

THE WESLEYAN,

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GOUGH'S ORATORY—ITS LESSONS TO PUBLIC MEN.

It is impossible to avoid drawing many valuable inferences from the appearance, habit and power of such a man. One who stands peerless before the world as an orator; at whose feet all the English-speaking populations—high and low, rich and poor, educated and ignorant—have sat with admiration and wonder; and who at the age of sixty is more effective than he was in those marvellous days of thirty-five—more graceful, considerate and enthusiastic—less extravagant in gesture and metaphor; who sways a sceptre of supremacy in public address during a longer period than perhaps any man in history—must excite our faculties of curiosity and enquiry. Mr. Gough teaches far more than he imagines, far more perhaps than he intends. His audiences ordinarily learn much from his delineations of life, from his wise and pithy sayings, his inimitably graphic action. It is reserved for those who themselves employ their gifts in the pulpit and on the platform to draw from Mr. Gough's public appearances a kind of wisdom which will continue sowing and reaping long after his honored head shall have been pillowed in dust.

As to the man. He began his public career when a mere wreck. Mental and physical powers had been besotted for years; all social amenities had lost their hold upon him. If ever restored at all to usefulness, it would have been safe to predict for him a short life, a miserable retrospect, and a premature grave. Yet John B. Gough is fresher, has more of soul sunshine, is capable of greater mental and physical effort than any three men who can be selected from the public-speaking sextagenarians of America. One clergyman out of five reaches the age of sixty; one out of every score who reach that age, retains some flexibility of voice; the remainder are broken-winded, asthmatic, bronchial old men. Now, here comes Gough, who has been going over two continents at high pressure for thirty-five years, addressing immense crowds at a rate of two hours in every twenty-four, after continuing his lectures for weeks and months successively in the same city, suffering an intense strain of nervous sympathy, first in making his hearers laugh and cry, and then in listening to their thunders of applause; with much of broken life behind him, and always an incalculable amount of suffering about him, philanthropist as he is—here is Gough with nerves still strong but flexible as steel, and a voice out-rivalling in variation the bugle of the battlefield. How explain it? Well, several reasons may be attributed. He travels much, answering Nature's demand for change of air and associations; he holds the mastery of his passions—that is apparent in the quiet, firm dignity with which he shakes off each tempest of feeling as it seizes and sways the orator betimes; he is content to let the world lose sight of him at intervals, to lay down both reins and whip, to turn out the race-horse. He speaks of a "one-horse town," near which (not in which) he lives, and that explains that John Gough takes what many clergymen never take, and in denying themselves seldom consider the consequences—a good, sacred, long Sabbath occasionally—a season of rest and recuperation.

This man's loyalty to principle in all his address is very refreshing. He is a temperance man, and always that. Wonderful fare he provides for his guests, but the dish of abstinence is sure to come, and the guest must take it. In every fifty-cent ticket to Gough's lectures, there is sure to be twenty-five cents worth of temperance. That is not all. He is a christian—a somewhat old-fashioned, we would say, in private, a hard-praying christian; and he never, never hides his religion behind his queer actions and his uproarious anecdotes. His hearers may revel in fun to their heart's content; but sooner or later they must come down to worship. People listen to sermons from him who would have small chance to hear them so pointedly put by their own clergymen, who would perhaps insult a man that would presume to offer them under different circumstances. Gough deserves well of those who mourn to see a black coat and white handkerchief put on and put off as the symbol of an intention to preach religion or not as may best suit the circumstances.

Gough's stories! Will our clergymen learn something from them? Not the anecdotes themselves—some of them are old stock, much worn with handling, only taken down by this man's gentle hand, dusted, varnished, and made better than ever. This is his gift—rather, God's gift to him. But most of us may keep our eyes—Gough-like—about us, cultivating a habit that grows wonderfully with the use of it and is always productive of double good, that to ourselves and others. The cry of a child; the fluttering of a wounded bird; the motions of a street-sweeper—everything, however minute, has a voice for Gough or a lesson. And this constitutes, too, his principal charm. If popularity be worth seeking—as we believe it is for the best purposes—other sources of knowledge we must read besides our text-books and manuscripts, besides the old divines and the terse theologians. Nature, life, the sea and the sky, will come to aid the gospel, bringing all tributes to the feet of a one exalted, worthy Master.

WHICH IS WHICH?

It strikes us that what were once Creeds are no longer Creeds with many theological thinkers. A fair illustration of this fact is brought out in an able article in the last weeks Presbyterian Witness, reviewing Roy's Pamphlet. Our friend rather strongly hints that Methodists do not believe in—at least do not adhere too strictly—to their own principles as laid down in the "Discipline"; and expressed in the Model Deed, otherwise no Presbyterian minister would be allowed to enter our pulpits. But on the other hand this honest admission is made:— "Calvinism" fairly represented is not the shocking theological bugbear which many a worthy Methodist has imagined. In fact, we have heard as strong "Calvinism" from Methodist lips as we could wish to hear anywhere. "Fatalism," the "horrible decree" of reprobation, the damnation of infants, the liberty to sin because grace abounds,—these doctrines are as abhorrent to us as they can be to our brethren.

We prefer to think that arminianism and Calvinism—those two great systems of thought which all modern evangelical churches have interwoven more or less with their faith—are precisely to day what great champions of past generations made them out to be—diverse as the poles—utterly irreconcilable and antagonistic. But of the Calvinism of Calvin there remains in the religious world at this moment far less than of the Arminianism of Arminius. Both systems have shifted ground not a little. Arminians have moved, in some instances, perhaps outward; Calvinism has certainly advanced inward—toward the temperate zone—where both are now reconciled to anchoring beside each other. There has been quite enough of wrangling, and the religious world knows it. Creeds are Creeds still, nevertheless. The Confession of Faith, and Wesley's Notes and Sermons, are not, and are not likely to be, repudiated in either instance; but—and we thank God for it—the churches holding those standards have come to believe, that they have work to do more important and profitable than theological field-fighting.

MOUNT ALLISON ANNIVERSARY EXERCISES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

SACKVILLE, May 28, 1877.

The Closing Exercises of another academic year at Mount Allison, find us again in Sackville. The unpleasant weather which has prevailed since our arrival last Wednesday, has, until today, operated very much against this beautiful village appearing to advantage; but as vegetation is more advanced than we recollect ever to have seen it at this season, the return of sunshine has lent the country a most attractive appearance.

We found, however, a most pleasant retreat from the inclemency of the weather in the examination rooms. The written examinations were held previous to our arrival, with, we are informed, most satisfactory results. The oral examination has been in progress since Wednesday. Of the college classes, those in German, Euripides, Hebrew, French, International Law, Geology, and Physiology, were examined Wednesday; those in Freshman and Junior Mathematics, Logic, Livy, Plato, Juvenal, Evidences of Christianity, and Metaphysics, on Thursday. We noticed as taking a leading part in these examinations the Rev. Dr. Pickard, Rev. C. H. Paisley, A. M., Rev. Thos. Rogers, A.M., Rev. Ralph Brecken, A. M., Rev. Joseph Hart, G. W. Burbridge, Esq., A.M., and others.

On Friday several classes of the Theological School and of the Male Academy were examined. The former, embracing classes in Theology, Greek Testament, Ecclesiastical History, Old Testament Exegesis and Systematic Theology, were conducted by Committees representing the different Conferences. On Saturday forenoon the remaining classes of the Theological School, and a large number of classes in the Ladies Academy were examined; and this morning the examination of the Academies and of the Commercial College were completed.

The students of Music in the Ladies Academy were thoroughly examined on Thursday by Professors DeVine of St. John, and Porter of Halifax; Miss Louisa Worrall, of Halifax, received the first prize for proficiency in music—a locket worth \$30.00, presented by H. F. Worrall, Esq., of Halifax. Miss Webb, of Windsor, received the second prize, and Miss Crothers, of St. John, the third. In the competition between the academies for the gold medal offered by Dr. Tuck to the student showing the greatest proficiency in the English branches, Master Arthur Winterbottom, of Glace Bay, C. B., ranked first, and Master Fred. Dixon, of Sackville, second.

This afternoon the products of the Art Department were exhibited. The pencilings, water colors, and oils, tastefully arranged in the spacious studio, were the objects of universal admiration.

These examinations, occupying nearly five days, will afford some idea of the extent of the educational work carried on at Mount Allison—a work which the examiners and all who were in attendance are satisfied, is no less thorough than it is extensive. They abundantly testified to the high state of efficiency in which every branch of the institution is maintained.

The religious services on Sunday were held in the audience room of the new church. Rev. H. McKeown, of Fredericton, preached an admirable educational sermon in the morning, and in the evening the Rev. Joseph Hart, of St. John, delivered the anniversary sermon. Mr. Hart's text was taken from Galatians vi. 7, 8, "For whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

The sermon was a masterly discussion of the law or principle of moral rewards. By physical analogies he showed how habitual acts would develop aptitudes, how a life devoted to good or evil would necessarily rise on the one hand to purity and excellence or sink on the other to pollution and infamy. The great remedial provision is the "only means by which we can avoid the harvest of corruption. In tender and eloquent words he appealed

to the students and the congregation generally, to sow such seed as shall spring up and blossom into eternal righteousness. The sermon occupied about an hour in delivery, and was listened to with rapt attention by the very large audience present. Mr. Hart was assisted by Dr. Stewart in conducting the evening services.

The Alumni and Alumna Societies which met this afternoon, elected the following officers for the ensuing year:

ALUMNI—The Rev. Howard Sprague, A. M., President; Rev. R. Brecken, A. M., W. F. MacCoy, Esq., and Josiah Wood, Esq., A.M., V. Presidents; R. C. Weldon, A. M., Ph.D., Secretary and Treasurer. Rev. J. Betts, J. R. Inch, A. M., D. Allison, A.M., LL.D., Rev. J. Burwash, A. M., W. C. Milner, Esq., B. S., Council. S. A. Chesley, A. M., and A. D. Smith, Esq., A. M., Representatives on the Board.

The Alumni Honors were awarded to H. J. Colpitts, Elgin, N.B.

ALUMNAE—Miss Hattie E. Smith, M.L.A., President; Mrs. G. W. Burbridge, M.L.A., Mrs. B. F. Chandler, M. L.A., Mrs. George Guest, Vice Pres.; Miss Grace Lockhart, B. S., Secretary and Treasurer; Miss Maria L. Angwin, M.L.A., Asst. Sec'y.

Natural Science Prize was awarded to Miss Lizzie McGregor, Cape Breton. Mathematical Scholarship, to Miss Josephine Smith, Coverdale, N. B.

Lingley Hall was unable to afford either sitting or standing room for the immense number who gathered to attend the Alumni and Alumnae public meeting this evening. After the Rev. Joseph Hart, President of the Alumni Society, had opened the meeting in a few well-chosen remarks, Miss C. Hickman, M.E.A., President of the Alumnae Society, set forth the aims and claims of their Society in a short and appropriate speech. The essayist of the evening, Miss E. Read, read a most interesting and polished paper on "Satire." The oration, on "The Sources of our Law," was delivered by G. W. Burbridge, Esq., A.M., of St. John. Selecting the laws of New Brunswick particularly as the subject of discussion, he showed how our common law had given us as a birthright the outgrowth of the wisdom of centuries, and by linking us to a splendid history developed an intense national sympathy. The history of our judicature and legislature was traced down to the present time with interspersions of eloquence that elicited great applause from the audience. Laws being enacted with a view to their adaptation to the existing state of society, could only be perfect when the principles laid down by the great law-giver himself prevailed in all their beauty and simplicity. On several votes of thanks being moved, the meeting adjourned by singing "God save the Queen."

Tuesday—The following is the report of the Anniversary exercises of the Ladies' Academy which took place this forenoon:—

1—Devotional Exercises. Rev. C. Stewart, D.D. MUSIC.

1—Chorus—The Mountain Miner. Offenback

II—ESSAYS BY GRADUATING CLASS.

1—Influences Susan O. McCully

2—Practical Mathematics E. M. Lowden

MUSIC

Etude Galop, (two Pianos, eight hands)

Misses Stewart, Crothers, Worrall and Carritt.

3—Unwritten History Emma C. Trueman

4—I have launched my Boat. Minnie Black

MUSIC

Chorus—Ernani Verdi

5—The Intellectual Life of Woman, and Valedictory Addresses Lizzie McGregor

MUSIC

Duett—Martha, (two Pianos) Alberto

Prof. Sterne and Miss Worrall

III—GIVING PRIZES, CONFERRING DEGREES, &c.

MUSIC

Chorus—Achieved is the Glorious Work, (Creation) Handel

DOXOLOGY.

Diplomas were given to Miss L. Worrall and Miss Amelia Trueman for proficiency in Music and to Miss Burrell for proficiency in painting. Miss McGregor's Essay is especially worthy of notice as being of rare merit, although all the essays were excellent. The music was very superior. Eloquent addresses were delivered by Rev. J. Hart and Rev. R. A. Temple, President of the N. S. Conference.

The College commencement began at 2.30 p.m. and closed at 5.30. The Programme is as follows:

I—DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.

MUSIC

Music { A "O Hail us ye free."—Ernani

B "Anvil Chorus."—Trovatore Verdi

II—ORATIONS.

1—Our New Nationality Geo. A. Inch

2—George McDougall Geo. F. Johnson

3—Influences of Greece on Modern Progress Alex. Johnson

Music—William Tell (8 hands) Bissell

Misses Bourke, A. Trueman, Freeman, and Fisher.

III—CONFERRING DEGREES, PRESENTATIONS OF PRIZES, &c.

Music—The Alpine Echo

Misses F. Smith, I. Crothers, Professor Sterne, Mr. F. H. Tuck.

IV—ADDRESSES

Music—Phantom Chorus Bellini

V—DOXOLOGY & BENEDICTION.

To make the exercises as short as possible only three were selected from the graduating class to deliver orations. The following are the members of the graduating class.

B. A. B. S.

Henry T. Colpitts Robert Beckwith

Nathaniel Duffy George A. Inch

George F. Johnson James S. Tait

Alexander Johnson

Charles C. Slocomb

Rufus P. Steeves

The degree of D.D. was conferred on Rev. Henry Pope, Jr. Dr. Pope, responded in a short speech. After the regular exercises were through the Rev. Howard Sprague and the Hon. Attorney General King, were called upon and replied in quite lengthy and eloquent speeches. The Attorney General offered a medal to be competed for by the two Academies next year. A speech from the Rev. Dr. Stewart closed the most interesting commencement ever held at Mount Allison. The exercises taken altogether or separately have confirmed us in our previous belief that at no institutions in the Maritime Provinces are there such facilities afforded for receiving a thorough and comprehensive education. The prospects for next year are very promising.

NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE.

Homes provided for the Ministers, during the Session to be held at Yarmouth, June, 1877.

- Adly, J S Mrs Guest
Ainley, William S S Poole
Alcorn, William Capt Hatfield, Milton
Angwin, Thomas A F Stoneman
Angwin, J G Joseph Burrell
Asbury, John Charles Bryant
Baines, W D Charles Bryant
Bent, Jos F Henry Thurston
Bigney, J G Elsha Atwood
Bird, Bichey T O Woodworth
Borden, J R G M Lewis
Brocken, R. A M George Guest
Brettie, Elias Nathan B Lewis
Brown, W Capt Wm Cooke
Brunyate, E R S A Crowell
Cassidy John Frank Killam, M P
Coffin, J S Oscar Davison
Craig, John S C Hood
Daniel, R A N W Blethen
Day, G F Capt Joseph Lovitt
England, James Heman Gardner
England, E E Thomas Allen, jr
Evans, W H Capt Benj Davis
Fisher, J M T B Dane
Gatz, Joseph Joseph Burrell
Giles, Jesse B Capt B Davis
Hale, Joseph A Lawson
Hart, James R Capt Robertson
Hart, Thos D Jas H Cann
Heartz, W H Saml Killam, jr
Hemmeon, Jos B N W Blethen
Hennigar, J G Mrs Rogers
Hockin, Arthur Henry Thurston
Howie, J W G Forsyth
Huestis, S F., Sec'y A F Stoneman
Huestis, G O
Johnson, George (A) Andrew Mack
Johnson, John Lyman Cann
Johnson, R O B Miss Brady
Johnson, D W., A B Bowman Corning
Jost, C. A M Thomas Killam
Lockhart, C Nathan B Lewis
Mack, R Barry Andrew Mack
McArthur, Robert R A Cardex
McMurray, John D Horton
Moore, Ezra B S A Crowell
Morton, A D., A M T W Johns
Moshier, J A Lyman Cann
Nicolson, A W T B Flint
Parker, Caleb B E Rogers
Pickles, F H W Nathan Moses
Pickard, H., D D George Guest
Pike, J M Parsonage, South
Prestwood, Paul Henry Lewis
Purvis, William Rev J Read
Penny, W F Bowman Corning
Read, John Parsonage, Milton
Rogers, J A S C Hood
Rogers, Thomas, A M Capt William Cooke
Scott, James W K Dudman
Shenton, Job William McGill
Scott, D B Geo R Smith
Shore, Godfrey Joseph R Rogers
Smith, Richard J G Allen
Smith, T Watson T M Lewis
Sponagle, J L J K Butler
Strothard, James Albert Butler
Sutcliffe, Ingham Albert Butler
Swallow, C W., A B T B Dane
Temple, R Alder President
Teasdale, J J W H G Temple
Taylor, James Capt E H Lovitt
Tuttle, G W Amos Crosby
Tuttle, Alex S Nathan Lewis, sr
Thurlow, I E W K Dudman
Tweedy, Robert Joseph Sleath
Tweedy, James John Flint
Weldon, A F Rev J M Pike