

The Mount Allison ACADEMIC GAZETTE.

SACKVILLE, N. B., DECEMBER, 1861.

We have much satisfaction in sending forth this number of the Academic Gazette, with its statement of facts, to show to the numerous friends of the Institution, that it yet continues greatly to prosper.

The Catalogue of Students for the year now closing presents an array of *two hundred* names—a number considerably larger than that of either of the previous eighteen years. This may well be regarded as occasion of pleasing surprise and grateful encouragement, especially when the extraordinary business depression which has prevailed throughout the Province is taken into consideration. Of these, 119 were in attendance in the Term which ended in February; 122 in that which ended in May; 111 in that which began in July, and 120 in that which began in October. About three fourths of the number have been resident students, and one fourth day pupils.

The regular Board of Instruction has been strengthened by the addition to it of the Rev. S. Humphrey, A. M., as "Teacher of Latin, &c.," for the current Academic Year.

Professor S. O. Spencer, who has taken charge of the Department of Vocal and Instrumental Music, came very highly recommended, and he has already here proved himself to be, in all respects, admirably qualified for the position he occupies.

During the past autumn a Building, 60 x 36 feet, 20 feet posts, was erected and fitted up as a Gymnasium. It affords conveniences and inducements to the Students, to take the bodily exercise which is indispensably necessary for the preservation of health.

COLLEGIATE ORGANIZATION.

Although not yet allowed to speak of this as a thing accomplished in connection with our Institution, we can report such progress in the work of preparation as gives promise of its accomplishment at a definite and, happily, not now distant time. Those upon whom devolves the responsibility of supervising and directing the enterprise educational at Mount Allison have been led, since our last issue, to take such action relative to the subject as seems to determine the time when the regular course of systematic Collegiate education is to be inaugurated here;—that *it is not to be delayed beyond the commencement of the ensuing Academic Year.*

Whether the "Mount Allison Wesleyan College" will enter upon its existence as a separate, independent Institution, undertaking to confer upon those of its students who may complete its prescribed curriculum of study the usual literary honors and degrees; or as a member of a family of affiliated Colleges holding a common relation to a properly constituted Provincial University yet to be created, is a question which will be settled by the New Brunswick Legislature this winter.

At the last Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Academy, after due deliberation, a resolution was unanimously adopted declaring that "*in the opinion of the Board the establishment of a proper University Board—to be separate and independent of all teaching institutions, and to be the sole source of University Honors and Degrees in the Province, would prove of essential advantage to the cause of liberal education,*" and furthermore, "*requesting the Wesleyan Methodist Conference of Eastern British America,*" which was then about to meet in the city of St. John, "*to take the subject into consideration, and to appoint a suitable Committee to bring the matter under the notice of the Government and Legislature so as to secure, if possible, the object contemplated.*"

The Conference accordingly gave the subject the consideration which its high importance, in their estimation, demanded; and after a long, exhaustive, and masterly discussion, recorded its convictions and defined its policy in the following resolutions—which are to be found in its printed Minutes under the question—"What are the resolutions of the Conference respecting Collegiate Education?"

ANSWER.

"1. That in the opinion of this Conference the arrangements for the organization and systematic instruction of the regular classes for a full course of Collegiate study, in our Institution at Sackville, should be completed at the earliest practicable period.

"2. That this Conference, fully concurring in the opinion that the establishment of a proper Provincial University, distinct from all teaching institutions, to be the sole source of university honors and degrees, upon the plan, essentially, of the London University in England, and the Queen's University in Ireland, would be of great and permanent advantage to the cause of liberal education, gladly complies with the request of the Board of Trustees of the Mount Allison Wesleyan Academy, and appoints the Rev. the President of the Conference, and the Rev. the Secretary of the same, with the Superintendent of the Fredericton Circuit, to act with the Executive Committee of the Academy, as a joint Committee, to bring the matter under the notice and consideration of the Government and Legislature of the Province of New Brunswick, in such a way as shall seem best calculated to secure the establishment of such an institution.

"3. That the Conference is convinced that, in the event of a failure in the efforts to secure the establishment of such an institution as is contemplated in the second resolution, it will be then expedient to fall back upon the Act of the Legislature which authorizes the organization of a College proper at Mount Allison, upon certain conditions, which, it is believed, can be fulfilled without involving the necessity of any general appeal throughout the Circuits for additional funds."

It appears from these resolutions that the Conference considers two modes of Collegiate action to be possible, and that either mode, wrought out in good faith, would satisfactorily supply its literary necessities. One method would be to seek affiliation with a justly constituted New Brunswick University, formed somewhat after the model of the London University, and the Queen's University, Ireland—a non-teaching body, invested with University powers, presiding over all the Collegiate Educational efforts of the Province, prescribing the *curricula* of