

**The Address Presented to Dr. Sawyer
in connection with the Anniver-
sary Exercises of Acadia,
June 7, 1905.**

To the Rev. A. W. Sawyer, D. D., LL. D.:

The Governors, Senate and Alumni of Acadia College, at their annual meetings in June, 1904, each appointed a committee to act conjointly on behalf of their respective bodies in expressing to you at this Anniversary the feelings of the denomination in regard to your personal worth and your public services in these institutions.

They are reminded that a half century has passed since you accepted the Chair of Classics in Acadia College. You had not been long at work among us when your special talent as an educationist were seen and acknowledged. With an interruption of nine years, you have in this institution borne the responsibility of both Professor and President, holding the latter office for twenty-seven years. In the light of this educational centre, your character and labors have been under popular and professional inspection, with the result that we find it difficult to fully express our sincere feelings, lest you might regard our language as excessive eulogy. You may be assured, however, that but one opinion prevails among the Governors, your Colleagues of the Faculty, the Graduates, and the supporters of these schools in respect to your distinguished talents and devoted labors.

The high art and thoroughness of your teaching, judged by results, are now, to your friends, a matter of pride and profound satisfaction. The public services of the many students trained and moulded in your classes, have brought much honor to Acadia College, which honor must be some recompense to you for years of arduous, self-sacrificing labor, as it is a reward to those who, for the last half-century have carried the heavy burden of sustaining these Institutions. Permit us, indeed, to say that not only we, but the general public also, have come to think of you as one of the foremost educators of the times.

You have the power to look upon the world in its endless complications, without apparent confusion of thought or bewildering perplexity. By a reverent use of your powers to take world-wide views in apprehending essential principles, in seeking for truth by the use of keen exhaustive analysis, in discriminating and detecting sophistries and fallacies, in disentangling truth from error, your vision has ever seemed remarkably keen; and by graphic statements you have made your thoughts clear to your students who have often found their own fragmentary and nebulous thinking made lucid and full when uttered by their teacher.

In this regard we are led to think of your talents for the examination of the abstruse subjects of psychology, ethics and philosophy, as unique and masterful. Your delimitation of the boundary between possible knowledge and impenetrable mystery has been clear and definite. Swift and acute in thought, and with uniform calmness, you have presided over your classes, giving them the stimulus of your masculine energies, strong personality, and rare teaching gifts.

To faithfully instruct and carefully discipline the students of your class-room, seems to have been to you a lifelong duty and delight. Fatigue, difficulty and discouragement have been ignored in this happy employment. To prepare young men and young women for life has been with you a holy passion, the ardor of which has never cooled, but is as fervid today as it was fifty years ago. It should not, therefore, be a matter of wonder that, in various parts of the world, there are hundreds of young men and women doing good and successful work, who are now seeking to express in some degree their love and admiration for their venerable instructor and faithful friend.

This devotion to you has come to pass without any attempt on your part to conciliate your students by the arts employed by men of small minds. They have gone out into the world with the lesson burned into their souls, that in life's labors, sensible courtesy, coupled with fidelity to duty, will gain respect and secure success and lasting esteem. If any of them shall resort to device and artifice, as a means to achieve success, the world will know that such lessons were never learned at your feet.

In this retrospect there comes into view your helpful influence in another sphere, which must not be overlooked, namely, your co-operation and sympathy with the denomination in all its enterprises. Your presence in our homes, our churches, our associations and conventions has ever been a source of pleasure and of strength as well as a benediction. The modest expression of your views of church and denominational work has been informing and helpful; especially do we remember with satisfaction your repeated discussion of the unity of the various enterprises carried on by the body. The conviction of the soundness of your views still abides with us, and is bearing fruit.

Never before in the history of these institutions has the denomination shown an interest in these schools so intelligent and general as during the successful appeals recently made in the interest of the two "Forward Movements" by your successor in the Presidency, Rev. Dr. Trotter; and this is accounted for by the existence of the sound sentiment of the unity and interdependence of all the enterprises of the churches, a sentiment in the creation of which you have taken an active part.

There is still another element of your service which claims a word from us. In the past fifty years every institution for the higher education has been a watch-tower for the Professor or President who has had the seer's gift. To this service both talent and duty have called you. For great changes—evolutions and revolutions—no half-century can compare with the one on which we are now looking back. Turning our thoughts to this place, we see that the straggling, littered, unadorned village of 1855 has given place to the enlarged and beautiful town of Wolfville of 1905—a town harmonizing with the exquisite and charming scenery in the midst of which it is located. Like changes have taken place in all parts of the Maritime Provinces. The stage coach left us, and the steam-coach came to us. Leaps and bounds have characterized the progress of the last fifty years. The two old historic buildings on this hill, reminding us of the spiritual and intellectual life of the past, have been succeeded by five modern structures, in the planning and erection of which you have taken an active and laborious part. Fifty years ago there were about one hundred pupils and students; now there are more than four hundred. The work of instruction done by five teachers and professors, now requires the combined labor of about thirty-seven. The reposed slowness of those early days has been succeeded by times of stress and rapid action. "Strenuous labors" and "the activities of life" are terms which did not fit the conditions of fifty years ago. But by the industrious employment of your genius, you have not been out-distanced in this swift race, nor have you been put to confusion by endless change, invention and discovery. With an easy pace you have ever been found in foremost rank.

Not without evident and marked success have you addressed yourself to the work of adapting the curricula of these Institutions to the changing demands of the passing years. They have not been allowed to lag behind, or fall in keen educational competition. In this regard, too, the constituency of these schools has ever had in you the fullest confidence.

Your knowledge of the origin and history of these institutions is clear, full and sympathetic. It is true that a number of the fathers and founders had passed to their final reward before you came among us; but they had left us the legacy of their faith, love and prayers. Some of their associates, however, were on the ground and gave you their godly greeting, among them the Rev. I. E. Bill, the Rev. William Chipman, the Hon. J. W. Johnstone, Dr. J. W. Nutting and Mr. J. W. Barrs. In these men you saw fortitude, courage and faith which had been laid under tribute in the work of originating, founding and fostering these schools. Your knowledge, therefore, of their history is not the cold knowledge obtained from books; you found it engraved on the hearts of these good men. Nor did you fail to appreciate all that was noble and inspiring in their characters and lives. Their ideals became your ideals. Their aims and labors you made your own. In the possession of knowledge gained in this way you have continued your labors until the present time. For this we all unite in hearty thanksgiving to Almighty God.

From this centre, as Professor and President, you have thoroughly and carefully studied the subject of the higher education, noting its many changes and phenomenal progress. Nothing, from the Kindergarten to the University, has been regarded as unworthy of your attention. The principles involved, the policies adopted, the drift and tendencies, have been examined and judged by you with special reference to the efficiency and success of these Institutions.

Of the work also in the lower departments you have been an attentive observer and a careful student. The introduction of the Free Common School System into Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, under the efficient superintendence of Theodore H. Rand—a young man largely indebted to you for his training—must have been to you a matter of profound satisfaction, affecting as it did directly the educational life of these Provinces, and indirectly that of the schools in which you have labored. In adjusting these institutions to the new conditions generated by the free system, the Governors relied upon your judgment and adopted your proposals. In this matter you have pursued a middle course between crystalized conservatism and dangerous radicalism. The increasing number of students in attendance, and their success in the sharp collegiate competition of the last twenty-five years, are evidence of the soundness of your judgment and the wisdom of your leadership.

As the successor of Dr. Pryor, Dr. Crawley and Dr. Cramp in the Presidency, and as a co-laborer with equally distinguished Professors, from Isaac Chipman to the members of the present staff, you have helped more than we know in making Acadia College what she has been, what she is to-day, and what she shall most certainly be in the future.

Here we are reminded of the repeated proposals made for uniting Acadia College with other colleges of Nova Scotia, and the part you have taken in the discussion and settlement of this question. The denomination has had the benefit of your matured judgment, that the separate and independent principle adopted by the Fathers when they founded the College is to-day the sound policy for the future. The evidence that this is the right course to pursue

is culminative, and, at the present time, has an added expression of God's favor in the mighty work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of many of the students.

There is another element of your work which should not be passed by unnoticed. Fifty years ago orthodox philosophy, as we may call it, had the field. In the hands of men like the late Dr. Wayland, its ethics rested firmly on the basis of Divine Revelation. Since that time you have followed its history and examined its varying claims. In the same period Science has made wonderful discoveries and achieved signal successes. All this has resulted in far-reaching effects. Literary and historical critics and students of comparative religions have united with materialists and rationalists in subjecting the Bible to crucial tests. No one has questioned the talents and scholarship of many of these critics of the Bible. In the consequent conflict of opposing beliefs, it has been felt that in you the denomination has had a Christian scholar of genius and skill; and we rejoice to think that, not only as the teacher, par excellence, in these schools, but as a defender of the Bible as the revealed will of God, you have been for these years a citadel of strength, for which we thank God and take courage.

The Christian ideals of these Institutions have had your heartiest sympathy. No student has failed to be impressed with the fact that you regard religion as essential to a sound education; and that great talents, brilliant gifts and worldly success, without personal piety, cannot save the lives of their possessors from failure. It is therefore with much satisfaction that this element of your influence has been noted in all your labors. Nor has it been without fruitage. It appears in the lives of many men and women who have passed through your classes; and especially in the lives and labors of many who have given their hearts to God in the "times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord," which have repeatedly fallen upon these Institutions.

To you and to the denomination these seasons have seemed the crown of glory, placed by the hand of God on the work done for him at this place; and have been a cause of lasting joy in many homes in the Maritime Provinces. Their fruits are seen in various spheres of labor and influence in Christian and in heathen lands.

When you began work here the character and results of the revival of 1855 were evident; and they were essentially the same as those of the revival of the present year. Fifty years hence the denomination may look back upon the lives of students now on these grounds, as to-day they look back over the lives of Rev. Dr. T. A. Higgins, Dr. T. H. Rand, Rev. Henry Vaughan and others, who here on this consecrated Hill gave themselves to God, and faithfully served him to the end. We all thank God that, after your many years of cheerful, faithful toil, you are still able to do efficient work in the class-room, in training the minds, moulding the character and shaping the lives of your admiring students; and it is our prayer and hope that you may still have years of service in this "work of faith and labor of love."

Will you, therefore, kindly accept the enclosed cheque, along with the autographs and brief testimonials of the contributors, contained in this book, indicating as they do the high esteem in which you are held, and which may be taken as an expression of the love and admiration entertained for you by the large constituency of these Institutions.

THE COMMITTEE:

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| E. M. SAUNDERS, | } Appointed
by the
Governors. |
| B. H. EATON, | |
| T. TROTTER, | |
| A. C. CHUTE, | } Appointed
by the
Senate. |
| R. V. JONES, | |
| W. N. HUTCHINS, | |
| W. L. ARCHIBALD, | } Appointed
by the
Alumni. |
| H. H. SAUNDERS, | |
| L. S. MORSE, | |

Rev. Dr. Sawyer's Reply.

Dr. Sawyer, replying to the address, said.—

It will not be expected that an extended reply would be made at this time to this most kind and courteous address. The least that I can say is the expression of my most grateful appreciation of the spirit of these words of personal remembrance and sympathetic recognition of my labors in behalf of Acadia College.

It is fifty years this month since an invitation came to me to take charge of the classical department in this college. Later in the summer the invitation was accepted, and in the autumn I reached Wolfville. On looking around on the morning after my arrival, I could see little that was inviting, except one building on the hill that had the appearance of a temple learning. In due course I found myself installed in the teacher's chair with classes that would scarcely average ten. Though I am speaking in the presence of some of the students of that early day, I must take the liberty of saying that in earnestness of purpose, alertness of intellect and scholarly ambition, the students of that day though few in number were worthy representatives of the long line of students who have passed through these halls in the intervening years. I take pleasure in adding that whatever success the college has attained as an educational agency, it has been due in large measure to the intellectual and moral fibre of the students