

Obituary.

MISS MARY ALLISON.

Shortly before midnight, on Monday, Jan. 2nd, 1871, the spirit of Miss Mary Allison went up "out of great tribulation" to the presence of God and the Lamb. She was the only child of the late C. F. Allison, Esq., of blessed memory, the founder of the noble Educational Institutions at Sackville, N. B.

From her earliest infancy, Miss Allison was, on the part of her parents, the object of the most affectionate Christian care. They were deeply impressed with the magnitude of the trust committed to their keeping, and with the necessity of Divine grace to render the efforts put forth on behalf of their child successful in her religious training, and in her full and final salvation.

Amidst the earnest prayers of her father, and by the unhesitating faith of her now doubly bereaved mother, she was unreservedly dedicated to God, and the covenant ratified in His own baptismal ordinance. This act was thereupon followed by the careful instillation of Scriptural truth, and by all the hallowing influences of holy example.

The honour thus rendered to God was soon and abundantly honoured by Him. At three years of age Miss Allison delighted to learn of the blessed volume, and the inspired teachings made wise unto salvation. At ten, she cast in her lot with the people of God, by commencing to meet in her father's class. About a year afterwards, when that excellent man was called to his heavenly rest, his daughter took his place at the table of the Lord, and left behind the record of her best experience on that memorable occasion. From that time it is believed she walked in the fear of God and the comfort of the Holy Ghost, until she was summoned to rejoin her parent in the skies.

Possessing a mind of more than usual vigour, and being favoured with the choicest educational advantages, she made rapid progress in learning, and on the completion of her studies had acquired a richness and breadth of intellectual culture, such as few at her age enjoy. Afterwards, during a sojourn in Hamilton, Ont., where was laid the foundation of some of her dearest friendships, and in travelling extensively in the United States, she gained a larger acquaintance with the world, became more deeply interested in the movements of humanity, and had her sympathies with all that is ameliorative and ennobling more perfectly developed.

In the year 1867 falling health compelled her to travel in Europe. Accompanied by her beloved mother, she spent the winter months in the south of France, and subsequently, with considerably improved strength, visited the most interesting places of Italy and Germany, besides making a short stay in England. The opportunity then afforded to her of further improvement in knowledge was judiciously embraced, and she returned to her home grateful for the Providential guidance and blessing of God, and better fitted for the performance of any duties which might devolve upon her.

Though by no means free from solicitude in reference to her health, yet her friends were fain to cherish the fondest expectations on her behalf. She was herself remarkably buoyant and hopeful. A sacrificed earthly life seemed to have many charms for her. With an amiability so winning, an intelligence so varied and full, a kindness so cordial and considerate, and, above all, a deportment so uniformly modest and so thoroughly Christian, she was, as must be supposed, greatly endeared to a large circle of friends, who felt constrained to hope that she might long be spared to diffuse a blessing upon her race. Infinite wisdom had ordered it otherwise.

Towards the end of September last Miss Allison took a severe cold. A fever ensued, and, on a constitution far from being robust, operated with crushing effect. Her sufferings, prolonged over the remainder of the year, were frequently most intense. After a few weeks' illness, the termination of her life was expected for many successive hours—extending over several nights and days. But the end was not then. Not restoration, but partial relief was granted to her. To others, gleams of hope would sometimes appear to flicker round her couch—to herself there seemed simply to be cause for increased resignation to the will of God, whether for life or for death.

Once, all the very fact of dying was experienced. She was then eminently calm and happy. The most assured testimonies of personal peace with God, and of joy in the statement of Christ, were given by her. Messages of Christian interest were sent to absent friends. And then she waited the summons to a brighter world. Patience, however, was yet to have its perfect work. Day after day, week after week of suffering followed each other slowly. Such, too, was the nature of her malady that for a long time she could see no one but the necessary attendants. Yet, as the could, even for a few minutes, her utterances were precious, and evinced that marvellous combination at once of human faith and Divine power, which graces so peculiarly the closing scenes of a true believer's life. Was the promise of Christ's presence alluded to? Her prompt reply would be, "He is very near." "He is with me now." "He holds me in His arms." "He encircles me in His arms."

On the first day of the present year she was carried to the window whence she might see the worshippers of God leaving the house of prayer, and afterwards, with apparent comfort, she conversed freely on the state of her mind. With tearful eyes she expressed the wish once more to commemorate the dying love of Christ, and the hope was cherished that on the morrow her strength might prove sufficient for this exercise. But the following day found life fast ebbing out. A few verses were read, and a short prayer was offered at her bedside. "I am very weak," she said, "but I can tell what I suffer; but that you support me all the rest of the day." Success for another day was not required. Within half an hour of the noon of night, in the full possession of consciousness at last, apparently free from all pain, and with a most benignant gaze fixed upon her parent, she said, "Mother, I am dying," and then, without a sigh, escaped from the tenebrous of clay to be "for ever with the Lord."

She died in the 24th year of her age.

C. S.

Sackville, Jan. 19th, 1871.

(Toronto "Christian Guardian" will please copy.)

RUPERT OSBORNE SMITH, OF WINDSOR.

Rupert Osborne Smith, aged 18 years, son of James Smith, Windsor, passed into rest on the 2nd day of the present month.

From a child Rupert had been thoughtful, patient and truthful. Three years ago a lameness in one of his thighs led to the formation of abscesses, which in their turn drained away the young man's life. All that loving hearts and tender hands could

do for him, was done. Yet gradually, almost imperceptibly, life retired and death approached.

When the solemn truth of his nearing the grave first dawned upon him, it brought with it an anxiety as to the well-being of the immortal part. We were witness to his subdued earnestness as the stern question met him in full significance—What of the concealed hereafter? By cautious advances, he neared the Saviour, until with confidence, which was beautiful in its expression of contentment and language, he went down, led by the Rod and the Staff, into the Valley. Death met but little to oppose his purpose. Of body there was but a shadow; the soul had already found a refuge in God. Death had no sting—the grave obtained no victory.

We administered the ordinance of Baptism to Rupert some weeks before his death. His resolute though weary expression then, as in an attitude of devout patience he waited for the solemnity, has often returned to our mind since. It was almost his final effort to retain an upright posture.

His relatives miss the invalid son and brother, but they know who hath claimed him, and he is not lost.

A. W. N.

Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1871.

IS THIS AN AGE OF PROGRESS?

Is this an age of progress? Progress in what respects?—progress as compared with the condition of men and things in what other age? In some particulars it would be folly to expect progress beyond the point attained by civilized nations in the past at the most palmy period of their existence, because the circumstances of the time are not favorable to such progress. In some directions, too, progress is a thing scarcely possible. The days can never come when all men will be giants and all women angels. Nor is there any reason to believe that the laws of our being permit in this world that the average strength of the human intellect should naturally become greater and greater continually. Circumstances may be favorable or otherwise to the attainment of a high degree of physical strength and beauty and of a high average of natural mental power by any particular branch of the human family; but clearly there are well defined limits beyond which progress in these respects is not to be expected because not possible. And there seems good reason for believing that those limits have often been reached by races in other days.

Then, in those arts that chiefly call into exercise in their culture the force of the imagination and the sense of the beautiful, we cannot reasonably expect absolute progress beyond the stage reached by highly endowed races in other days under circumstances far better calculated than those now existing to promote excellence of production in the branches respectively cultivated. There is nothing surprising in the fact that in poetry, sculpture, and architecture the most renowned of the ancient races have scarcely been equalled by modern nations. In oratory, too, the Greeks and Romans of the olden times have certainly not been surpassed by the cultivators of that noble art in these latter days. But there is no reason why they should be surpassed, but rather otherwise. In abstract power of thinking, likewise, the strong men of ancient days stand well as compared with the deep-thoughted men of the present time; and why should they not?

Nevertheless, the age in which we live is rapidly advancing along many lines of progress. Never before since men spread themselves over the earth was useful knowledge so widely diffused as at this moment. Never were so many Bibles in the world as to-day. Never were there so many of the children of men before able and willing to read those bibles as at this hour. Never at any former period could those who love the Lord Jesus find such ready access to the millions of the human family as now. And the writer rejoices to believe that never before either relatively or absolutely did so many of the sons of Adam love the world's Christ as to-day.

Darkened as is one famous land by deeds of violence, and trodden as is its palpitating bosom by the feet of stern men swift to shed blood, never before were the rights of humanity so widely recognized and respected as in our time. The chains of the slaves are still snapping asunder, and human bondage will soon become merely a horrid memory, and a dreadful tradition. In the noblest of merely earthly arts, the arts of secular self government, the progress being made is simply amazing. And the establishment of religious liberty is proceeding with not unequal step with the diffusion of free constitutional government.

What need be said of the mastery of the blind forces of nature, to which civilized man is day by day attaining? What language can do justice to the steam engine in the mine, the mill, the factory, the ships, and on the road? The sons of the prophet were startled at the sight of the iron that swam at the prophet's bidding in the old time. What would they have felt had they caught a vision of the British iron-clad "Captain," as she breasted the waves before she took her fatal plunge into the briny depths? How would the faithful Penelope have managed to baffle her importunate suitors, had her web been woven in a power loom driven by steam? But with what joy, would not the good wife, so beautifully portrayed by the inspired Hebrew, have welcomed the services of a spinning jenny, when with her maidens she wrought in wool and flax; and how wonderfully lightened would have been industrious labours, when preparing garments for her lord and his stalwart sons, who called her blessed and enabled their father to speak courageously to his enemies in the gate, could she have been favoured with the use of a modern sewing machine, such as makes pleasant music and good work in many a cozy Methodist parsonage

throughout our land. What would our beautiful but over-curious mother Eve have felt and thought could she have even dreamt of the exhaustless resources of the millinery of the distant future? And Adam, great in primeval horticulture, would it not have been a delightful treat to him to have anticipated, in thought, the contents of an agricultural implement warehouse of the latter half of the nineteenth century? Surely, what would the old Romans, proud masters of so large a part of the world, have given for the secret of the magnetic telegraph—sub-oceanic or otherwise—to flash their commands quick as thought from the banks of the yellow Tiber to the frontier of Parthia, the verge of the great Sahara, the banks of the Rhine and the Danube, the shores of Brittany, and the foot of the Grampians?

Of the progress made in the cruel art of war, let the painful and wonderful record of the Franco-German struggle furnish illustrations. It will be enough for us to say that no army that ever previously took the field was so powerful an instrument of war as the great German army that has brought such lamentable desolation upon France.

Are there great men now though, after all? We stand too near the chief men of our time to estimate aright their comparative elevation. We need some of that distance which lends enchantment to the view. But God always finds the men He needs to do the work designed. In 1870, He especially used two men who must, in all coming time, take rank among the greatest men of their respective classes. The memory of these men will be exalted and venerated for generations by respective millions of their fellows. By many the motives of the one will be denounced, the strategy of the other will be questioned, and the work of both will be anathematized. But the existence and labours of Bismarck and Moltke demonstrate that some of the ablest of our race are counted with living men.

J. R. N.

Circuit Intelligence.

CHARLOTTETOWN CIRCUIT.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—Among the most noteworthy events of our Island Capital for some time past, have been the Bazaar in Christmas week, in aid of our New Day School, and the opening of this Institution on Monday last with appropriate devotional and dedicatory services.

The former was held, under the distinguished patronage of His Honor the Lieut. Governor and Lady, in our Spacious Market Hall, which had been kindly placed at the disposal of the Trustees by His worship the Mayor, and most tastefully decorated with evergreens and banners by the young men of our congregation, assisted by some of their friends. The display of fancy and useful articles took everybody by surprise. The variety, beauty, richness and intrinsic value of the goods arranged as they were with great taste, elicited much admiration and praise, and the skill and enthusiasm of the ladies who had gone to so highly creditable a Bazaar were the subject of general remark, and probably not one among the many hundreds of visitors felt himself able to understand how it was possible that beauty and utility could be so happily blended and how there should be presented for sale, what had just seemed to anticipate the needs of all corners. No doubt the noble project of supplying a first class Protestant School, long felt to be an urgent want in this city, where Convent Schools have been doing so surely and steadily their previous work of proselytism, did much to induce evangelical Christians generally to favour us with their countenance and support, and apart from all so good judgment had been manifested in providing for the most exquisite taste as well as for the strictest utilitarianism, that but little more than the bland smiles of the fair ladies who presided most gracefully at the respective stalls, was necessary to effect more or less sales with everybody, especially as very moderate prices had been asked for the three days of the Bazaar. The season of the year was favorable and the weather moderately good. Santa Claus was disposed to be unusually generous among the young folks and mutual Christmas gifts gladdened the hearts of many of the older ones. A somewhat novel feature showed itself in what was termed the department of the Bachelor's Club.

Here under the direction of clever salesmen whose beards indicated they had not tarried long enough at Jericho or any where else to become very greatly disgusted with the sweets of social life, quite a brisk trade was carried on in Bachelors' Cradles, Household Furnishings, and less or more of about every thing that the mechanical arts supply such as Sleighs, Harness, Boots and Shoes, &c., &c., amounting in all nearly to the snug little sum of two hundred pounds, a pretty handsome amount to be realized from the sale of the goods in a room on the behalf of the ladies in the short space of about six weeks.

Favourable mention might also be made of the good management of those who had charge of the Refreshment and Cake Tables and whose ample supplies of the good and substantial as well as of the more delicate and sumptuous viands would have done credit to professional caterers and which, well gratifying the most fastidious appetites, added very considerably to the receipts.

The entire net proceeds amounted to within a small fraction of a thousand pounds, and is regarded financially as a great success. The whole affair passed off most pleasantly, to produce which the gratuitous and efficient services of Galbraith's Brass Band on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings contributed not a little. It is well when such devotions as was manifested by the ladies of our Bazaar committee has its deserved reward and for their sakes as well as the Trustees, we give God thanks.

The School was opened on the 9th inst. A select audience comprising very many of our most influential citizens crowded the spacious Lecture Room. The Superintendent of the Circuit who is ex-officio, a member of the Board of Trustees presided. After the singing of a suitable hymn, Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald, A. B. T. C. Rector of St. Paul's read select scriptures and Rev. John Davis (Baptist) and Rev. E. Evans offered prayer.

The Chairman addressed the meeting on behalf of the Trustees expressing their thanks for the confidence reposed in them thus far by the general public, and briefly defining the education to be imparted in the Wesleyan Day School as liberal in its provisions, thorough in its character and such as would be communicated on right Christian

principles, without coming into collision with denominational predilections or sectarian prejudice. He also called upon the audience to engage with him in dedicating the Institution to God in the interests of Christian education. He had no imposing ritual in which to ask them to take a part but he desired them to do what he believed they would think not less important, to commend by earnest prayer the Board of instruction and the Trustees to the chair and express, that great and lasting benediction follow to the community and the Island generally. He concluded by saying that he was happy to announce that a Principal had been obtained in Canada West highly recommended by Rev. Drs. Taylor and Ryerson, who would enter upon his office in a few weeks.

Another hymn was sung after which Doctors Fraser (Presbyterian) and Johnson offered prayer. The devotional exercises were now brought to a close. The Teachers and about a hundred pupils retired to the classrooms, after which Hon. George Ryerson, M. P., presided at the chair and expressed in a brief but neat address high gratification at the extraordinary success which had attended the efforts of the friends of the Institution. Several impromptu addresses followed. Charles Palmer, Esq., was pleased with the fair prospects with which the Institution had been opened with which at least in pecuniary point of view he was connected. When first contemplated it was hoped it would be conducted under the auspices of the different Protestant churches but as the attempt had failed he was glad that the Wesleyans had taken the matter in hand and by great zeal and perseverance had succeeded in carrying out their plan, and the principles set forth in the opening address and with the description of Teachers who had been engaged and if he had been among those who had hitherto stood aloof, as a parent and student Protestant, he would feel it his duty henceforth to give the Institution his support. He was frequently reminded of the fact that the efforts had been made to establish schools of another kind in our midst. It was now the duty of all Protestants to unite in supporting this one.

D. Laird, Esq., regretted the circumstances that rendered it necessary for the Wesleyan body to undertake the school, which he thought reflected very unfavorably upon the successive Governments and Boards of Education, but while he regretted the state of things he rejoiced that they could point to this Institution as a credit to our city and he wished it and its friends all possible success. The Prince of Wales College, who had done good in the Provincial Institution, the Roman Catholics deserved great credit for their schools but now that our public city schools were so disreputable he was glad the Wesleyan Day-school was instituted, and he would have great confidence in a Principal as they had heard recommended by Dr. Ryerson.

Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald, M. P., read a few good-natured remarks, defended the Board of Education. The Chairman observed that perhaps all were right, and at all events as things had turned out it might prove all for the best, as out of the apathy of the citizens generally had sprung the present promising Institution. Robert Longworth, Esq., as a Trustee, expressed his great satisfaction with the day's proceedings, and spoke of the pleasure the trustees had had in the generous support of the public generally. Hon. Judge Young said as a volunteer he would make a few remarks. He had been delighted with that large assembly, representing all the evangelical churches of the city, and gratified with the disposition that all seemed to evince in providing education on Christian principles for the youth of our city and Island. He believed it to be the privilege of every one to aid in sustaining such an Institution, and as this, and as a proof of his willingness to do so he desired the Trustees to put down his name for £400 fifty pounds for next five years, as it could scarcely be thought at first to prove self-sustaining, and if in addition to that the Trustees should be in any difficulty he could direct them to where they could get at any time a loan of £400.

W. E. Dawson, Esq., Secy. of the Trustees thanked the Judge for his generous donation, and said it was just such volunteers they needed, as on the building which with two acres of land attached cost about £6,000, there would be a debt when the furniture was put in, of about £7,500. The Treasurer of Music obliged the audience with a performance on the piano after which those present joined in singing God save the Queen and the meeting was brought to a close by pronouncing the benediction. Thus ended, Mr. Editor, the exercises connected with the opening of the Institution which now bids fair for conferring immense advantages upon Protestant families in P. E. I.

A few particulars will now bring this lengthy episode to a close. The Wesleyan Day School is a Brick Building three stories high besides the basement, 86 feet long and 45 feet wide and has been built under the efficient Superintendence of Thomas Alley, Esq., according to a plan obtained in the U. S., but somewhat modified. It is heated by steam and thoroughly ventilated on the latest and most approved principles. In the basement there are two rooms for classes 12 feet between the floors and very commodious, besides keeper's rooms, heating apparatus, &c. In the first floor three classrooms for boys, 1 Trustees' Room and 1 Teachers private room. On the 2nd floor there are 4 school rooms and one private room for teachers. The 3rd story is occupied with the Lecture Room 52 feet 8 inches by 42 feet 4 inches and a large room 29 feet 7 inches by 29 feet 7 inches, all of which are 15 feet high. Every class room is furnished with an ante-room for children's hats and coats and indeed the establishment is filled up with every convenience to render it fully up to the times. Three teachers are employed by the Principal and a Professor of Music will be engaged through the winter. In the spring two or three more teachers are expected to be employed so that when the arrangements are perfected the school will be thoroughly graded having an infant class and primary intermediate and High School departments for both sexes. At present there are over one hundred pupils in attendance and when all the classes are in operation it is believed it will be nearly or fully doubled. May God prosper this and all our Educational Institutions.

G. S. M.

Charlottetown, Jan. 30th, 1870.

POWELL CIRCUIT, P. E. I.

NEW CHURCH OPENED—CONSTRUCTION.

With thankfulness to our heavenly Father, we have to report the opening of our new church in Powell, P. E. I. The old one was not only very antiquated and uncomfortable, but far too small. The necessity for a new one has long been acknowledged, and its erection too long delayed. However, after many and peculiar difficulties, a noble sanctuary has been reared in our midst.

Its size is thirty-two feet by fifty; and has a spire seventy-seven feet high. The structure is of wood, and the style Gothic. It is called through—two corners of mouldings running round the roof of the building. The roof is beautified by three moulded circles, with leaves, &c.; from each of these a chandelier depends. There are three ranges of pews, finished without doors, which are reached by two aisles; and will accommodate about two hundred persons. The church is well warmed by two coal stoves, one in each of the front corners, the pipes running along the side windows to the farther corners, and from thence entering a separate flue, these both unite in one as they ascend. Between these flues is struck a beautiful Gothic arch with mouldings, and forming a recess for the pulpit seats. The pulpit is a simple front of three Gothic panels, with sides of one panel each. A circular communion rail encloses the whole. The speaker stands only three stairs high; but commands a good view of the entire audience. All the wood-work is beautifully painted; and the noble ceiling is painted to imitate coffered slabs, and put matting covers the aisles, the communion floor is carpeted, the table covers of deep crimson cloth, and the pulpit cushions of velvet. The large gilt-edged Bible is the gift of the Hon. Judge Young, of Charlottetown; and the hymn-book to match is the contribution of a few members of our catechumen class.

OPENING.

It was decided that the dedicatory services should be held on Christmas-day. The Revs. G. S. Milligan, our beloved chairman, E. Evans, and F. W. Moore, were to officiate at the three services. Our choir, with the aid of a large number of volunteers, had prepared themselves to lead the congregation in the service of song. Everything was ready. On the evening preceding the Sabbath, it was found that the loose ice in the river, between us and the city, rendered it impassable. However, hopes were entertained that the ice would freeze intensely, and the ministers would be present. On the morning came—the church was being filled—the trustees advised to wait awhile—an hour after the time of opening elapsed—and then, your correspondent, the most disappointed of all, had to open the church himself. He did so, in the name of the Holy Trinity, invoking the abiding presence and blessing of the great Head of the Church. The opening hymn was sung—

"These walls we to thy honor raise,
Long may they echo to thy praise," &c.

In the dedicatory prayer we felt in very deed, the descent of the divine Spirit. After unitedly pleading in song for a blessing on the reading of God's Holy Word; part of Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the Temple, we read; &c. The sermon was based upon "the wise men" coming to worship the infant Jesus, and presenting gifts of gold, &c. The birth of Christ—our wisdom in seeking the Saviour—the duty to worship—the privilege of presenting our gifts—and the present opportunity of offering to Jesus on this Christmas morning, a *birth-day present*, were some of the topics of discourse. The trustees were pleased to find several pieces of gold in the collection plates, in imitation of the "wise men." The collection amounted to about ten pounds. "The best of all was God with us." We parted hoping the ministers might arrive for the after services.

At 3 p. m. the church was again filled; but the pulpit again empty. The writer again preached; subject, Jesus the true foundation. At night there was a vast crowd, and we had a glorious service. For the third time the same preacher discoursed, and this time the Angelic Christmas Anthem. Notwithstanding the disappointment of day, we expressed our pleasure that a second Sabbath of opening services had been decided upon, and the ministers from the city, as well as helping friends would be present. But who would believe it, New Year's Day arrived, without the ministers and friends! At 3 p. m. the church was again filled; but the pulpit again empty. The writer again preached; subject, Jesus the true foundation. At night there was a vast crowd, and we had a glorious service. For the third time the same preacher discoursed, and this time the Angelic Christmas Anthem. 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