

The Mount Allison ACADEMIC GAZETTE.

SACKVILLE, N. B., JUNE, 1853.

At the close of another Term we are allowed to send forth again our *Academic Gazette*. There is not room here for any editorial remarks of a general character; we can only say that we have very great pleasure in respectfully inviting the attention of the friends of the Mount Allison Educational Establishments to the Catalogues, Reports, &c., &c., which are here presented, as affording conclusive evidence that the Academy is accomplishing the important ends for which it was founded.

Opening of the New Hall.

Accessions to the announcement made in our last number this took place on Thursday the 30th January. The following article, published in the *Provincial Wreath* of the 15th Feb., which was written by the Provincial Travelling Agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society, Isaac Smith, Esq., will be found to contain a full account of the exercises on that interesting occasion:—

"This flourishing Institution is imparting instruction to about two hundred and fifty Students, brought together from all parts of the three Provinces—New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and also from other places. This single fact furnishes the best evidence that could be given of the confidence of the public generally in its objects and management. Indeed, the more it becomes known, the more does it secure the approval and admiration of all who are friendly to the noble object for which it was founded.

Another building has just been added to the already spacious accommodations of the Institution designed for a Lecture Hall, Library, Museum, &c., which will greatly facilitate the operations of both Branches, without interfering with the entirely distinct and separate working of either. It was formally dedicated to the objects for which it was erected on Tuesday last, by appropriate and most interesting services conducted in the following order:—

Devotional exercises—Singing, prayer, and reading select portions of the Sacred Scriptures—by the Reverend, the Governor and Chaplain. At the close of these solemn exercises the Rev. Gentleman, said he had much pleasure—in which he was sure the audience would largely participate—in announcing that the excellent Founder of the Institution, Charles F. Allison, Esq., had kindly consented to take the Chair and preside over the business of the day.

The Reverend, the Principal, was then called upon to proceed with the Dedication, in doing which he addressed the meeting at some length and with very good effect. He took a rapid survey of the History of the Institution, over which he had presided during the twelve years of its existence, glancing briefly and delicately, as he proceeded, at the difficulties with which it had had to contend in the earlier periods of its operations. He could rejoice, however, that by "the good hand of God upon it" those difficulties had all been successively surmounted—the great principles of its foundation had been tested, and its grand design—the impartation of a sound Education on Christian principles—carried out with continued success. The long cherished purpose of erecting a Branch for Female Education had also been accomplished, and is now in most encouraging and efficient operation.

He then explained the necessity and importance of such a building, and adverted to the Providential circumstances which had led to its erection at the time when it was so much needed for the effective and comfortable working of the united Institution, already so crowded in all its departments. At the close of his address—the audience simultaneously rising—the Rev. Principal pronounced, in a solemn and impressive manner, the following form of Dedication:—

Praying for the hallowing sanction of THE MOST HIGH GOD—THE FATHER—THE SON and THE HOLY GHOST—We do now solemnly Dedicate this building to the cause of Education on Christian principles! And may it long stand favoured with the Divine Blessing—A Temple devoted to Literature, Science and Religion combined!—Amen.

This solemn and impressive Dedication was concluded by the Choir, who sang the "Dedication Hymn"—an appropriate piece, the words and music and performance of which were all in pleasing harmony with the object, and also with the preceding exercises.

The topics which had been prepared for the occasion were next presented, with suitable addresses on each—by the persons whose names are annexed, viz:—

I. The human mind, evidently formed for improvement, therefore entitled to Educational Training and Discipline.—By Rev. Wm. Smith and Thos. Pickard, Esq.

II. Education to be right, must be conducted on Christian Principles.—By Rev. W. Temple.

III. The Parental Relation—as imperatively demanding of all who sustain it, the securing for their children, the best Education possible.—By Rev. J. H. Starr and Mr. Isaac Smith.

IV. As the interests of Society will be largely promoted by placing the advantages of a sound Education, Academic as well as Elementary, within the reach of the youth of both sexes, every well directed effort to increase the Educational facilities of a Country should receive public encouragement and assistance.—By J. L. Moore, Esq., and Chas. Dixon, Esq.

V. The judicious expenditure of money for the advancement of the Educational Enterprise, is sanctioned by Philanthropy, Patriotism and Christianity.—By Rev. Dr. Evans.

VI. A recognition of the authority of the law of progress, is essential to the efficiency and usefulness of Educational Institutions.—By Rev. Humphrey Pickard, A. M.

These truly interesting services were closed by an appropriate anthem sung by the Choir—consisting of Students from the two Branches, under the able direction of Miss Elliott, the accomplished Teacher of Vocal and Instrumental Music in the Female department—when the Benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Wm. Smith, and the company dispersed for Tea which had been provided in the two Academies.

The Dedication services throughout, and the discussion of the topics presented by the several speakers, were listened to by the audience with deepest attention, and by many with serious emotion. What parent especially could listen unmoved to themes in which the highest interests of his children were so deeply involved, and from a right or wrong application of which, the most momentous consequences for good or evil might result. The prevailing impression however must have been grateful and pleasing in the highest degree. If there were any thing to regret, it was, that such inestimable privileges and advantages for the improvement of youth as were here presented, had come too late for some; and that many who would have been delighted to be present, were, from the unfavorable state of the roads, unable to attend. It was to be desired indeed, that every individual who can wield any good measure of influence for the mental and moral elevation of the rising generation, and for the real advancement and true prosperity of these Provinces, could have been present.

In glancing back to the period when the first stone of this noble Institution was laid, and comparing it with the present, every devout heart must have been ready to exclaim—"What hath God wrought!" Like all instrumentalities originated and directed by His Almighty hand for the benefit of man, there was nothing in the commencement of the Wesleyan Academy at Mount Allison to attract public notice, or to excite public expectation. "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation." Little could even its excellent Founder have imagined of the good already achieved—and which gladdened the hearts of so many on this interesting occasion—when the first impression gave such a direction to the impulses of his benevolent heart, while as yet the lasting monument of gratitude he was about to rear, hung trembling on a dubious thought. As little might have seemed to Luther, while poring over a dusty copy of the Sacred Scriptures, the first throbbing of that Heavenly impulse—of so much consequence to us and to our race—which made the proud and mightiest of Sovereign Pontiffs tremble on his throne; and shook the Vatican to its foundations. It is easier to devise schemes and carry out purposes for evil than for good, and they may, when set in motion, acquire in their progress accumulated power till they become as enduring as they are irresistible, because of the downward tendency of our fallen nature. But they bring not "Glory to God in the highest"—nor "peace," nor "good to man." The rock that is loosened from the mountain's summit by the hand of the thoughtless or the reckless, may increase in velocity and power till its progress cannot be arrested; but it will carry only devastation and ruin, to the peaceful plain below. The haughty Tyrant, ambitious for immortality, but ignorant of its true character, may goad on the myriads of his enslaved subjects to pile up huge blocks of ponderous granite to the clouds,—but only to stand a naked and useless pyramid—an emblem of selfish and solitary greatness; overlooking it may be for ages, the barren wastes