

In material things the University has grown, notwithstanding the severe vicissitudes which have been passed. The present efforts of Dr. Trotter to place the Institutions on an adequate financial basis are meeting gratifying success. The generous gift of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, of \$15,000 conditioned on the raising of \$60,000 by other friends of Acadia within one year, has given an impetus to the movement. This winter the President is dividing his time between administrative duties at Wolfville and visitation in different parts of the Provinces in prosecution of the forward canvass. Amherst, Moncton and Truro have been visited and have liberally responded. The munificent gift of Mr. A. F. Randolph, of Fredericton, a lifelong friend of Acadia, swells the Forward Fund, apart from Mr. Rockefeller's donation, to \$12,000. Much yet remains to be done to make the sum \$60,000 and thus secure the conditional \$15,000. Yet the outlook is hopeful. The suspicion of failure to raise the needed amount carries with it so dire visions of evil that it is not to be entertained for a moment. The history of Acadia warrants the most sanguine expectation that the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces will come nobly to the support of these Institutions whose interests are so fundamentally related to the entire life of the denomination.

Holiday Wishes.

Before the next issue of the "ATHENÆUM" reaches its readers, the mid-winter vacation will have come and another Christmas-tide will have been ushered in. With great expectation has the season of relaxation, home delights and happy festivities been anticipated. We heartily wish that for all our readers, the realization may be no less joyous.

With peculiar eagerness does the student hail the approach of the holidays. He looks forward with pleasurable emotions to the renewing of associations at home, or elsewhere, amid conditions in which text books and notes may be temporarily laid aside, thoughts of study neglected, and the mind be free to rove at will in the rugged fields of vigorous research, in romantic paths or in contemplation of plans for Christly ministrations; or it may be, to recline beside the still waters of communication with the truest and noblest thoughts of the past and present. To the student who has held himself to the becoming restraints of College life, the freedom of the holidays comes with genuine appreciation. No one can more fully prize the liberty of choosing for himself the time for rest or the subject of occupation than he whose hours of the day and of no small portion of the night have been spent in the prescribed pursuits of duly zealous under-graduates.

But the peculiarity of the season is suggested by the designation—Christmas. While recognizing the fact that the date cannot be accepted as unquestionably the time when the shepherds were made "sore afraid" by the presence of the angel with the message of "great joy," and while we give due diligence to have regard to the transcendent significance of the event and not solely nor chiefly to the day