

Atlantic Province Teachers in the Pacific Province.

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We understand that there are many more Atlantic teachers in the Maritime Province on the other ocean, but we have not yet definitely heard from them. With such well known and able teachers in leading positions, British Columbia, though younger, may possibly lead the Eastern Provinces in educational development.

COLLEGE ANNIVERSARIES.

The anniversary exercises at Acadia will occur this year on Thursday, 6th of June. The usual public exercises of that day will begin at 11 a. m. In the evening the Alumni will give an "At Home" in the college hall. The public exercises of the Seminary will be held on Wednesday evening, June 5th, and those of the Academy in the afternoon of the same day. The Senate will hold its session on the 5th of June. It is understood that the Senate and Governors will deal with some important questions touching the reconstruction of some educational departments at Acadia.

The following is an outline programme of exercises of Mt. Allison convocation week:—Sunday, May 26th, 11 a. m., Anniversary Sermon of Theological Union, by Rev. W. W. Brewer, St. John; 7 p. m., Baccalaureate Sermon, by Rev. W. H. G. Temple, A.M., Boston. Monday, May 27th, 9 a. m., Anniversary of Male Academy; 3 p. m., Annual Meeting of University Senate; 7.30 p. m., Theological Union Lecture, by Rev. F. A. Wright, M.A., Hillsburg. Tuesday, May 28th, 9 a. m., Anniversary of Ladies' College; 2 p. m., Gymnastic Exhibitions; 4 p. m., Business Meeting of Alumni and Alumnae Societies; 7 p. m., Alumni and Alumnae Anniversaries, addresses by Miss Sarah Smith, St. John, and Principal Anderson, LL.D., Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown; 9 p. m., *Conversazione* in Memorial Hall. Wednesday, 29th, 9 a. m., University Convocation; 3 p. m., Annual Meeting of Board of Regents.

THE POETRY OF ROBERT BROWNING.

An introduction to the poetry of Robert Browning by W. J. Alexander, Ph. D., Munro professor of English language and literature, Dalhousie College and University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Ginn & Co., Boston.

We entirely agree with Dr. Alexander when he says in his preface "that he is strongly averse to that study of literature which consists in reading about books rather than in reading the books themselves." But we are of opinion that we may go farther and express it as our conviction that the discipline, both intellectual and moral, which one has to submit to in unravelling the complexities of a really difficult book without any external aids, more than compensates for the time and pains which have been expended upon the work. Whatever analytical power one may be gifted with, whatever faculty he may possess of realizing the situation and assuming the place of his author, and thus divining the sequence of his thoughts, whatever resolution to strive in spite of many a failure he may be capable of, all his experience in the solution of perplexing questions, and all the resources of his knowledge and ingenuity are called into requisition, and are not more than sufficient for the task. And the result is not only an extension of his knowledge, but from the magnitude of the effort which he had to put forth, a more thorough assimilation of his acquirements and a greater mastery of his powers.

The majority of readers, however, have not time, and comparatively few, inclination to undertake such work. They either leave it alone or avail themselves of the assistance which may be within their reach. In books of poetry particularly this has been most noticeable, and in the works of no great poet so much as in those of Robert Browning. The language is in many cases so obscure, and the difficulties in following the thoughts so numerous, that many people who read poetry with pleasure, and are capable of sympathizing with Browning if they could but understand him, have been deterred from reading his poems. Hence there has been no recent poet about whose productions so much has been written by way of elucidation, and concerning whom opinion has been so divided. The latest addition to the Browning literature is the book before us. Dr. Alexander is well fitted for the performance of such a task. He is known in these provinces as a very successful teacher of English literature, and having observed the influence of such comments and disquisitions upon his students he very properly concludes that they will not be without interest and instruction to the general reader. An ardent admirer of Browning, and qualified by taste, scholarship and sympathy to become his interpreter,