

spacious hall of the new College building on the 2nd of June. The orations by members of the Graduating Class were as follows:

THE VOICE OF THE PLEBS.—Horatio H. Wolton, Wolfville.
EDUCATION AND THE BALLOT.—Frank Andrews, Wilmot.
EVOLUTION AND MATERIALISM.—Albert J. Pineo, Berwick.
ADDITION AS SOCIAL REFORM.—John Donaldson, Wolfville.
ABILITY, NATURAL AND ACQUIRED.—Sydney Welton, Kingston.
TRIAL BY ORDEAL.—Henry D. Bentley, Wolfville.
THE REFORM BILL OF 1852.—Edward B. Webber, Sackville.
MONUMENTA.—Orlando T. Daniels, Lawrencetown.
THE IDEAL CHARACTERS OF GEORGE ELIOT.—Edward R. Curry, Windsor.

A VIEW OF THE IRISH QUESTION.—Wm. F. Parker, Dartmouth.
THE DIVINE AND HUMAN IN GREEK LIFE.—Arthur C. Chute, Stewiacke.

The Degree of A.M. was conferred on the Revs. J. L. Dewolf, and W. H. Robinson in regular course, and that of D.D., *pro causa honoris*, on the Revs. J. E. Bill, George Armstrong and S. U. DeBlois. At the close of the Convocation, short addresses were delivered by the recipients of honorary degrees, Dr. Rand, Chief Superintendent of Education for the Province of New Brunswick, Col. A. W. Drayson, R. A., formerly Professor of Surveying and Astronomy at the Royal Military College, Woolwich, and by the President, Rev. A. W. Sawyer, D.D. The other exercises connected with the anniversary were very interesting. The Horton Academy (for boys) and the Acadia Seminary (for young ladies) were reported to be in a prosperous condition. These flourishing institutions are under the control of the Baptist denomination.

The Alumni Dinner, under the genial and efficient chairmanship of J. W. Longley, Esq., of Halifax, President of the Alumni Association, was a most enjoyable "feast of reason and flow of soul." The toast of "Acadia College" was responded to in eloquent terms by the President, Rev. Dr. Sawyer, who expressed strong faith in the development and perpetuity of the institution. Col. Drayson spoke appropriately for "the Army and Navy." Dr. Rand, as representing the body of the Alumni, revived, in a touching and impressive manner, "Memories of College Days." "Sister Colleges" were represented by Dr. Allison, Superintendent of Education, R. Sedgewick, Esq., President of the Alumni Association of Dalhousie College, and Dr. J. G. Macgregor, Professor of Physics in Dalhousie. Among important items of business announced we note the following:

The chair of Natural Science becoming vacant by the resignation of Professor Kennedy, Dr. Blaikie, of Edinburgh, son of Dr. Blaikie who was on a visit to Halifax last year in relation to the Vandois and Waldensian Churches, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Dr. A. D. W. Barss having resigned the Treasurership of the College, Mr. X. Z. Chipman was appointed Treasurer in his place.

The governors determined to sustain the Theological Department, and commissioned Rev. Dr. Crawley and Rev. Dr. Welton to spend much of the present summer in an endeavor to secure from the friends of the College an endowment of \$200,000 for that department.

C. F. Frazer, Esq., Principal of the Nova Scotia Institute for the Blind, delivered, on the 16th ult., in the Academy of Music, Halifax, a memorable lecture in advocacy of the claims of the blind to a free education. The chair was occupied by the Lieutenant Governor, and the platform filled with distinguished representatives of all the professions. The lecture was replete with curious and valuable information, and the claims of the unfortunate class in whose interest it was delivered were eloquently urged on grounds of patriotism, justice and philanthropy.

The authorities of the leading New England Colleges have undertaken and are maturing arrangements for uniform requisitions for admission, from which much advantage must accrue to the Colleges themselves, to the preparatory schools, and to the cause of Education as a whole. The movement was entered on with a good deal of hesitation, but has made unexpectedly rapid progress. In the Autumn of 1879, ten of the New England Colleges—Harvard, Yale, Brown, Dartmouth, Williams, Amherst, Wesleyan, Trinity, Tufts, and Boston University, agreed to the holding of four conferences of Examiners for the purpose of testing the practicability of agreement upon requisitions in the four departments of Greek, Latin, Mathematics and English. These conferences were held; the Greek examiners meeting at Cambridge, the Latin at New Haven, the Mathematical at Providence, and the English at Hartford.

In each conference the examiners arrived at results practically

unanimous, and when the standards recommended by them respectively were submitted to the various Faculties, the decisions of the Faculties were favourable far beyond original anticipations. A majority of the Colleges have either modified the entrance requirements in accordance with the recommendations of the examiners, or have reached the decision to do so for the incoming year. Further conferences are provided for, and will, no doubt, result in the complete unification of standards of admission to a large majority of the leading Colleges of the American Union.

The latest phase of the college question in Nova Scotia is indicated by the subjoined reports taken from our Halifax exchanges.

1. Requisition for a conference of Alumni:

To the President and other Officers of the Alumni Associations of King's, Dalhousie, Acadia and Mount Allison Colleges:

We, the undersigned members of one or other of the above named Alumni Associations, are of opinion that in view of the recent action of the Legislature of Nova Scotia with reference to higher education, it is exceedingly desirable that a conference of the several Associations should be held, for the purpose of discussing the advisability and feasibility of university consolidation.

We therefore venture to request that you take such measures as may be requisite to bring about such a conference.

The signers of this requisition embrace the entire faculties of Dalhousie and King's Colleges, a majority of the faculty of Acadia College, a leading professor of Mount Allison College, the Chapcollor of Halifax, and a large number of representative Alumni.

2. Reply of the Alumni Association of Dalhousie College:

Whereas, There has been laid before the Association a petition numerously signed by members of the Alumni Associations of King's, Dalhousie, Acadia and Mount Allison Colleges, requesting the Presidents and officers to take steps to bring about a conference for the consideration of the subject of university consolidation.

Therefore resolved, That the Executive of this Association be empowered to make all necessary arrangements for the carrying out of the prayer of the petition, and to appoint as many as they may deem advisable of the ordinary and honorary members to attend such conference with full power as representatives of this Association.

Another resolution was adopted pledging the Association to use every means in its power to promote the consolidation of the colleges, and respectfully request the Governors of Dalhousie College to take such steps as they may deem advisable to attain the object in view.

3. Reply of the Associated Alumni of Acadia College:

We decline the proposed conference for the following reasons: In our opinion Acadia College was established to continue for ever as such, and she could not if she would, and certainly would not if she could, consolidate her energies and revenues with those of other colleges. Such being the case, the proposed conference, so far as we are concerned, would be utterly useless. Besides, we are not the governors of the college, and have no authority to consolidate, if we so desired; and to the governors, if to any one, we think the proposal should have been made. Further, all our available time and energies are due, and may be most usefully given to conferences of our own, in order, in every way open to us, to build up and strengthen our own Alma Mater, which has already accomplished a great work for these provinces, and for the Baptist denomination particularly; and, under the generous and fostering care of that body, is destined to go on multiplying her benefits to many generations. University consolidation once was possible in Nova Scotia, but why now discuss what simply might have been? It is no longer among the possibilities. Let it be irrevocably relegated, as far as we are concerned, at least, to the shadowy realm of things that might, could, would, or should have been.

This resolution was carried by a vote of 12 to 9 over an amendment moved by Prof. Schurman to the effect that this Association do not adopt the clause of the report of the executive committee, but that while declining to commit themselves on the question of University Consolidation in Nova Scotia, they are nevertheless prepared to meet other representatives of other Alumni Associations to discuss the advisability and feasibility of such a step, provided such a conference can be held under such circumstances as will duly preserve the interests of this association.

4. Reply of the Alumni Society of Mount Allison College:

This society regards further discussion of the question of the consolidation of the colleges into one central teaching college as an unnecessary and useless attempt to accomplish what is utterly im-