

THE WESLEYAN.

Halifax, Saturday Morning, February 14, 1852.

Duty of the Legislature of Nova Scotia with respect to Collegiate Education. By the Rev. Alex'r Forrester, Minister of Chalmers' Church, Halifax.—Jas. Barnes, 179 Hollis Street, 1852, pp. 18.

Whatever may be the merits of the publication, the title of which is given above, the subject on which it treats, is confessedly one of great importance in itself, as well as in its bearing on the social, intellectual, and moral well-being of the Provincial population. The magnitude of the interests involved, required in its discussion not only clear thought, perspicuous arrangement, and sound arguments, but also minute accuracy in statistical details. Every thing like haste, superficiality, confusion, or mere gratuitous assumption, should have been carefully avoided. The aim of the Rev. author is not altogether transparent; although it may be tolerably well divined. Of the literary character of the work we cannot in justice speak very flatteringly—not that we wish to question the general qualifications of the writer. It bears self-evident marks of being a hasty production, a circumstance which we the more regret, as, purporting to be addressed to the Legislature of Nova Scotia, on a subject of such vital importance, it might have been reasonably expected, that the author would have bestowed on its various topics, an amount of thought and care, such as would be calculated to inspire others with some good degree of confidence in his statements and conclusions.

Without at present touching on the subject of one College versus three or more Colleges, we should have preferred seeing the assertion, that "denominational Colleges, in so far as Literature, Philosophy, and Science are concerned, have proved an utter failure," established by sufficient evidence rather than merely assumed.

The author has grouped together, and named, FIVE Institutions in such a manner as to leave the impression, that, at least, the majority of them have been in existence a "length of time" and have been greatly assisted from the "Public Treasury," and that yet "the utmost that any of them has been able to muster for all the preliminary branches, is one solitary Professor;" whilst the truth is, we believe, that only two out of the five can claim the advantage of more than half a dozen years' existence or of assistance from the Legislature!

Though he subsequently informs us, that he has taken no notice of Denominational Academies, simply because, in his opinion, they are nothing more than Grammar Schools, and even some of them scarcely entitled to that appellation, and that here, as in the Colleges, he often finds one Teacher compelled to act the Encyclopediast, and to travel over the whole range of Education, from the English Grammar up to the Differential Calculus—we can point him to one of these under-rated Academies, which has a Faculty of three Professors, beside assistant teachers.

He avers, that there is nothing in this Province, in the shape of an Institution for the higher departments of Literature and Philosophy—and yet take his own synopsis, page 10, and we can find one Institution, at least, frequented by the youth of Nova Scotia, in which every branch he has enumerated is taught, and taught thoroughly.

It is true, that in very few of even the Denominational Academies, of which we have any knowledge, is it seriously proposed, as the author has proposed in behalf of the College to be erected on a grand scale, to hurry students through what is embraced in a Collegiate course of Classical and General Literature, Logic and Metaphysics, Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, commencing with junior classes and advancing to senior classes in all these respective and comprehensive departments, not overlooking Modern Languages, in the space of twelve months! and to instruct them thoroughly in the various branches of Natural Science, Chemistry, and Moral Philosophy, as minutely described page 11, with Oriental languages, in other twelve months!

Such a course would require the application of a high pressure steam-engine; and we hesitate not to say, that unless the capacity of the students could be increased in a proportion far greater than the number of professorial chairs, the Collegiate

course, "in the higher departments of Literature and Philosophy," sketched out by the Reverend author of this appeal to the Legislature of Nova Scotia, would indeed be like "nothing" in this or the neighbouring Province—it would make the attendants on it mere smatterers, and leave them without half as thorough an education as some of the Denominational Academies now afford.

We cannot pursue the subject further this week: we have, however, stated sufficient to show that the scheme under review is ill-digested, and, whilst promising much, its actual adoption would result in disappointment. The practical wisdom of the Legislature will doubtless lead it to scrutinize the "proposal" here offered, and not readily to entertain it, without its having first undergone material alteration or modification.

Melancholy Occurrence.

The Rev. R. WEDDALL, in a note dated Liverpool, Feb'y. 3rd, gives an account of the following melancholy catastrophe:—"Last Sabbath I was called upon to perform the funeral service over the remains of two young men, PIERCE PHALEN, aged twenty-two years of Mills Village, leaving a widow and a large circle of friends to mourn their loss, and EDWARD WHALEN, a single young man of Chester, who met with their death in the following manner. These two persons went into the woods a logging about seven miles from the village, and, not coming home at the time appointed, great anxiety was felt by a brother of Mr. Phalen, who was also logging about half a mile from the deceased, and, on Friday last, he proceeded to the spot, and the first scene that struck his attention was the destruction by fire, of their log camp, and the bones of the two young men among the ashes. On each side of the camp had been some hay, on which it is supposed they had laid themselves down to rest, and falling into a sound sleep, it is conjectured, that they were first stifled with the smoke, and then burned. The legs of both up to the knees were consumed, and the greatest part of the body of one was destroyed by the devouring element. The Coroner, Dr. FORBES, proceeded to the spot on Sabbath morning, when the Jury returned a verdict of accidental death by fire. The probability is, that the fire took place on the night of their arrival in the woods. The oxen were almost dead, having been, as is supposed, nine days tied up without anything to eat. On Sabbath afternoon, notwithstanding the severe storm, the chapel was crowded.—Never did I witness such a heart-rending scene, when the service was over, and we were about to proceed to the place of interment, the mother and widow of Phalen became almost frantic, when they were denied a sight of the roasted and disfigured bones of poor Phalen."

Parrisboro Circuit.

Under date of Feb. 6th, the Rev. W. C. BEALS writes:—"A gracious work is progressing at Jeffers, three miles from the cross roads, Parrisboro. It commenced under the zealous labours of Brethren LOCKHART and SPROUL. I preached at this place last Saturday evening; God was in the midst of us. Some twelve or fifteen came forward to be prayed for. Several professed to receive the pardon of their sins, and some that had professed faith in Christ, but had been in a dead state, have been restored to God's favour. There appears to be a general awakening in the neighbourhood. This place is in the vicinity of New Canaan and West Brook, where God has poured out his Spirit, as you are apprized, and has saved a number of souls. These are progressing delightfully in the way to heaven. May God add to their number daily."

Halifax Branch Missionary Society.

The Annual Meeting of the Halifax Branch Wesleyan Missionary Society, was held on Monday evening last, in the Argyle St. Wesleyan Church. A large and respectable assemblage of the friends of Christian Missions was present on the occasion. The Meeting was opened with singing, and with prayer by the Rev. W. BENNETT. Stephen FULTON, Esq., M. P. P., was called to the Chair, and ably presided over the business of the Meeting. An excellent and highly interesting Report was read by the Rev. J. McMURRAY. Several Resolutions were moved and seconded by the following gentlemen

in the order in which they are here named: The Rev. W. CROSCOMBE, T. A. S. DEWOLFE, Esq., Hon. Judge MARSHALL, S. L. SHANNON, Esq., Rev. Dr. RICHEY, Rev. C. CHURCHILL, Rev. Dr. CRAWLEY, Rev. Dr. McLEOD, Rev. T. H. DAVIES, and M. H. RICHEY, Esq. Mr. Fulton vacated, and Dr. Richey took the Chair, when a vote of thanks was moved by the Rev. Dr. EVANS, and seconded by the Rev. J. McMurray, to the CHAIRMAN, for the able manner in which he had presided over the Meeting, which, with the previous Resolutions, was passed unanimously.—The speeches, generally, were eloquent in the best sense of the word, breathing a truly christian and missionary spirit, eminently calculated to leave an abiding impression on the minds of the attentive audience, favourable to the commanding claims of the great missionary enterprise. Above all, a gracious influence pervaded the Assembly, and, we believe, all felt it good to be there.

PROPOSED WESLEYAN FEMALE ACADEMY.—We direct attention to an interesting communication from the able pen of the Rev. H. PICKARD, Principal of the Sackville Academy, which appears on our third page, on the all-important subject of a WESLEYAN FEMALE ACADEMY to be located at Sackville, in the neighbourhood of the present Institution. From that document, it will be seen, as many of our friends are already aware, that the Wesleyans of Nova Scotia and the neighbouring Provinces have had for some years the erection of such an Institution in contemplation. The depressed state of monetary affairs has alone prevented them ere this from taking action in the premises. That an Institution, especially designed to afford superior facilities for giving a liberal education, based on Christian principles, to the female members of Wesleyan and other families, has been a desideratum, our readers, we think, will not feel disposed to deny. They will, therefore, with us, rejoice at the present prospect there is of having this want speedily supplied. The munificent offer of C. F. ALLISON, Esq., the noble founder of the present Wesleyan Academy, we trust will provoke many others to similar acts of christian liberality. Right views will lead to right actions; and, we have not the least doubt, that if the Wesleyans undertake this enterprise with their usual zeal and earnestness, they will be able, with the aid of others who may feel well disposed towards it, to bring it to a successful issue; and that, ere long, we shall have an Educational Institution for females, which will prove a blessing to the Lower Provinces. We learn from a reliable source, that though the contemplated Academy is designed as a "Branch" Institution, it is to be erected on a delightfully situated lot of land, at some distance from the site of the present Academy. We heartily wish the project successful, commensurate with the utmost wishes of its most sanguine friends.

The Newton University of Baltimore, Maryland, has recently conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity on the Rev. EPHRAIM EVANS of this City.

The Treasurers of the *Supernumeraries and Ministers' Widows' Fund* gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following sums, viz:

Windsor Circuit	£0 5 0
Lunenburg "	2 0 0
Halifax " (additional)	1 11 8

Methodism in Canada West.

The cause of God in connexion with Methodism is in a high state of prosperity in Toronto, Canada West. The Rev. Mr. Caughey's labours, with those of the Rev. Messrs. Wilkinson and Douse, the regular Ministers of the Richmond Street Church, have been greatly blessed, during Special Services which have been held in that Church every night for several weeks past. A respected Correspondent of *The Christian Guardian*, Jan'y 14, says—"The number of persons professing to have received some direct spiritual good during those meetings since their commencement, up to Saturday night last, the 10th inst., is as follows:—Those who have received the forgiveness of their sins or justification—284, sanctification 137, backsliders restored 67, making the total up to this date 534."

The Rev. S. D. RICE states in *The Christian Guardian* that the Methodists of Kingston, C. W., are building in that City, at an expense of £3,500, at least, a beautiful Gothic Church, which is now nearly completed.

In noticing the operations of Wesleyan Missions in Canada, the *Hamilton Spectator* says:—"We learn from the Annual Auxiliary Report, that the sum of £4,225 3s. 8d. was raised for Missionary purposes during the past year—an amount creditable to the piety and zeal of this body of Christians."

The London *Watchman* of Jan. 14, contains a pleasing account of the opening of a new Wesleyan Chapel, in the village of Wynberg, about eight miles from Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope. The chapel is a beautiful structure in the Corinthian order of architecture, and was erected at an expense of about £1,000 by J. M. MAYNARD Esq., and by that gentleman has been generously presented to the Wesleyan Missionary Society. Such instances of spontaneous Christian benevolence, says the *Watchman*, on the part of gentlemen resident on Mission Stations who have had ample opportunities of observing the Society's labours for a long series of years, speak in a language which cannot be misunderstood, and it is earnestly hoped that others who have it in their power, will "go and do likewise."

The English Chapel, in Stockholm, Sweden, has been recently opened for the preaching of the Gospel, after having been closed by public authority for nearly ten years. This auspicious event has been providentially occasioned by the conversion of the Teacher of Philosophy and Theology at the Gymnasium in Stockholm, who has been for years a zealous and serious Preacher, to evangelical principles. He now conducts divine worship in the English Chapel, in which the Rev. George Scott, formerly a Wesleyan Missionary in Sweden, so faithfully administered the word of truth. This new evangelical preaching, it is said, awakens great attention, and produces considerable excitement.

Three Lectures are to be delivered at Temperance Hall, the first on Monday evening next, by the Rev. Mr. Geikie, on "Ancient Egypt, and the Bible: Its Monuments, Temples, Tombs, and History—Witnesses of Revealed Truth."

Temperance Items.

BOSTON, Jan. 21.—The Tremont Temple is filled with Temperance delegates. The petitions for the Maine Law have been presented to the Legislature, signed by over 126,000. The procession was numerously attended.

From the temperance press in Albany, while sustained by E. C. Delavan Esq., 12,625,260 temperance documents were distributed in the United States and other countries, at a cost of \$123,231,75. During the last twenty-two years, the number of documents sent out under his direction is believed to be about 20,000,000 nearly half of which were distributed gratuitously.

The Sons of Temperance in Toronto, Canada West, are about to establish a Reading Room in that city, in connexion with the Order.

On the first day of the year, it is said, the House of Correction in the City of Portland, Maine, was without an occupant. So much for the "Maine Law."

The Young Men's Christian Association of Montreal recently closed an animated debate on the question—"Is teetotalism a binding duty upon each member of the community?" The *Montreal Witness* says—"It is pleasing to know that this debate has resulted in the adoption of the Total Abstinence principle by some who held the negative side of the question, and has led others, on the same side, to feel that they occupied a position which they could not maintain. The question was decided by the audience in the affirmative by a large majority."

Early in this month, Dr. Jewett was expected to lecture before the Young Men's Society, Montreal, and his appearance there is anticipated with great interest.