

mental needs, and on whether we make the mental effort to secure the discipline. It is only by starting with true education as our aim, and having our mental energies directed in the best channels for discipline, shall we obtain the greatest benefit from our training.

STEPHEN SELDEN, M. A.

By the death of Mr. Selden, of Halifax, Acadia College loses one of its most valued friends, and the denomination one of its most influential members. For more than a quarter of a century Mr. Selden edited the *Christian Messenger*, and so conducted his paper as to make it a potent instrument of general culture and christian education. The Free School system was ably advocated and defended in the days when it was on trial. General movements in favor of social and industrial progress were always supported by the *Messenger*, while all the projects of the Baptist denomination were freely discussed, and the enterprises approved by the body were warmly supported. In addition to his own editorial contributions Mr. Selden gave his readers articles and correspondence from many of the best writers. His spirit and methods were such as to enlist an extensive sympathy for his journal. The interests of Acadia were always fully represented. The College owes much of the strong place it holds in the hearts of its constituency to the work of the *Messenger*; and our obligation was properly recognized by the Senate in the bestowment of the M. A. degree. While the students of to-day had but little personal acquaintance with Mr. Selden, they know enough of the regard in which he was held by those who knew him well, to make them desirous of recognizing his worth as a man, a christian, and a faithful worker in the best causes.

THE Monthly meeting of the Acadia Missionary Society was held on Sunday evening, Feb. 14th. A paper read by H. H. Saunders gave a full description of mission work in the Sandwich Islands. An interesting account of "What Missions have done for China," prepared by Miss Patten was presented by Miss McKeen. These papers were followed by a scholarly and impressive address by Dr. W. H. Young, on "The Philosophy of Missions."

Literary.

TO MILTON.

Milton, Archseraph of our English song,
Moulder of melodies wherein the voice
Of God sublimely thrills! Eternity,
Immensity and all their wondrous things
Dwelt in thy mind; while trembled from thy harp
Canorous thunder, awful majesty,
Such that no loftier strain was ever sung
By Angels circling the Eternal throne.

E. B. '91.

POSSIBILITIES.

That our lives are somewhat shaped by circumstances cannot be doubted; but we do not admit that they are merely the things of chance, bits of driftwood upon the sea of time, whose direction is determined by prevailing winds and currents. A more glorious career than this opens up to all. Man was formed with reasoning powers to tell him the difference between good and evil. If he choose the good and shun the evil, well; if he embraces the evil and ignore the good, he alone is accountable. Before all alike are spread opportunities for advancement; and to no one is denied the privilege of directing his energies in whatsoever direction he please. The pauper as well as the prince has offered to him means of physical enjoyment, openings for financial prosperity and social intercourse, together with opportunities for mental culture and the development of moral excellencies.

A glance at those names the world calls great will show that success is not exclusive, but is attainable by all. We have innumerable instances of leaders of men, in almost every department of life, having risen from the lowest ranks of society. Some of the most illustrious mechanics, warriors, statesmen and authors, were, at the beginning of life, poor and unfriended, and having no claim upon recognition, but that of determination and honest energy, the very best claim.

Arkwright began his career as a barber, in an underground shop, but ended it as one of the greatest benefactors of his race. Lord Clive wrote as a clerk before, as a great general, he saved for England India. Cardinal Wolsley was the son of a butcher; and Richard Cobden was a farmer's boy; Milton was the son of a London scrivener; Ben Jonson, was a mason;