

## Acadia Notes.

## DAY OF PRAYER FOR COLLEGES.

Sunday, the 13th inst., was observed at Wolfville by religious exercises, appropriate to the day agreed upon throughout evangelical Christendom as the day of prayer in behalf of students. At 9 a. m. the teachers and students of the College and Academy met in the College chapel for a service of prayer, which was a season of profit to all present. At the morning service in the Baptist church the Rev. H. R. Hatch preached from Eccles. 11: 9. "Rejoice, O young man in thy youth," etc., developing therefrom the subject "Joy and Judgment or Opportunity and Responsibility." The sermon was appropriate and impressive to a high degree. At this service messages were read from Wm. Cummings, Truro; Rev. W. E. McClutrye, Chipman, N. B.; and the following graduates of the College: Revs. Dr. Kempton, A. C. Chute, Z. L. Fash, W. H. Warreu, G. O. Gates, and C. A. Eaton; Dr. Theodore H. Rand, of Toronto; and C. H. McIntyre of Boston.

In the evening there was no service in the Baptist church, but instead a meeting was held in College Hall. The President of the College presided, and music was provided by a choir composed of College students. There was a large attendance, not only of teachers and students from the three institutions, but also of the people of the community. It was a meeting of great interest. Addresses of a deeply spiritual and impressive character were given by Dr. Sawyer, Rev. Mr. Hatch and Dr. Keirstead. It was especially gratifying to the other speakers, and to all present, to hear Dr. Sawyer, as he spoke to the students out of his ripe wisdom and experience, pointing out how the days of student life are days of almost constant crisis, and, consequently, of vast importance, and entreating the young people to lay to heart claims of Christ. At this meeting letters were read from Hon. Dr. Parker, J. Edmund Bars, Revs. W. H. Robinson, G. R. White, W. C. Goucher, W. B. Hinson, J. D. Freeman, President Butler of Colby, Chancellor Wallace of McMaster, Dr. Black of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, R. G. Haley, H. T. Ross and B. H. Eaton.

These brief messages, with those read at the morning service, were reminiscent of the spiritual blessings enjoyed at the Institutions in days past, appreciative of the ideals cherished and the work done there, expressive of continued interest in the welfare of the schools, and charged especially with fervent desire for their spiritual well-being. Full, as they were, of wisdom, warmth and life, these messages were a delightful feature of the day. By means of them we were made to feel the heart-throb of that larger fellowship in which as institutions we have our life, and, thankfully, to realize afresh the fact that a host of devout souls are by daily intercession binding these schools "by gold chains about the feet of God."

We cannot believe that a day so rich in its influences can have passed without producing lasting impressions for good upon many hearts.

## THE FORWARD MOVEMENT.

I am glad to announce that the officers of the Board were able, early in January, to inform the American Baptist Education Society that there had been received by the treasurer of the College, in behalf of the Forward Movement Fund, the sum of \$15,000.

In response to this information the treasurer received a few days ago the cheque of the Society for the *pro rata* amount of Mr. Rockefeller's pledge, less the tax of the Society.

We have now entered upon the second year of the work of collecting, and the earnest hope is cherished that there will be such prompt and loyal regard to all obligations that, by January, 1900, the Board will be able to report a second fifteen thousand dollars in hand. Indeed, wherever subscribers have the means, and could as well do it as not, would it not be an excellent thing if they would redeem their pledges in full, as early as possible? Thus the risks of time would be lessened, the Board would be able sooner to cancel debts and save interest, and the sooner to secure the fulfilment of Mr. Rockefeller's pledge. Rev. W. E. Hall, North Street, Halifax, who is serving the Board as collector, will do his part with all fidelity. With a cordial response by all those who have been good enough to subscribe, we shall soon begin to feel in a generous degree the relief which the new fund was designed to give. T. TROTTER.

Wolfville, February 17.

## The British Columbia Baptists.

Three months have passed since we left the land by the stormy Atlantic to engage in the Master's work on this side of the continent. We are reminded by the passing time that we promised our many friends that we would from time to time write to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR of our work in this interesting and progressive province.

Dr. Spencer has been keeping you informed in a general way of the work and its needs, but now he has returned to his home in Ontario. Bro. Rose and myself received a warm welcome from those who were looking for us. Several places of service were open and waiting anxiously

for some one to go forward with the work. Bro. Rose went to Nelson, in the gold country of B. C., and I came to the Island to enter upon the work in this country field. Since settling at Nelson Bro. Rose has been ordained and had the privilege of baptizing several and more are now awaiting the ordinance. He writes me that there is considerable opposition to Baptist principles in Nelson. There is no doubt that we have the right man there to make those principles a power for good, and you may expect to hear glowing accounts from him and his work.

On account of the Immanuel Baptist church in Victoria being pastorless, I have been dividing my time between that church and the little flock here at Saanich.

Saanich is a peninsula jutting out north of Victoria. It is about 20 miles long and with an average width of 5 or 6 miles. For several years services have been held in various parts of the field. When Bro. Walter Bars was pastor of the First church of Victoria he spent some time in evangelistic services among the people of Saanich, and his name is revered by many yet. Recently the "Local Preachers Association" has been holding regular services at one point and some irregular meetings at other places. It is to gather up the scattered fragments of this work and form a compact church to which I have been called. Already our church has been organized with a membership of twelve.

Our constituency is unique and strong. Deacon Spotts (colored) was a charter member of the Second San Francisco Baptist church, also a charter member of First Victoria, and now of Saanich. Deacon Sluggett, of Church of England descent, a member in Ontario, charter member of Victoria First, now of Saanich. We have eight male and four female members, so our church would not be endangered if the women did vote. The matter of enlargement is still in question, but we trust that the old and powerful truths shall make way in this section where ritualism has wrought its usual work.

Having no meeting house we worship in a hall, and according to custom and privilege in any school house where it seems profitable to do so. Location and building will be a consideration when more permanent work is accomplished.

Of the work throughout the province I cannot write in detail, but only as it comes to my knowledge.

Dr. Spencer declined the work of superintending the missions and the Board called Bro. Coombs, who has accepted the position. He is well known in B. C., having been pastor of the Calvary church in Victoria. He has already entered upon the work. Bro. Stackhouse has felt himself called to Rossland to succeed Rev. J. H. Best, who has gone East.

The First Vancouver church is seeking to get one of our foremost men of Eastern Canada to come to their aid. There are no sinecures in British Columbia and whoever comes must have some of the element of sacrifice in their characters. The Emmanuel church of Victoria is still vacant and seeking for the right man. There are other places that need missionary pastors and the Board have them constantly in mind. The number of these fields in which men could be placed is always greater than can be judiciously occupied on account of finances. Many of these fields are in isolated parts and cannot well be grouped with others, and that, makes the expense of opening up fields doubly difficult. As one after another of the present churches becomes self-supporting the work will be enlarged. With these pressing needs about them the members of the Board have hard work to keep to their law, "No debt to be incurred."

The Baptist church in B. C. has cause to be proud and profoundly grateful for the number of able men in its ranks. Men whose business ability and devotion insure success to any cause they espouse. A. J. Pineo, M. A., on the staff of the High School of Victoria, holds an enviable place as an educationalist in the department of science. A. B. McNeill, principal of the North Ward school. O. H. Cogswell, B. A., who has been a teacher for eight years in the public school, now in customs department. J. L. Beckwith, an alderman of the city. William Marchant, our treasurer, a member of the school board and in the customs department, and in fact about all good works. If we have not the tangible wealth we have a force that ever indicates progress, brain power backed up by consecration. Only one pastor in the city at present, Rev. R. W. Trotter, who is a host in himself. He needs no introduction to the readers of your paper. As an evangelization force there is the "Local Preachers Association" with the following members: Haynes, Huggett, Sluggett, Marchant, Pineo, Cogswell, McDermot, the last will eventually enter the regular ministry.

At the annual Convention last year all the features for progressive church work were outlined. Home Missions, Sunday School, Foreign Missions, Education, Literature, Temperance, B. Y. P. U., etc.

Of course Home Missions is the great question of the hour, next comes the matter of Education.

What plan of work will be adopted is uncertain, but it will be that which can be handled and made subservient to the interests of the work at large. Bro. Pineo is working at the question with great care and patience. There is not a college in B. C. Those who can first found and equip a moderate but complete university will make

rapid strides thereafter. We hope that some of our gold mines of Kootenay will eventually turn out an educational institution according to our needs. In this connection I may say that there is now an opportunity before us of founding hospital work of great importance. Dr. Ernest Hall, a Baptist of Victoria, a graduate of Toronto, Edinburgh, Berlin, has been "casting out devils," as he calls it. In fact he has been treating, with very limited room and appliances, a number of hopelessly insane women. Thirteen have passed through operations, four have been wholly restored and several of the others have been greatly benefited. Invitations are being received by him to visit insane asylums for the purpose of investigation and treatment of cases. He hopes this is the dawn of day for many who are bound to mental darkness for this life.

On every hand the work demands great things, and it must be that all should feel a deep interest in the good work.

While we realize in some measure that we have good forces, according to the number, we stand appalled in the forefront of the conflict with sin of every description by every class.

The workers of the far West sincerely ask your prayers and contributions to help forward the work in which they are engaged.

H. H. SAUNDERS.

Saanichton, Vancouver Island, B. C.

## The Word Made Flesh.

On the streets of a certain New England town may be seen, almost any evening, an aged man who has made himself a bulletin board for Scripture texts. From the crown of his hat to the soles of his boots, the most striking and urgent gospel invitations are clearly written upon his clothes in white letters. He carries in one hand a wooden sword appropriately inscribed, and in the other a small blackboard written on both sides with messages of peace. He seeks conspicuous places, where the light is strongest and the people throng, and now and then turns so that all the texts may be seen.

It may be that some have been reached with the gospel in this way, that otherwise might have remained untouched; but it is also highly probable that on those same streets many others carry more real gospel invitations in their lives than that man carries on his clothes.

There are Bibles enough in all our homes, but there is a crying demand for men and women who have made the Word flesh to dwell among us. It is being made increasingly clear that the Christ whom the world sees is the Christ seen in the lives of Christians.

Christianity has never been made known by edicts or proclamations, but by the lives of those who have lived its truths. This does not mean that there should be less proclamation, but more consecration of life. How shall we make the image clear in our lives, that men "may take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus?" Oh! that question carries the answer as well. We must tarry in His presence if we would make His image clear.

Nictaux, February 6.

J. W. BROWN.

## Ordinations and Associations.

It has been stated that the recent resolutions of the N. B. Western and Southern Associations substitute ordination by an association for ordination by a church. Neither of the resolutions, however, hints at such. The expression "that the association act as council in the case," occurs in each, and therefore, puts it beyond reasonable doubt that the purpose is to advise not to ordain. If advice to ordain be held tantamount to ordaining, then all ordination councils have ordained and not the individual churches; all councils have, therefore, been sinning against church independence and prerogative. Not a single argument has been advanced concerning the association in this matter of usurping the functions of the church, that could not with equal force be applied to all the ordination councils that have ever been held.

Again, it is held that we are departing from scripture precedent, or are at least not inquiring therefrom. Are our associations, which are really yearly councils of the churches, unscriptural? Or is it only for ordination advice that they are unscriptural? We would be glad to learn of the passages which teach that a vastly more representative yearly council is not as much qualified to advise regarding ordinations, as the smaller council, called often more to suit the convenience and ends of a church than of the body. Which of the two, think you, is more in line with the scripture injunction "lay hands suddenly on no man?"

J. B. CHAMPTON.

Duty is a power which rises with us in the morning, and goes to rest with us at night. It is coextensive with the action of our intelligence. It is the shadow which cleaves to us, go where we will, and which only leaves us when we leave the light of life.