

vantages suggested by Laplace would be more than doubtful. In the tides we see clearly that it is not her light-giving properties alone that mark her usefulness, and her attractive force, which is shown by various other phenomena of less obvious, though, perhaps, not less real importance—such as precession and nutation—would be vastly modified by her removal to near four times her present distance. In her relatively unchanging position she would be far from serving, as she does now, for the closest determination of the longitude. By the non-occurrence of eclipses we should be deprived of most admirable and instructive phenomena. We should never watch in wonder the veiling of the lunar disc, nor mark the earth's roundness in her coppery shadow. We should never, and with still more solitude, observe the sun himself varying, like a mystic day-moon in rapid phase, up to the awe-inspiring moment when he vanishes among the kindling stars; nor should we ever await in astonishment that most entrancing of celestial sights when, in the annular eclipse, the thin sun-streams flow round on the central darkness, and encircle the pitchy space like a bright setting that lost its gem. Supposing still that the moon could be maintained in the position favored by Laplace, her disc would appear near sixteen times smaller than at present, and her illuminating and other influence would be in the same degree less. I am not aware that the philosopher, to meet these objections, suggested any increase of size; and it might be said that the moon of eminent physical and scientific value would not, according to his plan, exist—neither would the moon of poetry. The ever-round and ever-diminutive-looking satellite would furnish no striking theme for description or romance, nor suggest to genius some of its grandest conceptions. Milton could not have told of the sun looking from behind the eclipsing orb in a smile with which no other of any other writer can be compared for an instant; nor, again, could he have thrilled us with the description of the arch-fiend's shield, whose—

"Broad circumference,  
Hung on his shoulders like the moon,"

In a scientific point of view, it will be easily understood that if the distant and nightly appearing satellite had still the power of giving any effective light to the earth, in place of being an object of high interest, it would be a positive nuisance to the astronomer. How few of its great wonders would the heavenly space have revealed to us through the veil of an eternal moonlight! The most beautiful systems of the double and multiple stars, with their different lights and motions would be scarcely noticed. We should never receive delight from the exquisite charms of the many-hued cluster, dappled with coloured fires, like the flashings of the diamond, the sapphire and the ruby; nor should we know of the far-remote cloud-worlds, with all their surprising shapes of the ring, the sphere, the spindle, the spiral, and a thousand indescribable forms, many of which are already proved by the spectroscopic to be no other than what they appear to be—luminous vapour.

And if these mystic glories of the sky would remain unseen, so, also, would the wonders of its darkness. We should have no speculations about the rayless regions, such as stain the brightness of the *Milky Way*, or set off the splendours of the *Southern Cross*. The deep gulf in the great nebula of Orion would be as unseen as the marvellous promontories that it divides; and, undiscovered among the brilliant tracts of *Scorpio*, would remain the dreary aperture of an Avernian blackness, through which we can perceive, as it were, the eternal night of outermost space, whose secrets no telescope has ever penetrated. Our acquaintance with the moon's own appearance would be vastly circumscribed. At such a distance we should have little pleasure in contemplating the great landscape of half a planet. Thousands of details now plainly enough visible would be only imperfectly seen or totally unseen; and it is probable that we should never be attracted by such sights as the obscuration of Linnæ.

## EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

### AT HOME.

**ACADIA COLLEGE ANNIVERSARY.**—We extract the following from the *Christian Messenger*:—

The first week of June in each year is surrounded with deep interest to the friends of Acadia College and its students. The institutions of learning on the hill at Wolfville, at that time, assume an appearance of activity somewhat differing from that of any other week in the year. After spending the preceding days, and weeks, and months in digging in the mines of knowledge, the several classes bring forth the treasures they have gained, and have them submitted to the test of rigid examination.

**Horton Academy.**—First in order comes the Academy, which has done its preparatory work for near half a century, and has taken no small share of the honor as well as the labor of raising this province to its present respectable position, and of supplying a number of useful and valuable men to the neighbouring provinces.

The examinations of the Academy were held on Monday and Tuesday, 3rd and 4th inst.

On Tuesday afternoon an exceedingly interesting portion of the celebrations took place in the Academy Hall. Four young ladies, having completed their course of three years at the Seminary, and proved by a searching examination their proficiency in the various branches of higher instruction given at the institution, were each requested to read an essay, which they had prepared for the occasion. They were as follows:—

- "The object of Study," by Miss Blackadar.
- "Imagination," by Miss Bigelow.
- "Open Secrets," by Miss Woodworth.
- "Valedictory," by Miss Eaton.

The diplomas were given by Rev. Dr. Crawley, who addressed the recipients in his usual mild, fatherly, and affectionate manner. His counsels will doubtless be long remembered by all.

The examinations were most satisfactory, and reflected the highest credit alike on the young ladies themselves, and the ladies and gentlemen in charge of the Seminary. The essays were of the first order.

A prize was given to Mr. E. P. Bowles as the victor in a spirited contest of several hours in orthography.

The Hall was filled by friends of the institution, who manifested the highest satisfaction in the exercises.

**The Cricket Match.**—On Wednesday the Academy and College Students were on the cricket ground, contending for the \$20 prize offered by Lewis Y. Payzant, Esq., who had observed the injurious consequences of students taking too little physical exercise, and sought by this means, and the conditions attached, to infuse more active exertion among them.

To the great surprise of all parties, the Academy Club were the successful competitors by 92 runs.

**The Associated Alumni.**—On Wednesday afternoon the Alumni Association held its Annual Meeting. The evening was occupied by the Annual Oration, delivered by Rev. W. S. McKenzie. Subject: "The College Graduate." For an hour and a half the attention of a large audience was rivetted. All were delighted with many well-drawn delineations of character, and the experiences of student life under different circumstances.

**The College Anniversary.**—On Thursday morning the Faculty, Governors, Students and Graduates of the College, and Academy students, assembled under the folds of the Royal Standard, and, after being marshalled into order, walked in procession to the Baptist Church, where a large congregation had assembled to witness the anniversary celebrations. On arriving at the Meeting-house, the long procession formed into open column, and the Faculty passed on, receiving the respectful salutations of the Academy students. Professor Saffery, who presided at the organ, struck up a Voluntary, and continued till all were in their places.

The following were the subjects of the orations:—

- "Cause," by J. F. L. Parsons, of Liverpool.
- "Circumstances," by W. N. Graham, of Antigonish.
- "Nugæ," (trifles), by Wilbert D. Dimock, of Truro.
- "Results," by Jas. W. Manning, of Bridgewater.

One could not but observe the strong marks of individuality each oration bore, and the fund of original thought they developed. The order in which they were delivered, and the appropriateness of each in its place to produce a combined oneness of idea, was a most pleasing feature of these masterly productions. The mental capacity, breadth of thought, striking illustration, and apt quotation, showed that the training received had not failed to call forth and strengthen the powers, with which they were severally endowed, and we shall be disappointed if they do not all take a position of influence and respectability at no distant day.

The Degree of Bachelor in Arts was then conferred on the above, and of Master in Arts on Mr. H. Harding Bligh of Halifax, who was present to receive it, and the honorary degree of M. A., on Edward Young, Esq., formerly of Falmouth, now in the Treasury Department at Washington—a pupil of Horton Academy in 1829 and 30.

After the President, Rev. J. M. Cramp, D.D., had delivered an admirable address to the graduating class, it was announced that several of the students had distinguished themselves by undertaking and successfully pursuing extra studies, to whom Honor Certificates would be presented as follows:—

#### IN CLASSICS.

- Senior Class—J. W. Manning.
- Junior Class—J. McDonald, E. C. Spinney, J. F. Tufts, W. A. MacKinlay.
- Sophomore Class—Neil McLeod, C. R. Daniels, R. Sanford.
- Freshman Class—R. W. Ellis.

#### IN MATHEMATICS.

- Freshman Class—R. W. Ellis.

#### IN BELLES LETTRES.

- Senior Class—J. F. L. Parsons.
- Junior Class—J. McDonald.
- Sophomore Class—Neil McLeod, C. R. Daniels, R. Sanford.

**The Alumni Prizes.**—As the remainder of the exercises were in connection with the Alumni Association, Rev. Dr. Cramp asked the President of that Society, T. H. Rand, Esq., Superintendent of Education, to take charge and make the necessary announcements.

Mr. Rand stated that the Committee of the Alumni Association had offered a prize of \$40 for the best Essay on "The claims of the Natural Sciences to occupy a prominent place in the Curriculum of a College." The Essays to be subjected to the judgment of three gentlemen of the first standing, for their decision. Four essays had been received, and a unanimous opinion had been expressed, that the one accompanied by a sealed envelope directed "On," was entitled to the prize. A letter was read to this effect, signed by the three adjudicators, Hon. Judge Johnstone, His Worship the Mayor of Halifax, and Professor Lawson.

On opening the envelope it was found that the writer of the Essay was Mr. Jonathan F. L. Parsons, who was then called upon to read it; and we doubt not that all who heard it were fully convinced of the correctness of the remarks made by the judges on its character.

The other Prizes offered by a number of gentlemen through the Alumni Association were then presented:

First.—For the best Scholarship in each year's class of Students.

1. Freshman Class, \$20, to Robert W. Ellis of Cornwallis.
2. Sophomore Class, \$20, to Neil McLeod of Uigg, P. E. I.
3. Junior Class, \$20, to John McDonald, of Uigg, P. E. I.
4. Senior Class, \$20, to J. W. Manning, of Bridgewater.

Second.—The Award Longley Prize, \$20, to the best Elocutionist, awarded to James W. Johnston and William A. Newcomb, one-half to each.

Third.—The H. N. Paint Prize, \$25, to the Student who had prepared the best series of monthly Essays during the College year, to Wm. A. Mackinlay of Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Fourth.—The Lewis Payzant Prize, \$20, to the member of the College or Academy Cricket Clubs making the highest score in two matches; to L. Cohoon of Port Medway. Fifth.—A Consolation Prize of \$10, to the best player on the losing side; to E. C. Spinney of Wilmot.

After the College exercises were brought to a close, the Alumni and their friends assembled in the Wolfville Gymnasium, and sat down to an excellent dinner.