MARITIME PROVINCES.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

In my last letter I called attention to the descoration of the Sabbath on the Iuteropionial Railway, and the means used by Probyterians and others to stop if possible the tunning of trains on the Lord's Day. I am glad to say now that the respones given on behalf of the Minister of Public Works to the remonstrances sont by Presbyterlans and other coolesiastical bodies is quite encouraging. It is to be hoped that the authorities mean what they say. I only know that on last Sabbath I heard a train pass over the road; I do not know what' the object of it was. Our Synod uttered no doubtful sound on the Sabbath question at its late meeting.

The Synod down here had its annual meeting the week before last. It is the only one that mucts in the fall on this side of the line; on the other side all the Synods mee' in the fall. Did it meet in spring as the Syneds in the west do, and the Assembly meet a month or six weeks after, very many well have to deny themselves the pleasure of being at one or other of them. When four months intervene the objection is removed. The attendance at the late meeting was very good, and much important business was transacted. Collegiate Eduction occupied much attention. Many years ugo the Synode co-operated with the Government of Nova Scotia in establishing a non sectainan University with the laud able hope that the time would come where the State would assume the entire responsibility. One of the Synoas furnished two Professors and their support, and the other one—in all three Professors now in our united state. The institution, in spite of the opposition of other denominations from which better things were expected, has flourished greatly. But the Government is still chary about taking it off our hands. Those interested in sectarian institutions still persist in calling Dalhousie a Presbyterian College, although it is hard to believe that they can be so stupid as not to know better. The Government vacillates between it and the sectarian schools, (that is their proper titl), which are subsidised far too largely, and it seems doubtful some times whether the niggardly support now given to Dalhousie will be continued. We need our funds for the Theological Hall and yet we are unwilling to do anything that would furnish an excuse for the everthrow of the only United College in the Province. The Synod told the Executive what we thought of their action; it declared over again what our policy is, and in the meantime we stand by Dalhousie. It is provoking to make such sacrifices as we have made for a principle so dear to us, and be misrepresented at the same time, but duty first—duty rather than any step that would play into the hands of the Educational sectaries.

Your readers will no doubt be interested in information taken from the minutes of

in information taken from the minutes of the last Assembly of the Presbyterian Ohurch in Ireland. The following are the chief items in statistics and finance:— Synods, 5; Presbyteries, 37; Congrega-tions, 555; Minieters, 636; Licentiates, 51; Families, 78 592; Communicants, 108,264, Seat Rents, \$215,000; Sustentation Fund; \$120,000; Mission Collections, \$60,000; S. S. Mission Collections, \$10,000. Total S. Mission Collections, \$10,000. Total amount given during past year, \$700,000. One of the Presbyteries is a Mission

Presbytery with its seat in India. There are 18 of the ministers on the roll whose work is in the foreign field. Besides India there is a mission to China, there is a mission to the Jews with stations in Damas ous, and at four different points on the continent of Europe. A Mr. Wright, a follow-student of the writer, who has been in Damascus for eight years past, has just accepted the post of Educational Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society. It cannot be said that he is abandoning mission work v hen he enters the service of an institution which has ever been a right arm to Foreign Missions the world over.

The Sustentation Fund of the Irish

Presbyterian Church while still short of the point aimed at, has done good service. Those who predicted disastrous effects from the withdrawal of the Regium Donum have been rebuked, for every minister gets \$100 more now than he did in the days of the Donum.

The Mount Forest Case.

Editor BRITISH AMERICAN PRESERVERIAN

Sir,-in your issue of the 6th inst., you have a report of the meeting of Saugeen Presbytery, held to consider the above case. I do not wish to enter into the merits or demerits of either party to the case, por do I wish to cast any reflections on the clerk who sent you the report; but simply to supplement it by one or two statements, which I think, in justice to the petitioners, should be published. Your report is correct as for as it goes, and I was glad to see it as a correction of what formerly appeared, which was such that no one could understand it : yet, would it not be well to place along side of Prof. McLaren's motion, the amendment, and also the year and nays taken on each. The amendment was to the effect that, " while not granting the full prayer of the petitioners, we request Mr. McMillan to resign." When the yeas and nays were called, nine voted for the motion and six for the amendment, while four declined to vote either, two or three of whom spoke strongly in favor of the petitioners. Now, Mr. Editor, by this you will see that the sentiment of the Presbytery was strongly in favor of the petitioners, and that the report scarcely "places the matter in its proper light." In fact, if we matter in its proper light. In fact, if we take the three commissioners out of the matter, we find that the sentiment of the Baugeen Presbytery is in favor of Mr. Me. Millan resigning his charge. However, I simply send you the above facts, and leave your readers to draw their own inferences.

SPECTATOR.

Rev Dr. Ormiston Lost! Editor BRITISH AMERICAN PRESERVENTAN

Sin - u Canada every one knew him. lis L 16 was a household word. His burly form, husby head and bursting elequence made him the Saul of the Dominion; and when he was in Hamilton the gutter boy could describe him, and guide you to his house. Well, would you believe it, he seems to be fairly swallowed up by that humbug ridden city New York. As I was "doing" if last week, I thought I might call on him too. It did not surprise me that the hotel-keeper could not give me his address. Ascertaining that from a city directory, I soon reached the place with the help of a street car, but the house was occupied by another family. The head of it was unable to tell me whither his predecessor had gone. I was directed, however, to the occupant of the third house from his, as the likeliest to farnish me with the necessary information. He was as ignorant. Going to a grocer's at the end of the street, as the goesip of a neighbour-hood finds free circulation in such a shop, I felt almost certain that my inquiries would there be crowned with success. my great mortification I was again answered in the negative. Seeing the police man pacing the street with measured tread, and feeling that he may have been doing the same there for years before, and who nightly tries every door on his beat to ascertain whether it is locked, I thought surely he will know. With difficulty I helped him to get his tongue round the name. But the blank look he east on me name. But the blank flook he cast on me required no interpretor that he had never heard it before. I then gave up the search in despair, with the soliloguy, I would rather be the first man in a village than ive nameless among the shades of a great MADOC.

[We heartily sympathize with our correspondent in not being able to find Dr.

Ormiston. We can assure him that the Dr. is no mean personage in the Empire City. As a prominent rabbi of the Dutch Church, as pastor of a large and influential congregation in Fifth Avenue, as one of the foremost preachers in the United Biates, as a stalwart and eloquent defender of the Faith, and as one who lends himself to every good work, our friend may surely share with us the profound respect and admiration we entertain for Dr. Ormiston.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY.

Pity 'tis, he thas left us, but our loss is

others' gain .- Ed. B.A.P.1

The 16th inst. was University Day,-the anniversary of the day on which the Royal Charter was granted, in the year 1841. Registration took place in the morning. In the afternoon the students had their athletic games. In the evening the open-ing address of the session was delivered by Prof. MacKerras, M.A., Convocation Hall being filled with a highly respectable audience. The chair was occupied by Principal Snodgrass, and around him sat the other Professors of the University, Prof. Fowler, and Revds. P. Gray and A. Wilson. The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Principal, after which came the address, as follows:-

OUR ADVANTAGES AND OUR WANTS.

Two events have lately occurred, sufficient to constitute an epoch in the history of Queen's College. By the union of the several Presbyterian Churches in the Dominion the corporation of this University formerly limited to members of the Kirk in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebeo, has been extended so as to embrace every Presbyterian in Canada, whether his home estles amid the Highland scenery of Cape Breton or lies exposed on the bleak piains of the Saskatchewan. As a fruit of recent legislation, the alumni of the Institution have been accorded a voice in its affairs. Through a Council, half of whose members they henceforward elect from their number, they have the privilege of suggesting measures which they deem fitted to advance the welfare of their Alma Mater. This privilege they exercise, not apart from, but in presence of the state of from, but in presence of the governing authorities, who form the other half of the Council, and take part in its proceedings. The Trustees and Professors, who ultimately decide on all proposals, thus not only learn the results of the deliberations of the University Council, but also note the process of debate through which these results are reached, hear the arguments advanced in support of the proposed measures, and become influenced by the thought and enthusiasm of these who advocate them. Both these events are calculated to exert a powerful and beneficial effect on the future of this University. That we may reap the full benefit likely to accrue from the extended interest which the one and the deepened fervour of attachment which the other is fitted to produce, le us in the first place take stock of the advantages which we possess, and in the next detail some of the improvements which we

need. This is a denominational Institution. We frankly avow it, as we esteem this fea-ture. How much does this circumstance involve? It implies that a particular de-nomination, while it owns the property and therefore wields the control, is responsible for the management of the University and Oollege. It is a guarantee to the public that those who occupy its Professorial chairs, and thus powerfully influence impressible youth both by teaching and example, by their life as well as light, are Christians at least in profession—are men, who fix one eye on Nature and the other on Nature's God—men, who sauction not the divorce of science from revelation men, who practically prove that the devout temper and inquiring spirit are not infaminously excompatible, that he who compatible, that he who luminously ex-pounds philosophy or philology on Monday has on Sabbath been a humble worshipper in the sanetuary. Though denominational, it need not be—in the present instance it is not, sectarian in its character. We fear-lessly challenge investigation on this point. The worst features of sectarianism are as likely to be found in connection with a

non-denominational as a denominational Institution. These show thomselves in a covert rivalry to obtain controlling influ-ence in the Board of Direction, and thus secure the patronage at its command. There is a constant though unavowed struggle for pre-ommence, all the more ob-noxious because it works in secret caucus. conducts its operations behind the scenes, and pulls the wires in chambers not open to the light. The proceedings of School Boards and Committees for the management of general benevolent enterprices afford numerous illustrations of this fact. Whereas a governing Board, composed of the members of one denomination is homogeneous, is not distracted by these petty rivalries, is from celf-interest, if from no higher metive, catholic in its aims. Whatever stigma is involved in the charge of scotarianism, the offensive meaning which it conveys lies in the implication that its teaching is nerrow-its tone intolerant. Has your observation not warranted the conclusion that the alumni of a non denominational Institution may in many instances be exclusive and illiberal, while those trained at a denominational one may be characterized by broad view, wide rang ing culture and comprehensive charity. Queen's College has a history extending over one-third of a century—a long period in the anuals of a young country. And it can point with pride to its record in proof of the catholicity of the spirit which reigns here. Not once have we heard imputed to its authorities a desire to proselytize. It exacts no tests from-it prescribes no shibboleth to the studious youth who enter its halls. If questions are asked by the Registrar as to their croed, it is for the purpose not of weaning them from their allegiance but of urging regular attendance on the religious ordinances of the Church with which they profess connection. A glance at our Roll of Graduates in Arts suffices to establish our claim to a nonsectarian character. On it we find repre-sentatives of almost every faith in Christendom. We observe with pleasure on our benches Roman Catholic as well as Protes-tant. We now count among our Students members of the Episcopal and Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational com-munions. All alike are welcome to the educational advantages which we afford. Our Class Honours—our University dis-tinctions are open without reference to creed or class or colour. Another proof of our catholicity is found in the benefactions received from time to time from those who belong not to the Presbyterian ranks. A marked instance of this has occurred since we last met in Convocation. Your thoughts am sure, anticipate me in the mention of the honoured name of Mr. Watkins—an attached member of the Church of England During his life he contributed freely During his life he contributed freely to the revenues of the College—he provided annually for a long series of years a valuable Scholarship. By his will, tragrant with the aroma of henevolence, he bequeathed a handsome legacy to the University, and founded in perpetuity the Scholarship that hears his name. May the memory of Toler bears his name. May the memory of John Watkins ever be revered by the Under-

graduates who frequent these halls!
These remarks in defence of the deno minational character of our Alma Mater we offer, because reflections have oft been cast on it. In making them, we disclaim any intention of aspersing those who think differently from us—who prefer to send their sens to a sent of learning whose boast is freedom from denominational control. We acknowledge an equal right on their part to give offect to this preference. We admit their claim to be in this matter as conscientious—as Christian as we. Their beau ideal of a University is that the State should possess the supreme control of its several Faculties. They have perfect confidence in the health of its moral atmosphere. This being the case, we hold that every facility should be accorded them for possessing such a University. On the other hand, if our model of a University or College differs from theirs, why should we be debarred from the enjoyment of our choice? We claim reciprocity of treat-ment. To shut up all who desire a knowment. To shut up all who desire a know-ledge of the liberal arts and sciences, to attend a particular College, or College founded on a particular basis, is a repro-duction of the old intolerance, now happily obsolete, which sought to constrain all to conform to an Established Church. Some years ago, when the Government grants were withdrawn, many thought that the ure would from the Province the class of Universities that had thus been aided. But the attempt proved an utter failure, as might have been preseen by any one who studied the history of denominational enterprises. The result was, not to abolish them, as was fondly hoped by many of those who engineered the movement, but to place them on a more secure basis, to give them renewed life and quickened vigour. The principle which should regulate this question of granting facilities for acquiring a Superior Educa-tion, we conceive to be as follows: when a considerable section of a community desire a College formed on a special model, and are able to found such an Institution, no obstacles should be placed in the way. The spirit of a free country demands this. A comprehensive toleration prescribes this as the path of true statesmanship. If they will accept Collegiate instruction, only when conveyed through a certain medium, the interests of the nation require that these convictions—call them whims or pre-judices if you will—should be satisfied. Better far that they should have this edu-cation in the way which meets their views. than not have it at all. Take an extreme case—one not applicable to us, as Presbyterians have always demanded a libera education for their ministry. A body of professing Christians, not boasting numerieal strength, content with a low standard of learning on the part of its religious teachers, resolves to establish and maintain a College of its own. The enterprise, we hold, should not be frowned upon. Deny them their wish and a small per centage of their youth may find their way to one of the existing Institutions. But allow them facilities for realizing their project, and the month is that the result is that you multiply manifold the number of those who will seek advanced attainments. In progress of time a healthy emulation compels them to raise

their standard to be more in accordance

with that of sister Universities. The numher of cultured men throughout the land is increased. By elevating the educational qualification of their ministry, the whole communion is gradually lifted to a higher level. Thus benefit accrues to the country at large.

Further, this is an independent institu-

a tendency to centralization. The control of our schools and academies is becoming limited to fewor and still fewor minds. Our educational establishments are being swathed in red tape, gradually extending and tightening its bonds—inevitably re-stricting individual freedom of action. There is abroad a morbid oraving for uniformity. A bureaucracy is formed of two or three men who from a centre dictate not merely the outlines, but even the minutest details of management. The tendency of such a system is to reduce the teachers throughout the length and broadth of the Province to be mere machines. Honor we deem it vital to the interests of Superior Education, and thus to the ad-vancement of this "Canada of ours" that the Universities should not be drawn into this machinery, which would bring all under cast iron regulations, which would reduce all into conformity with one type. If we follow nature as our model, take history as our guide, we shall find life associated with variety. The spirit of true education, which is not cramming a mind full, but bringing out into intelligent ac-tivity what is in the man, ever seeks de-velopment by a diversity of operations. Equality of level begets staguation and death. A determination to ensure a forced uniformity becomes the parent of despotism. This principle is specially true with respect to scats devoted to higher learning. While one and all must fulfil the functions of a Studium Generale, each should be allowed to pursue its dictinctive poculiarities, to develop its own speciality. One may be formed after the model of the English, another of the Scottish Universities, An Oxford may be renowned for its classi cal, a Cambridge for its mathemathical studies. One age may find a Glasgow under a Sandford and Rameay, distinguish-ed for its success in kindling enthusiasm for the ancient tongues, another may see it under a Thomson, crowning itself with laurels in the department of physics. A Yale may during one generation owe its fame to a Silliman, and thus crowd its science class-room—during another it may under the attractions of a Whitney trans-fer its love to Philology. One University may give the predominance to Honour, another to Pass subjects. This may cultivate a fixed course—that grant special favour to options. These considerations constrain us to boast of our liberty—to rejoice that we enjoy unrestricted freedom of action. Whatever improvements our experience auggests we can at once adopt, without being trammelled with State interference without waiting perhaps for years for the sanction of a Junto geographically remote, intellectually perhaps still more remote, jealous of suggestion from without, and un-sonnocted by any bond of sympathy. When, for example, deliberation ripened into conviction that the recent changes in into conviction that the recent changes in the course of studies would be a decided gain to the student, they were promptly carried into effect. And how desirable a reform these have already proved, the experience of you, gontlemen undergraduates, can attest. I can speak the more weightily on this subject as, owing to my lengthened absence, I had no part in devising this improvement. The carriculum in the Faculty of Arts is now composed of in the Faculty of Arts is now composed of ven compulsory, together with two out of five optional subjects. These, with the exception of a few which naturally precede and prepare for certain others, may be taken in any order according to the fancy or maturity of the student. Two, three or more of these subjects may be overtaken in one year. Usually, and without any undue exertion, all may be successfully passed, and the goal of B.A. reached in four sessions. If the student's health be not robust, and time be not of the essence, he may spread the course over five years. Or, if gifted wish great physical as well as mental powers—if he possess au iron constitution and shrink not from the risk of utterly ruining it, he may, by compassing five subjects in one session, consummate an undergraduate's ambition in three years. It would take pages, instead of lines, to unfold the superior advantages of this over the old system, when subjects were grouped in years and failure to pass in one de partment entailed the loss of a whole Session. Now the accomplishment of this reform could not have been so fully or speedily effected, had we formed part of a system, the whole of which must move ere any part progressed. We possess all the functions of a University, secured by Royal Charter. We teach, we examine, we confer the degree. The right to examine one's students in their trials for a degree is worthy of win lighting. degree is worthy of vindication. A Pro-feesor is and ought to be the best judge of the attainments of those who have atsended his prelections. The proposal has frequently been mooted to have one Board for examining the undergraduates of all our Universities—these examiners to be in every case distinct from those who have con their teachers. A uniform series of questions would thus be employed to test the qualifications of those who have been trained under different systems. Whatever may be the case with some depart. ments of study, there are undoubtedly others where gross injustice would be done by the proposed arrangement. Take, done by the proposed arrangement. Take, for instance, Metaphysics. The lectures in all the colleges, so far as the history of philosophy is concerned, may be similar; but here the resemblance ceases. One Professor may adopt the Hamiltonian system—another may inculcate views which greatly modify it. Or take Classics. Or take Classics. One linguist may rival a Bentley or Porson in hyper-criticism of the text. A second may display elegant scholarship in the facile composition of Greek Iambios. A third, following the footsteps of Key or Farrar—Orossen or Curtuis, may explore the mysteries of Comparative Philology to throw light on the tongues of Rome and Greece. This lectongues of Rome and Greece. This lec-turer may make a speciality of the litera-ture—that of the languages of these an-

cient nations. Hence it would be unrea. sonable to apply the same standarde to the students who have been instructed after these varying methods. Moreover, is it not the ease that examiners, not engaged in teaching, are apt to become in the pre-paration of their questions faracted and speculative. And every your, as it re-moves them farther from the protectal tion. This feature is of inestimable value in a country where there prevails so strong work of education, increase this tond now -renders them more and more theoretical. Catch questions annually assume more prominence. The result is : to give currency to some short method of solution coined in his own brain, he may frame such an impracticable paper, say in matteematics, as shall pluck nineteen out of every twenty candidates, or in algebra, as may relegate to their studies eighty-five per cent. of those who essayed to pass. The proposition to associate another examiner with the Professor we deem reasonable. This may be advantageous on in my grounds. But that the Professor should be wholly dissociated from the work of stamping the coin which he has moulded. we hold to be an educational heresy of mischievous tendency. It has gained converts during the past generation through the establishment of the Landon University. The founding of that Institution was based on the experimental theory that a University was merely an Examining Board, established for no other purpose than to stamp attainments, however was considered. What we conceived or wherever required. What we conceive to be a sounder view begins again to prevail. Professor Andrews, in the masterly address which as President of the British Association of Science he recently delivered in Hagow, boldly enunciated the proposition that the inherent functions of a University is to teach as well as examine. This voice of the eminent savant echoes among some of the most distinguished educationists in that brilliant assemblage. In verification of this time-honoured view he could point to Ox-ford, Cambridge, the Scottish, German, Italian, and Accerican Universities. What would be thought of the practical wisd um of would be thought of the practical wisd m of him who proposed to submit the same paper on Philosophy to the Students of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glargow, and St. Andrew's—to those who have imbibed their knowledge of this abstruce subject from the lips of Blain, Fraser, Caird, or Flint, and who undertook to appraise the value of the several answers with a view to rank the candidates from Graduation? Suppose you had in one college a McCosh, in a second a Jowett, in a third a Spencer, and the same examiners should be appointed to ascertain through the one paper the philosophical learning of the youth, who had sat at the feet of these—representatives of diverse schools of thought, and to estimate the percentage due to each paper, think you this would be a estisfactory mode of testing results? The plan of having one Board to prescribe Examination papers to the alumni of a number of colleges scattered over an empire may be suitable for these colleges while in a state of pupilage—ere they have attained their majority. But time will prove that these, so soon as they are able to assert their in-dependence—when they can heart a Pro-fessorial staff sufficiently numerous and distinguished, will at once claim Univer-sity powers. We have at the present moment a notable instance of time in the case of Owene College, Manchester. The authorities of that useful and risin; college have recently prepared a statement, ably setting forth the grounds on which they regard themselves entitled to full autono-my. This they desire in the intrests not only of that largo mart which is its seat, and the populous districts of Lancaster and York which environ it, but of higher education generally. Public attration has been drawn to the foroible arguments with which that claim has been supported, and widespread expression has been given to the opinion that their prayer should be

> It has been urged as a group plea in favour of a Central Board of Examiners that such a step, if adopted, would have the effect of raising the value of a Canadian Degree, especially when the Graduate went abroad into the literary markets of the world. We admit that at the first blush this seems a well-laid argument; but examine it closely and it proves illusive. What is a Degree in Arts? It is a stamp placed after examination upon a student, indicaing the character, and in some measure the extent, of his attainments. It ought also to be a sign and seal, attesting that for several years he has attended a College class-rooms, pursuing an extensive and varied curriculum, and thus, by healthy discipline, developing his intellectual powers. Now, of all variable qualities, such a Degree is most variable. An approximate estimate of its worth might be formed, if it were a universal custom to append to the let-ers of the Degree the name of the University from which it has been received. Even then, it would not be so capable of appraisement as that you could infer the precise amount of learning of which it was en index. What a wide range may there be in the value of the same Degree from the same University! I may be won triumphantly with first-class honours, or barely grasped by another who, after a desperate struggle, has reached the minimum in Pass. It may represent any grade of scholarship from 99 down to 84, or, in some Institutions, 25 per cent. of the maximum. Take the case of an Oxford Degree. From the case listic letters, B.A., Oxon, affixed to his listic letters, B.A., Oxon, affixed to his name you learn that an individual has the imprimatur or the ancient and noble University stamped upon his literary qualifica-· But the exact importance attached to this symbol cannot be defined unless we are in possession of many details. To appraise it fully we must know whether he achieved Honours in several schools or merely scraped over the bar as a simple Pass man. The former would indicate brilliant talents and ripe scholarship—the latter very humble powers and ordinary attainments. One thing, however, this would enable scholars all the world over to recognize,—it would show that for some years he had breathed a scholastic atmosphere—that his mental powers were exerphere—that his mental powers were exec-elsed at a thoroughly equipped gymnasium—that he was subject to influences product-ive of intellectual culture and literary grace. The only country where the system of