several indications of that kind of genius which, owned of God, has rendered Methodism so successful everywhere. We all yielded to the emotion of the occasion upon a most touching allusion to President and Mrs. Grant's presence at a recent camp-meeting, and the hopeful signs connected with their conduct there. It seems that those distinguished persons, with members of the Cabinet, were actually the subjects of much blessing, for which they were exceedingly grateful. Will Queen Victoria some day kneel beside and pray for sinners at a Methodist protracted meeting? Hush, my imagination, whisper it not in ritualistic Gath! Dr. W. R. Clarke did all he could, far more than we deserve.

ed, to render our stay at Boston, happy and instructive. May his useful life long be spared!

Lingering still about the vicinities, the heat of New York is oppressive. Summer came late and promises to dwell its fullest period. Business is lethargic. At the Gold Room and the Stock Market, where we spent the forenoon, we saw but a few signs of the former greatness. "Muckle noise and little wool" they would have styled it in Scotland. Only once or twice in half an hour did bonds change hands. Yester day's speculation spoke of it with great contempt. One awful blow we did hear, from a number of friends who were present, simultaneously to the centre of the gold room; but a sinister laugh betrayed that their object was to entertain three innocent Parsons looking over the gallery! These latter strangers were very likely to be imposed upon—perhaps. It may soon be our place to visit the excitement and vagaries of commerce, as commercial men in some instances have professed to laugh at the extravagancies of religion, for truly, in its most sensible epochs, this centre of American speculation is but a protracted meeting without either grace or good names.

Dr. Curry of the Christian Advocate still lives, veteran that he is! We found him moving off with a bundle of papers under his arm, as a republican and an Editor, as our readers can conceive. Not that the Dr. is all this in either attitude, but there is that in his appearance, especially when under a full head of conversational steam, which makes an immediate and deep impression upon a stranger. Our interview with him was brief, though somewhat extended by his own courtesy, but we shall ever attribute to him the masculine powers of intellect and will.

As to the Book and Publishing department of this great Methodist New York concern, we imagine that silence would well become us. Where there are nearly five hundred persons employed every day besides members of kind and departments of machinery driven by steam, one can only think of the mere shadows of such an institution. Here are young men and women engaged from seven in the morning till half-past five at evening, every muscle at work as if life depended upon each day's results, and the utmost they can earn, in the mechanical department, is from six cents to seven dollars a week. We have seen no work at home compared with this. Indeed, it is doubtful if young people in the Provinces were compelled to labour, as do these, whether they would not find some other way for their protection against the employer's cruelty, and flitting the lead with the story of their wrongs. Here, however, they submit, and sing over it, too, in their tidy summer dresses, giving a stranger an impression by no means unfavourable as to their condition. This also is a marvel.

Correspondence.

ONTARIO CORRESPONDENCE.

(For the Provincial Wesleyan.)  
DEAR MR. EDITOR,—The time draws nigh when the West will clasp the East in the closer bonds of Methodistic union. Already we are one—and the approaching Conference will but ratify a unity which has already taken place. We cannot but feel how grave is the responsibility which will rest upon that body, since its acts and its omissions must continue for four years before they can either be modified or supplied. Who will be our first General President? Will Dr. Rice, who seemed to be reserved for that honour by not being elected Moderator, or Dr. Douglas, who combines such an extensive acquaintance with the entire field, east and west, with experience and a happy tact for administration; or Dr. Wood—so well and so favourably known among the older members of our Conferences, and who has had the larger experience as a President among the Ontario New Connexion Churches shall be found our President. Already is union taking effect among us. Circuits are being united. Ministers are working together on one circuit plan. Missionary deputations are composed of both; and at our camp-meetings we are seen standing shoulder to shoulder. Not from what we have heard at a recent Camp-meeting will the status of our ministry lose anything by the union. The men whom we heard were fully equal, if not superior to the average among ourselves.

The prospect of further union does not appear very hopeful. The friends of union in the Primitive Methodist Church are outnumbered, and the Connexion is so united to the parent body, that separation without its consent is impracticable. The Bible Christians or Bryantians, are already hostile to it, and the Episcopal Methodists show the opposite of any inclination toward it. Their leanings, their sympathies, and their policy, are all American. And could they in any way secure for themselves a recognition as a part of the American M. E. Church we feel certain that it would afford them gratification. They are the most numerous body of Methodists in the country next ourselves, and numbering nearly 20,000 members, and many very good and beautiful churches through the country. They have generally a very feeble hold on outside members; but many of our villages, they have a good position, and in rural places have some strong circuits. They are putting forth a strong effort to gain a better foothold in our centres of population. In St. Thomas—where they hardly number twenty members, they are erecting a six thousand dollar church, the other day, and at Napanea, are about to build a still more expensive one. Their Quadrangular General Conference has just been held in the last named town. You would see that they elected Dr. B. as Moderator, the Missionary Secretaries of the American M. E. Church for their Bishop; but he declining, they chose subsequently fell upon Professor Carman, of Belleville, a graduate of our own Victoria College.

There has been quite a little bit of excitement in our country lately about the election by our day school teachers of a person to represent them in the provincial council of education. The contest was between Dr. Sangster and Goldwin Smith. The Globe came out very strongly against Dr. S. basing its objections solely upon moral grounds—because the doctor had divorced in the States a divorce from his wife

who is still living and is married to another, and had married again. It undoubtedly cost him the election, and G. Smith went in with a majority of more than two hundred. Our young lady teachers, (many of whom are in their teens), felt quite elated that they were honored with the elective franchise at this occasion. Our educational system is yet far from being perfect. And it is to be hoped that the formation of a Council will have a most beneficial effect in remedying existing defects.

The vice-regal tour of His Excellency the Governor General and Lady Dufferin, has everywhere called forth the most enthusiastic display of loyalty; and tended very greatly to enhance his personal popularity among us. Our harvest has been abundant, but the drought is being severely felt. I know not what day it will be called forth to be plentiful, and our pastures are far from being dried up. The time for our great Agricultural Shows has nearly come; and Hamilton, London and Guelph will compete with our great Provincial Exhibition to be held in Toronto. The fact that the last will take place at the same time as the General Conference, will afford the eastern members of that body a fine opportunity of judging of the agricultural capacities of the west.

H. R. R. S.

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Board of Governors of Acadia College.

GENTLEMEN,  
The Governors of Dalhousie College being convinced that your honorable Board is an agency for the promotion of University Education and in the condition of the several Colleges in this Province as themselves, have thought that a Conference of Committees appointed by each Board might bring about valuable results. It has therefore been proposed to ask the several Boards of the different Colleges to send delegates to meet at Mount Allison College, and to consider the expediency of forming a general University for education in the Arts, by the concentration of the talents of the different Faculties and its invariable results the benefit of the students in large numbers. The Governors of Dalhousie College in making the proposal are firmly persuaded that a frank discussion of this important question by those most deeply interested and best qualified to judge of the present state and efficiency of our existing institutions, will result in some measure to be adopted for such meeting.

We have the honor to be, Yours respectfully,  
W. YOUNG, Chairman,  
GEORGE THOMSON, Secretary to the Governors of Dalhousie College.  
Halifax, May 14th, 1874.

Miscellaneous.

A WAR OF THE RACES.

The situation in the South, which for the last six months has been assuming a more serious aspect, is becoming more and more alarming. Lawlessness seems about to become the rule. Threats that have had such an air of bluff, were disposed to treat them lightly, have been put into execution, and the result fills the public mind with dreadful forebodings. Make no mistake, however, we may for the highly colored and prejudiced statements from both parties to this unwise and uncharitable strife, no one can doubt that a systematic effort is being made to defraud the freedmen of their rights as citizens. The mission of the Southern papers is no to be understood with any other interpretation.

There are States in the South in which misrule has gained such headway, that to hot-headed men desperate remedies seem a necessity. Unprincipled politicians have taken advantage of the bad feelings of the whites toward the negro, and have secured, by almost universal condemnation. But the most of these outrages have been committed in States where colored people are not in the majority. In Tennessee, a few days ago, a woman was murdered for no other offense than that of being a negro school teacher. In the same State, last week, more than half a score of negroes were lynched by a mob of white men. In Texas, like outrages are perpetrated, but chiefly on whites, whose only crime is that they are from the North and have shown sympathy for the blacks. But in these States the white man's government, which we hear so much of, is not a political party, but a policy that meets with almost universal condemnation. 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