

Poetry.

For the Wesleyan.

TELEGRAPHIC SPEED.

How wondrous! this Electric power,
That gives "the tidings" to the hour—
And though far distant speeds its haste
O'er smiling fields or barren waste.
In vain the boding heart would stay
Intelligence that wafts its way;
Joyous or evil on it flies!
To glad the ear, or dim the eyes.
And if so sure this creature skill,
What are the workings of His will—
Who holds in his almighty hand
The mechanism of seas and land,
The cattle on a thousand hills,
And all that this vast concave fills,
The systems of each radiant orb,
That still our thinking powers absorb,
Who formed the subtle fire on high,
And frequent darts it through the sky?
Mortals must wonder and adore,
Man's reasoning powers can do no more
Than love Him, where they cannot trace,
For all his gifts, of skill and grace!
Fear Him, whose wonders are abroad—
Worship!—for He alone is God.
This God who bears such wondrous sway,
Cares for his creatures of a day!
He can avert the clouds that lower,
Softened the tidings of the hour,
Subduing all things by His power.

Halifax, January, 1852.

M. M.

THE WESLEYAN.

Halifax, Saturday Morning, February 21, 1852.

Duty of the Legislature of Nova Scotia with respect to Collegiate Education. By the Rev. Alexander Forrester, Minister of Chalmers Church, Halifax.

In continuing our notice of this work, we may observe that the Reverend author speaks of the "whole quality and style of the higher branches of education" in Nova Scotia as being lamentably defective, and that it is "now full time that something effective were done with the view of elevating the quality, as well as increasing the quantity of the education of this Province." We object to this strong view of the case, and believing his representation to be exaggerated, we are unwilling that his unqualified statements should go abroad uncontradicted. We have no hesitation to affirm, that there are Provincialists educated exclusively in our own Institutions, who may favourably compare, at least, with some who have enjoyed the advantages of the educational institutions of the Mother Country, and who have favoured us with their presence, and with the benefit of their superior talents and literary attainments.

When a person speaks so disparagingly, as this author has done, of the education of Provincialists in the higher branches of literature and philosophy, we may reasonably expect him to afford a model of refined taste, polished style, and correct composition, which those whom he aims at elevating may safely follow, otherwise, it is to be feared, his example may neutralize his instructions. The writer of the pamphlet before us may possess literary qualifications of the first order, nor do we wish to diminish aught of his just merit. But when we were reading his severe strictures, we could not but look to this production of his pen for proofs and illustrations of the superiority, which an education, received in the renowned Collegiate Halls of other lands, and under the tuition of world-famed Professors, is calculated to impart; and we confess our disappointment. The author, we are persuaded, has not done justice to himself; and, it is to be regretted, that, when writing on so important a subject, to so grave an assemblage of men, as the Legislators of Nova Scotia are presumed to be, he should have allowed his appeal to go forth to the world with so many marks of unwarrantable haste. We shall give a few instances, italicizing the words to which we would direct the attention of our readers:—

"It may be, that Nation or Province has, generations ago, enjoyed, a well-equipped and adequate amount of education"—Page 3.

This may mean a "well-equipped amount of education," or "a well-equipped education." In either case, what is the meaning of the phrase?

"But the population has far outgrown the supply provided, and the improvements in educa-

tion have, since that period, been so fundamental and extensive, that the whole system demands revision and addition." Page 2.

Since what "period"? The reason appears to us singular, that "fundamental and extensive improvements in education" demand "revision and addition of the whole system"; and still more singular, that on account of said improvements, the "whole system demands revision and addition"!

On page 3, we find the phrase "to have pleaded," instead of, to have *pleaded*.

"These" (viz., "the above branches" of Literature, Philosophy, and Science,) have *totally failed*."—Page 3. "These branches" could not have *totally failed*, unless everything pertaining to Literature, Philosophy, and Science, had been *totally rooted up*, and cast *utterly out* of our educational institutions—in which case they would better deserve the designation of Institutions for the promotion of absolute ignorance. The author has written carelessly.

"The utmost that any of them" (Denominational Colleges) "has been able to muster for all the preliminary branches, is one solitary Professor." Page 5-6.

Hard work, we opine, to muster—one solitary Professor! Such an achievement must have required these Colleges to do their "utmost"; and, then, if they had not done their "utmost," they might have *mustered* either no Professor, or only a half of one!

"They" (the Students of Denominational Colleges) "enter upon their professional studies without any thing like a satisfactory foundation laid in Classics or Philosophy, or even in general knowledge, and thus they are utterly unable to derive the same amount of benefit from their Theological Professors, however erudite," &c. "Same amount of benefit" as what? we are left to conjecture. The sentence is incomplete.

"Though we believe all the leading religious denominations in the Province, &c., are perfectly competent to support one or two Theological Professors," &c. Page 7.

The sense required—each of—instead of "all." We do not allude "to the desire evinced, in so many quarters, that some great and vigorous effort ought to be made," &c. Page 12.

The sense required—may be made. "That it" (Dalhousie College) "was to be moulded after the same principles as the University of Edinburgh," &c. Page 13.

The word "same" is worse than unnecessary. "Whether the Legislature is prepared to grant a competent endowment for such an Institution, or to allow the whole style and tone of education to remain stationary for another quarter of a century, and thereby compelling the youth," &c.

The construction required—compel. We must arrest our pen for the present. The task we have executed may appear to some invidious. To ourselves it has been far from pleasant. It seemed necessary to us, when a comparative stranger has undertaken to publish to the world such wholesale contemptuous statements respecting Provincial Collegiate education, gently to remind him how easily persons may exhibit defects which they are labouring to attribute to others.

What is the "Proposal"?

In advertent to the facilities afforded for endowing Dalhousie College, Rev. Mr. Forrester, in his pamphlet, intimates, that the amounts granted by the Legislature to King's College, Windsor, Acadia, St. Mary's, and Sackville, might be appropriated for this purpose, setting down, among others, Sackville as receiving £250 per annum. We may here inform the author, that Sackville Academy has, for some years past, been in the annual receipt of £150 from the N. S. Legislature, and not £250.

In a subsequent part of the pamphlet, he says he has "not for one moment contemplated the overthrow of those Colleges. They would still be devoted to the purposes for which they were originally intended, viz., the rearing of a home ministry for occupying the various Pulpits in our land." Again:—"The Academies too, attached to these Colleges might also be carried on with increased vigour, &c."—These ACADEMIES might also continue to receive even larger Grants from the Provincial Treasury, though under Denominational management—said grants

being given entirely on secular grounds, and as an expression of approbation, on the part of the State, for such an Education."

We notice these statements, principally, to reiterate the known facts, that the Sackville Institution is not a COLLEGE, nor does it pretend to be a College, in the properly understood sense of the word, though in effect affording a "Collegiate Course" of education—that it was not originally, nor is it now, designed to rear a Wesleyan Ministry—that it has no THEOLOGICAL CHAIR. It is an ACADEMY, with a competent staff of Professors and subordinate Teachers, designed from the beginning to give its students a thorough, well-grounded, extensive, and systematic SECULAR EDUCATION, in connection with due attention to morals, and the fundamental principles of divine truth.

The course of study embraces three Departments:—1. Primary; 2. Intermediate; 3. Collegiate. The latter extends over a space of three years; the appropriate studies of which are Mental Philosophy, Trigonometrical Analysis, &c., Latin, Greek, French, Rhetoric, Spherical Geometry, History, Chemistry, Algebra, Ethics, Political Economy, Elements of Criticism, Astronomy, Physiology, Analytical Geometry, Logic, Butler's Analogy, Geology, Botany.

We respectfully call the attention of our Legislators, and others interested, to this brief statement of facts, in order that the real character of the Sackville Academy may be clearly discerned. We have no wish to deceive, or make a false impression on a point, on which were such an attempt made, the deed of settlement and the history of the Institution might be at once cited in exposure. Without one word of disparagement of other Seminaries, we may safely say, that the Academy at Sackville, has been, and still is, second to none of the Educational Institutions of the Provinces in "the style and tone" and "quality" of the education imparted; and whether we have one College on a grand scale, or two, three, or more Colleges, the Institution at Sackville cannot be dispensed with, for the literary training of many youths of this Province, whose circumstances forbid their ever possessing other scholastic opportunities; and, at all events, as a preparatory agent of instruction, to qualify these youth of Wesleyan and other families, who may wish it, to avail themselves of the advantages of any higher Seminary or Seminaries of learning that may be established in the Province. Many Novascotian youths have already been educated there, whose attainments, we believe, will neither disgrace their *Alma Mater*, nor the country which has given them birth. Deeply persuaded as we are of the extensive benefits which that seat of learning has conferred, and is still conferring, on the youth of this Province, we feel a laudable and a justifiable interest in its well-being, and a strong desire, that, by liberal assistance afforded by the Legislature of this Province, its halls may still be accessible to the comparatively humble and middle classes of society; and we confidently expect, that even a larger grant will be appropriated by the present Session than formerly, entirely on secular grounds, as an expression of approbation on the part of the State for the sound and thorough education it imparts.

If our views are correct—and they are fully borne out by undeniable facts—Sackville Academy ought not in justice to be mixed up with the disposal of the College Question, but should be considered, and treated, as a higher Seminary of learning, essential to the educational interests of no mean portion of the youth of Nova Scotia; as in it hundreds of them expect to obtain whatever education they may receive to fit them for the various and important duties of life.

Sydney, C. B., Branch Wesleyan Missionary Meeting.

We learn from the Cape Breton News, that the Annual Meeting of the Sydney Branch Wesleyan Missionary Society was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Sydney, on the evening of the 10th inst. His Honor Mr. Justice DODD occupied the Chair. After singing, prayer was offered by the Rev. H. McLeod, of the Free Church. Resolutions were moved and seconded by Mr. McKAY, Mr. FERGUSON, the Rev. H. McLEOD, Mr. BURCHELL, Mr. Donald McLELLAN, and the Rev. Mr. CRANE. Mr. HARRINGTON offered some

very pertinent observations on the value of the offerings of the poor, as being in the sight of God very acceptable. A Collection was made in behalf of the funds. The News concludes by expressing his sincere wish that this Society, and all others having for their aim the propagation of God's Word, may be abundantly blessed.

Shelburne Circuit.

By a letter from the Rev. J. ARMSTRONG, Feb. 16, we learn that the Ladies of North East Harbour held a Bazaar at that place on Jan. 15, to raise means for the purpose of aiding in the liquidation of the debt on the Wesleyan Chapel there. The Ladies performed their part in admirable taste, and so effectively, that every article was sold. The Preacher on the Circuit read a Lecture on "Relic Worship," as connected with the subject treated of last year by the Rev. W. WILSON. A sufficient amount was raised to pay the debt, and leave a handsome sum in the hands of the Ladies to pursue their praiseworthy object, as a Chapel-aid Society.

The gentlemen have commenced a subscription list to build a new and more commodious Chapel, as the present one is too small.

A series of religious meetings, held recently in the same place, has been attended with much good. The members of the Church have been quickened; and others have been added to the Class, and, as is fondly hoped, to the Lord.

Religious Anniversaries—Montreal.

The Montreal Religious Anniversary Meeting took place last week, and were even more largely attended than those of any previous year. The people of the city appear to have an increasing interest in these hallowed festivals, and in the Societies which call them together. Some report of the first three meetings will be found in another column, but it is altogether inadequate either to represent the eloquence and fervour of the speakers or the enthusiasm of the audiences. The Rev. E. N. KIRK, of Boston, who kindly complied with the urgent invitation of the Societies to come in, added much to the interest of the week, and left a most favourable impression of the fraternal and Catholic spirit of our American brethren. A letter from the Rev. Dr. TYNG, of New York, who was also invited, but could not come, strongly expressed the same Catholicity of views, and the same regard for the welfare of Canada. These expressions were so cordially responded to, that, as was well remarked at the meetings, religious annexation appears to have taken the place of political annexation. There was a new feature in the anniversary week this year, namely: the observance of a prayer meeting every morning, with special reference to the meeting of the evening. These prayer meetings, which were solemn and interesting, were attended by considerable numbers, and we hope will be repeated in future years with constantly increasing effect. The Morning Prayer Meetings of the Anniversary Week may come to be regarded with nearly as much interest as the evening platform meetings, and the two combined may be the commencement of an annual revival of religion among the various denominations which take part in them.—*Montreal Witness*, Feb'y 2.

Malta.

This island has 110,000 inhabitants of a very mixed race, and the prevailing languages are essentially the Italian and Arabic, though not generally spoken in their purity. British munificence has established a college here within a few years, which if properly conducted will have a most important bearing on the spread of the gospel on the adjoining continent. The Free Church of Scotland established a mission here some six or seven years ago, which if vigorously prosecuted will exert an influence, not only as extensive as the island, but by means of the Religious Tract, the Scriptures and the voice of the living teacher here trained, will spread the knowledge of the truth along the shores of Italy, and among the many islands of the Mediterranean.—*Boston Congregationalist*.

Methodism in the United States.

The following statistics are taken from the Report of Dr. Baird, delivered before the Evangelical Alliance Society:—

"The last, in order of time, of the larger religious bodies that arose, was the Methodist Episcopal Church. It was organized in 1784, and in 1800 had 40,000 members. Its subsequent increase has been immense. It now spreads all over the country, and, says Dr. B., its conferences, districts and circuits, cover the whole land. The division took place in 1844. In 1850, the northern branch, called the "Methodist Episcopal Church," had 4,004 ministers, and