

Messenger and Visitor.

Published weekly, except on Sundays and public holidays, at the office of the Publisher, No. 10, St. John's Street, Halifax, N.S.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1886.

ACADEMY COLLEGE ANNIVERSARY.

Our institutions consist of Horton College, Acadia College, the Ladies' Seminary, and Acadia College proper. The anniversary exercises of the two former were held on Wednesday afternoon and evening, those of the latter on Thursday morning.

This year, instead of the brilliant sunshine which usually floods the beautiful country around College Hill on anniversary days, the sky was overcast, and chilly mists hung over the landscape and the Basin of the river were quite frequent. But Wolfville is a pleasant place under any circumstances, and the picture enclosed in the framework of the mountains of Percival, the Cumberland shore of the Basin of Minas, the high ground beyond Grand Pré, and the background of which College Hill makes a part, has its beauty in almost any light or shade. The hearty hospitality of the people, also, ever does all that is possible to make it pleasant for the guests of these days.

We did not reach Wolfville until Wednesday evening, and cannot, therefore, speak from personal knowledge of the character of the exercises at the closing of the session.

The reports in the daily papers speak of a commendatory term of them. The following essays were delivered, interspersed with music:

Essay—On Inheritance. Fred. Bradshaw.
Essay—Widely. J. H. H. H.
Essay—Africa Exploration. A. W. Foster.
Essay—Common Sense. W. J. H. H.
Essay—Charlemagne. Fred. J. Anderson.
Essay—Success in Life. Hugh Blackader.
Essay—La Salle. J. J. H. H.
Essay—The French in Canada. E. T. Stevens.
Essay—The Roman Military System. W. W. Chipman.

The Herald report has the following comment:

Master Hillyer showed by the practical tenor of his essay on Common Sense that how much many of us may lack that very essential requisite, he possessed a goodly share. Master Foster was evidently the orator of the occasion. Master Chipman also deserves a note of praise.

The anniversary exercises of the

LADIES' SEMINARY

were held in the college hall on Wednesday evening. This is justly regarded as one of the most interesting parts of the annual commencement programme. Although the weather was threatening, the hall was filled, and very many could not gain admission. We noticed on the platform and scattered through the audience a fair representation of our ministers from all parts of Nova Scotia, and not a few of the friends of Acadia who are ever most ready to uphold her on all occasions. At eight o'clock, the lady students, led by the graduating class, filed in and took their places in the seats reserved for them. The picture of health and happiness which they presented called forth remark. The simplicity of dress, the absence of all attempts at display or to eclipse each other, and the quiet self-possession and womanly modesty displayed by all who took part in the exercises, manifested the most commendable good taste. To make such an occasion a good parade, as is often done, is little more than vulgar, and seems to show that there has been no education in the true sense—that which elevates the thoughts and aims.

Nine young ladies had completed their course of study, and were ready to receive their diplomas. This is the largest number of graduates in any year hitherto. This is very gratifying, as it shows that the claims of female education are recognized by our people and that our Seminary is receiving an increasing patronage, and that the young ladies in attendance are becoming more alive to the importance of pressing on to take the full course. The names of the graduates are:

Elizabeth Evangeline Andrews, Wolfville.
Margaret Jane Bishop, Greenwich.
Agnes Louise Brown, Wolfville.
Emma Eliza Griffin, Greenwich.
Sarah Caroline Kelly, Portland, N. B.
Caroline Amelia Kempton, Wolfville.
Elizabeth Lavina Margeson, Margerville.
Frances Augusta Roscoe, Wolfville.
Harriet Eliza Wallace, Canada.

The following is the very interesting programme of the evening which was then carried out:

Processional March, from Tannhauser.
Masses Porter and Harrington.
Prayer.
Vocal Diet—Greetings.
Hymn with Salutory—Three Great Masters.
Piano Solo—Misses Estlin and Cook.
Hymn—The City in the Sea.
Vocal Solo—The Better Land.
Vocal Solo—The Lord of William Tell.
Piano Trio—Barbier de Seville.
Lovers' Fantasy—Dickie and Smith.
Lovers' Fantasy—Miss Griffin.
Hymn—Symphony.
Vocal Solo—Light of my Soul.
Hymn—The Lake School.
Miss Bishop.

Class Poem—Miss Andrews.
Class Prophecy—Miss Wallace.
Vocal Trio—Misses Andrews, Wallace and Kelly.
Essay with Velodictory—The Power of an Idea—Miss Margeson.
Presentation of Diplomas.
Address.
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

The salutatory essay was very well done, although the disturbance in the audience as late comers were getting to their seats was embarrassing. In those on the subjects of history and art, the language was choice, and the selection of fact and incident in the rapid sketch judicious. The young lady who read the essay in French did as well as could be expected, and showed considerable ease in a task of some difficulty. She had one advantage: there were few critics of either the substance of what she read, or of the manner in which she read it. The new feature in the programme—that of class poems and prophecies—was a great success. The productions of the young ladies who held these positions would do no discredit to any institution in the land, and claimed the best and most appreciative attention of the audience. The velodictory essay was the most thoughtful on the programme, and gave evidence of an intellect well trained and of high possibilities. On the whole this was one of the best exhibitions of the kind we have attended, as was proved by the earnest and prolonged attention of the audience. There can be no doubt but that these exercises are fitted to arouse a deeper interest in the education of the daughters of our land.

The words of Dr. Sawyer, in presenting the diplomas, were full of wisdom, emphasizing the idea that the true value and worth of life depend upon the culture of the heart, and the motives, feelings and aims which prompt and guide action. Dr. Allison spoke a few words, expressing his satisfaction at the evidence of work done, and referring to the advance which was being made in the matter of female education. The proceedings closed at a late hour by the singing of "God Save the Queen."

THE COLLEGE ANNIVERSARY.

Many eyes looked out wistfully on Thursday morning. It was hoped that the weather had fared up. But the mists were hanging darkly over the marsh lands and around the flanks and front of Blomdon, and it soon appeared that this year the many who had gathered from far and near must be satisfied with a drizzly, rainy day. When eleven o'clock came, however, the large hall of the college was filled with representatives of all parts of the country. When the procession, composed of the faculty, governors, alumni, etc., of the college, had marched in, and taken seats on the platform and places provided, the audience was seen to be sympathetic and expectant.

The following seven were about to deliver their orations and present themselves for the degree of B. A.:

Selden W. Cummings, Truro.
Alice M. Fitch, Wolfville.
John A. Ford, Bothwell, P. E. I.
Howard S. Freeman, Milton, Queens.
Henry T. Rose, Margaree, C. B.
James W. Tingley, Margaree, C. B.
Smith L. Walker, Truro.

After preliminary exercises, consisting of prayer and a piece of music very acceptably rendered by the choir of the Wolfville Baptist church, the delivery of the orations began. The following is a list of the speakers and their subjects in the order of delivery:

The English Cabinet System. Mr. Walker.
Tennyson's In Memoriam. Miss Fitch.
Inductive sciences, illustrated by geology. Mr. Tingley.
The public life of Milton. Mr. Freeman.
Imperial federation. Mr. Cummings.
The ancient classics—their educational value. Mr. Ford.
A completely fashioned will, the end of education. Mr. Rose.

Mr. Walker's oration showed a thoughtful study of English history, and contained an eloquent eulogy of Gladstone. The second speaker was greeted with special applause.

Miss Fitch is the second lady graduate from Acadia. She had evidently studied Tennyson's masterpiece to good purpose, and showed an intelligent appreciation of its course of thought and excellence. Her essay was a production of no mean merit, and was delivered in a natural and charming way, assisted by a clear bell-like voice, which made it very effective. There was in it no evidence of the inferiority of the female sex, as is compared with the excellent orations of the gentlemen graduates. Mr. Tingley's subject was treated very well, but we had the impression that he was not doing himself or his thought full justice in its delivery. Mr. Freeman gave information about the great part, a part of which must have been new to most of the audience. Mr. Cummings had chosen the most popular subject of the programme, and his well put points elicited frequent applause. Mr. Ford's subject was rather hackneyed, but he is one within a narrow range at the present time. His thought was well expressed and forcibly delivered. The oration of Mr. Rose was an excellent piece of thinking, and was probably as able a production as was delivered during the day. This completed the speaking.

Honor certificates were next awarded and applied to the following:

Freshman Class—W. H. Jenkins, in Greek, Latin and English; J. H. Jensen, in history.
Sophomore—J. V. Morgan, in mathematics; E. R. Morse, in ancient classics; D. H. Porter and J. W. Porter, in English; R. W. Ford, in classics.
Junior—W. R. Elchenberg, in political economy and classics.

Senior—J. A. Ford and S. L. Walker, in history; H. S. Freeman and H. T. Rose, in education.

Two diplomas were also awarded to Messrs. Freeman and Rose, respectively, of the senior class, for completion of the special course in education.

The usual formalities in connection with the conferring of degrees were then proceeded with. In addition to the degree of B. A. on the graduating class, the following degrees were conferred:

D. C. L.—Professor Foster, M. P.
D. D.—Rev. George E. Day, Yarmouth.
D. D.—Rev. T. A. Higgins, Wolfville.
M. A.—John March, St. John.

The degree of M. A. in course was conferred upon Rev. G. F. Currie, W. B. Bradshaw, S. M. Black, C. R. B. Dodge.

These are all good men and true, and will do no discredit to the honors conferred upon them.

Dr. Sawyer's address to the graduating class was brief, but packed full of signed wisdom.

At the close of these anniversary exercises, many gathered in

the dining hall. There was something said of what was wise, but was there not too much said that was otherwise? We have often asked ourselves the question as to the end to be secured at this time.

As to the dinner, there can be no doubt, as to what often follows the dinner, there is no real wit to enliven, but ought not such an occasion to be improved to some earnest purpose? The concert in the evening closed the proceedings.

The different bodies connected with the institutions held meetings, in which much important business was done. We can but notice a few points.

THE SENATE

determined to have examiners to act in conjunction with the faculty, and a committee was appointed to select them. In order to encourage graduates to continue study in some special department, it was decided:

"That the second degree in course (M. A.) should be conferred upon any one who, possessing intimate knowledge of any branch or department of study, shall secure the executive committee of the senate of such knowledge by the preparation of a paper prescribed by the executive committee on application, and the supplying of any other evidence of attainments in the subject or department proffered, which the executive committee may deem necessary."

Both these steps commend themselves.

AT THE MEETING OF THE ALUMNI

the recent legislation in reference to Academic Education in Nova Scotia was considered, and it was determined to instruct the executive committee in conjunction with the governors of the College to seek to secure some changes. The Academic Act, which looks so fair on the surface, virtually discriminates sharply in favor of the institutions of some denominations and against those of others, as will be shown at an early date.

The following officers were chosen for the ensuing year:

President—H. H. Eaton, M. A.
Vice-President—R. A. Cohoon, M. A.
Secretary—Treasurer—F. Andrews, B. A.
Directors—Prof. R. B. Jones, M. A.
Hon. J. W. Johnston, Rev. C. Goodspeed, M. A.
Rev. W. H. Warren, M. A., E. D.
King, M. A., W. F. Parker, B. A., E. J. Denton, B. A.

The following were nominated to represent the society in the senate:

H. C. Creed, M. A., Prof. J. F. Tufte, M. A., Rev. G. O. Gates, M. A., L. S. Morse, M. A., Wallace Graham, B. A., C. C. J. F. Parsons, B. A.

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

were engaged in earnest work during parts of Wednesday and Thursday, and the whole of Friday. There was a searching examination given of all departments of the work of our institutions at Wolfville.

It was determined to widen the academy course as much as possible, so as to contain a course for teachers in the schools of Nova Scotia. It is hoped that all arrangements may be matured at an early date, and definite announcements made.

After prolonged conference between a committee of the Board of Governors and the faculty, it was determined to begin the work of the college proper the first Tuesday in October instead of the first in Sept., and to prolong the spring term of all the college classes to the first of June.

THE RECORD OF THE PAST YEAR.

Is one of the best Acadia has made. She is seated at the springs of power, and she is doing her part well. The attendance has been good for any year, and excellent for such a hard year as this. It is most pleasing to mingle with students in all the departments of our Wolfville institutions and hear the words of satisfaction, well-nigh enthusiastic, with which they speak of the advantages to be had there. There seems to have been scarcely a ripple of discontent, and the relationship between students and instructors is most cordial and stimulating. The financial outlook, while not gloomy enough to discourage, is such as to demand the most liberal giving to the convention fund in order to meet expenses.

THE PROSPECT

for next year is good. Twenty young men have matriculated from the Academy into the College. Those who will come from other institutions will make this, it is hoped, the largest freshman class ever in the College. Let our pastors and the earnest friends of our educational institutions but go to work and be on the watch, all over the country, to encourage young men and ladies to seek a higher education, and we will see at Acadia, and next year we shall be a better record than any other. If we

can but make Horton Academy and the Seminary in St. John strong, and have them as feeders for our College, her future will eclipse her past, and she will be an ever increasing blessing to our denomination. All true men will join in the wish that all this and more may be realized.

OUR ASSOCIATIONS.

These gatherings may be full of inspiration and impulse, or of well—nothing in particular. It should be the concern of all to make them as profitable as possible. How can this be done?

Is it not true that our Associations are less a blessing than they might be because we expect too little from them? We regard them as the place of meeting with brethren whom we love, and as affording a little let-up to the strain of arduous labor, and these purposes which they serve are not to be despised; but they have been the means of greater blessing than this in the past, and may be this year.

Our ministers and a goodly number of our most devoted brethren and sisters gathered at these meetings. They come, bearing the record of another year of labor for the Master, and of grace from him. They expect to hear reports from sister churches of what God has done. The state of our denominational interests is to be laid before them. There is much to stir gratitude, to cause humility, to arouse longing.

What better than, what more promising assemblage, what more favorable circumstances to open the heart to God to be filled by him, and to seek a fresh baptism in love and zeal?

We have special reason for thanksgiving this year. God's spirit has been poured out. Many churches have felt the power from on high. Fathers and mothers have had sons and daughters rescued from danger of eternal death; pastors have seen the fruitage of long, devoted labor; weak churches have been strengthened; and a large accession has been made to the working force against sin and its curse. There should also be great searching of heart and humility of spirit. Many have not shared in the blessing. To listen to the record of what God has done in sister churches should kindle their desire for the coming of like power, and lead to questioning as to the reason why the wave of revival has not swept over their community also. It is to be feared, also, that the state of our denominational treasures will be additional reason for confession and humiliation before God; although we still hope that contributions may yet be sent, in some proportion to the gifts from God which have refreshed so many this last year.

Why then should we not come up to our Associations with expectations high enough to permit us to have a great blessing in agreement with God's rule, "according to your faith be it unto you"? Let us begin to lay our Associations before God at the family altar, the prayer meeting, and in Sabbath devotions, that the power which in the olden time so often flooded these gatherings may descend.

We do not forget that our Associations are for business; but the business is part of God's service, and a most important part, and need not quench, but should promote warmth and zeal. Our business will be all the better done, also, if there is much of the devotional mingled with it. We have sometimes known business to degenerate into what was unseasonably joy for the want of more prayer. If we only get our souls near to our Saviour, so as to partake of his spirit, how much more sensitive shall we be to all appeal to assist our work in its straits, and how much keener and more ready will be our insight as we seek to come to right conclusions as to our plans for the future.

Much will depend, also, upon the manner in which our Associations are conducted, when we meet. Much time is often wasted on discussions of points of order and minutiae, which would be better employed in devotional exercises, or on the great subjects of denominational interest. Sessions are often a drag because no brother or brethren have been notified before hand to be prepared to open the subject in hand. The "cut and dried" system of the U. S., has not worked well. But while there should be room left for the freest discussion, and the utterance of the best thought stirred by the occasion, much time will be wasted if no one is expected to begin the discussions which are to set thought at work. It is well to remember, also, that we do not want so much addresses which reveal the ability of the speaker, as those which stir the thought and heart of the hearer.

Let there be facts to engage the mind and motives to appeal to the soul. As for discussion, impatience, etc., let it not be so much as named among us.

Let us then pray that our Associations may be spiritual, practical, full of inspiration, and that those who go may receive a quickening of interest in the great work of our denomination, and an increase of devotion generally, which may be communicated through them, to some extent, at least, to the churches they represent.

THE ASSOCIATIONS TO THE SOUTH ATLANTIC.

The rum dealers are determined to uphold their good friends in the Senate to the utmost of their power. Petitions are being received from all parts of the country praying that the amendments proposed by the Senate become law, and that a three-fifths vote be required before the act can be carried. It is said the petitions have

been scrutinized; but it is not too much to believe that these names are not all genuine. However this may be, it is evident that the rum party are doing their utmost to destroy the Scott Act in the way suggested—shall we say to, or by the Senate. The fact, however, remains, that at the testing of the ballot box, a large majority of the electors of Ontario have said they desire to have the liberty to rid themselves and their families of the curse of this unrighteous traffic.

If our legislators give way, it will be by the minority marshalled by men who are trading on the misery and wretchedness and crime of the community, against the majority headed by all the ministers and the most philanthropic men and women of the country. We cannot think so badly of our representatives as to believe they will yield under such circumstances.

The demand that, for instance, sixty men in a community cannot take the best means to shield themselves and their children from the degradation and ruin of the traffic, as long as the man who is working the evil can drum up forty-one to favor the use of rum, is strange. We always supposed that the use of government was to secure the greatest good to the greatest number, and when it saw a few crushed down by evil-doers, throw its force on their side to give them relief. But in reference to this traffic, it seems some think differently, and suppose governments are to prevent majorities even from shaking themselves free from what is admitted to be the greatest evil of the age. It is not too much to say that a government which would use its forces to keep a majority bound to the will of a minority, which the minority desire what all know to be pernicious, is unworthy to rule a civilized country. Let temperance men have at least a fair field, and if they cannot have any favor from government in their grand work, let them not be handicapped by it, at the back of those who follow a trade while knowing it brings the worst evils in its train.

Temperance men and women need to be on the alert. The leaders of the rum forces have said it would be easier to influence the legislature than the popular elections. We hope this is not true, for it contains an insinuation which might well make all honest men blush for our representatives if it were so. We know there are good men and true of the floor of the House of Commons; but there are others upon whom lobbying men dealers seem to exercise a strange mysterious power. It is said, that there is fear lest the amendments of the Senate will be passed by the Commons. What is the will of the people worth, if an act which they have voted to have is to be mutilated and torn from them after all their determined efforts to obtain it?

BAPTIST MAY MEETINGS OF THE U. S.

Our brethren in the United States have just held their great annual meeting. These anniversary are always occasions of great interest. The fact that they are the great gatherings where over two millions and a half of Baptists report the work of the year, and lay plans for the year to come, cannot fail to invest them with interest. The meetings of last week, however, were of more than ordinary moment. Not only was there a grand array of the talent and strength of this great body, but peculiar circumstances combined to make them one of the most stirring occasions for years. It has been a hard year financially, and the work, at the same time, has been growing upon the hands of the different Boards. It seemed as though God were opening doors on all sides, which could not be passed by unentered, while, at the same time, it was not known whence the means were to be forthcoming.

The first of the great societies to hold its session was the Home Missions. The effect of the failure of John H. Dean upon the invested funds was not fully known, and the statement was waited with eager interest. The Board made a plain statement. A committee was appointed to report. It was found that the loss will reach as high as \$180,000, and there was a sense of relief that it would probably reach but little higher, and some wise suggestions were made as to the conduct of the business in the future, which were unanimously adopted, thus averting what might have been a painful season. There is to be a paid treasurer of the Board, and an attorney, to scrutinize the titles to all properties taken in security for loans, and other measures adopted, to make the money given as safe for the purpose as possible.

THE EXTENT OF THE WORK.

The Society's operations have been conducted during the past year in 45 States and Territories, also in Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia, and in two States of the Mexican Republic. The whole number of laborers supported, wholly or in part, has been 702, being 68 more than last year, and 466 more than six years ago. The missionaries have represented ten nationalities or peoples, viz: Americans, Germans, French, Swedes, Danes, Norwegians, Welsh, Indians, Negroes, Chinese.

RESULTS OF THE YEAR'S WORK.

Number of laborers, 702; weeks of labor, 24,167; churches and out-stations supplied, 1,628; sermons preached, 54,892; prayer meetings held, 32,836; religious visits made, 141,628; Bibles and Testaments distributed, 8,006; pages of tracts distributed, 322,485; received by baptism, 3,817; received by letter and experience, 3,474; total church membership, 29,561; churches organized, 139; Sunday schools under care

of missionaries, 740; attendance, 48,802; benevolent contributions, \$27,737.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

The total receipts of the year, including conditional or annuity funds (not including church edifice loans repaid), have been \$447,879.05. The real increase in actual receipts has been nearly \$80,000 more than last year, and \$110,000 greater than the high-water mark of the Jubilee year.

The year has closed with a deficit of \$117,888.28. This is the largest deficit in the Society's history. The year began with a debt of \$54,330.85; hence the increase has been \$63,667.38. The two principal items in this increase are \$30,616.90 more than last year for missionaries' and teachers' salaries; and \$1,634.83 above funds designated for this purpose, for the completion of school buildings for the colored people and the Indians.

In view of this large deficit the Board determined to reduce its expenditure 30 per cent. But the brethren assembled at Saratoga are very loth to listen to this, and it is to be hoped that there will be such a determination aroused to carry on this grand work in widening operations as shall call forth increased giving.

THE PUBLICATION SOCIETY.

was the next of the great societies to hold its anniversary. The report shows the gross receipts to have been \$650,262, a decrease of \$56,000, due altogether to the commercial depression.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S WORK.

Missionaries and secretaries, 86; days of service, 18,767; miles travelled, 306,784; books sold, 26,032; books given away, 2,347; pages of tracts distributed, 5,872,039; sermons and addresses delivered, 11,777; prayers meetings held, 2,746; families visited, 27,765; persons baptized, 704; churches organized, 60; Sunday schools, 462; institutes, etc., held and addressed, 498; Sunday schools aided by donations, 835; pastors and ministerial students aided with grants for their libraries, 227.

An incident of much interest enlivened the meeting of this Society. It is thus reported in the Examiner:

We have had something quite out of the common run of programmes to-night. Such a scene of genuinely spontaneous enthusiasm venting itself into generous giving is not witnessed often enough for one to weary of it. This is the way it comes about. There is a packed house. Dr. Biting tells the story of the Armenians and their work. He interests everybody in Dr. Haygood and Melchiorian. Missionaries who are equal to the expedient of turning an organ-box into a collection are certainly worth being interested in. Then he tells how the pastor of an Armenian Congregational church, with some 700 members, one of the largest churches in Armenia, comes to America to help to build a new church-house that suffered from the Russo-Turkish war.

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Correct statistical information, of community, whether association or convent membership presented, brief, accurate form, and to prevent miscommunication this is often misinformed to the interest of a number of years endeavor to provide the records of the Provinces. These are partially successful. Associations are but correctness in this respect to correct statistics of their statements may be reliable.

Each of the N. S. A. applied with a bound volume Minutes which have of much value. Besides time to time, been able with back numbers of historical purposes. It is pleasant to be able to

It is unfortunate that Minutes themselves as respect to the statistics found in them. It is this is the case with of the past year 1884, Year Book. It is impossible to find the minutes of churches in the past as to the Sunday

other matters of interest made to bring out information of the public. These things to be. There should with the Clerks of the the correct annual minutes in their letters to the Clerks of the Association. Their office is a sacred trust, and the result of the letters properly added together may at a glance provide of the Denomination

We might say much of these matters, but would beg each Association to see that there is inaccuracy aggregate as it may. Book of the current forwarded as usual the to the Clerks of the sheets for the Clerks and Superintendents with the hope that given in the letters in them, and so be in Year Book. No effort accomplish this object as possible after the time, so that there might play the copy for the