

Sweny, who was fond of music, and not altogether void of the virtue of hospitality, conducted the stranger into the great hall, introduced him to his guests, and admitted him to a share of a sumptuous banquet. Elise also sat down to dinner, and the first sight of her countenance, so melancholy, so wan, and woe-begone, seemed strangely to affect the minstrel. He started with a sort of nervous emotion, as if he had seen an apparition, or a visitant from the dead; but a moment or two after he entirely recovered his self-possession. "This is my daughter," said Sweny, addressing himself to the minstrel. "My poor Elise! I fear she is dying of a broken heart. Dost thou know of any thing that would do her good? I would make thee the richest harper in Europe if thou couldst only restore her to health." The minstrel answered that he was no "mediciner," but that he was master of a certain charm, which he had got from a learned Rabbi in the city of Marseilles, which, he thought, would cure her effectually. He then handed her a written paper, the contents of which he desired her to commit to memory, and to repeat three times before going to bed, but not to show the cabalistic words to any one alive, else the charm would completely lose its efficacy.

In the meantime, the evening passed away in deep debauch and wassail, and old Sweny—except on the occasions of burying his wife, who had kept him for years under the most despotic of all governments—was never in higher glee. He laughed, swore, and drank hugely, and the rest of the family followed the example of their host. But the minstrel, though frequently pressed, indulged but little in the wine-cup, exercising himself on the ground that he had but just recovered from a severe illness.

It was past midnight when the carousal terminated. Sweny and his companions were by this time dead drunk; and indeed the whole house was deeply intoxicated, with the exception of the stranger minstrel, Elise, and a male domestic in whom she had great confidence. Embracing the favourable opportunity, Elise seized the keys of the Castle, and came to it to be locked securely on the outside. The domestic and the minstrel who, the reader will have already guessed, was none other than Eric Jansen himself in disguise, then instantly let down the draw-bridge. A boat was alongside the Castle, into which the three hastily flung themselves. Four stout, able-bodied seamen bent to the oars, and the skiff shot along the shore towards Sinclair's Bay, where a large sloop-rigged boat or shallop, awaited the fugitive lovers. Every thing seemed propitious for the elopement. The wind was moderate and fair, and the night beautiful, with the moon in full splendour, silencing the grey walls of Sinclair and Ginnigoe, and lighting up the rugged precipices about Noss Head, which gave back the reflected radiance with a savage smile. The vessel got immediately under way direct for Norway. During the night and the next day, the breeze continued so; but towards evening it suddenly shifted to the east, and began to blow freshly. Every appearance indeed indicated an approaching gale. "The sun went down in wrath," and the moon which shone so clear and beautiful the night before, was surrounded with a murky vapour, and careered at full speed through the heavens, now disappearing behind a mass of driving clouds, and anon bursting out with a pale and ghastly lustre. The sea, too, began to roughen, the waves growing every moment larger, and rushing by crested with foam. The wind increased during the night, and at day light it blew a heavy gale. The vessel struggled gallantly for some time with the tempest, but after vainly endeavouring to he to, the skipper at last found it necessary to put about and drive before it. Notwithstanding the terrific appearance of the elements, and the danger to which she was momentarily exposed from the surge, Elise, whose courage seemed to rise in proportion to the perils that surrounded her, would not go below, but persisted in remaining on deck all the time beside her lover. After running for many hours, they at length observed the Orkney land, rising out of the boiling flood, the sight of which filled them with a mingled sensation of fear and joy; for there was many a quiet and secure haven among the various islands; but owing to the number of conflicting tides and currents, the navigation was both intricate and dangerous. They were but a short distance from the Island of South Ronaldsay, which seemed girdled with a tremendous surf. After some little consultation, they resolved to run the vessel, if possible, into St. Margaret's Hope; but on taking the entrance of Watersound, the force of the wind and tide, in spite of all their exertions, began to drive them rapidly on the island of Burra. Death now seemed inevitable. The crew abandoned themselves to despair; and amid the horror and distraction which prevailed, some of them even anticipated their doom, by leaping overboard into the dreadful surge. Finding that all was over, our unfortunate lovers uttered an earnest ejaculation to heaven, and then grasped each other firmly, as if they were

determined the remorseless waves should not separate them. A moment after, an enormous billow dashed the ill-fated barque against the rocks into a thousand pieces. Another moment alas! and the cries of the unhappy sufferers were drowned amidst the roar of the breakers!

[FOR THE BEE.]

MR DAWSON,

Sir,—From the enclosed resolutions, passed unanimously at a Meeting of the Alumni of the Pictou Academy, held in the Grammar School house in this town, on Tuesday, the 3d of the current month, pursuant to public notice given through the medium of your columns, you will learn the object of the present communication. Before proceeding however to comply with the request of our friends, as contained in the seventh resolution hereunto annexed, we beg leave to make a few preliminary observations. It would be worse than ungrateful, on the part of the students of the Pictou Academy, were they to view the present embarrassed and inefficient state with cold indifference. With this feeling we are happy to say, some of them at least, are not chargeable. They have been watching with intense anxiety, the conduct of the Board of Trustees, since the remodelling of the charter. They observed with fearful forebodings the necessity which compelled the second Teacher to withhold his labours from the Institution, and to look for support for himself and his family from some other source, as the Trustees could offer him no rational prospect of remuneration, from any funds at their disposal, nor even of payment of the long score of arrears already due. They saw with great regret, the appropriation of so large a proportion of the provincial endowment to the teaching of those branches of education which are, or at least ought to be, taught in every Grammar School throughout the Province, and in one of these within gunshot of the Academy. They regretted exceedingly too, that from inadequacy of funds to provide an operator, the delightful and highly important study of Natural Philosophy no longer constituted a part of the Academical course. They considered that not only the usefulness, but also the honor, of the Institution depended, in no small degree, upon this department of instruction. Though they knew that the apparatus belonging to the Academy was very defective, they knew at the same time, that it was not equalled by any in the North American colonies, and they believed, not much excelled by many even in the United States. It was therefore with peculiar regret, that they beheld the Seminary at which they had received their education, and whose respectability was attributed to them, deprived of one of its brightest and most distinguishing ornaments. As erroneous opinions are abroad respecting the causes why the Natural Philosophy Class is no longer open in the Academy, a few observations upon this subject appear to be necessary. The whole system of instruction in Logic, or Moral Philosophy, consists in delivering lectures, and in subsequent examination. But the delivery of lectures and the examination of students, constitutes only a part, though a very important part of a Natural Philosophy course. The principles which it lays down must be illustrated and proved by numerous experiments, many of which require great manual labour and dexterity, and a very considerable expense. Those only who are extensively acquainted with the science, can estimate the difficulties connected with a course of Natural Philosophy, in a new country, with a comparatively imperfect apparatus. In chemistry, for example, a whole day may be, and frequently is necessary to prepare materials for an experiment, which may be performed in a few minutes. It would be altogether unreasonable therefore, to expect, that any one individual could make the necessary preparations for numerous experiments, and perform them; and at the same time attend to a variety of other classes altogether unconnected with this department of instruction. Hence the indispensable necessity of an Operator, to assist

the Rev'd Principal, should the Natural Philosophy Class be ever re-opened. All these facts are well known to the students of the Pictou Academy. But as few of them were rich in this world's goods, they felt themselves unable to do much in its behalf; and no doubt many of them did not take that interest in its prosperity which they would have done had it remained under the superintendence of its original founders, or retained its original usefulness. Its condition however, was frequently the subject of their thoughts and conversation. It might indeed be inferred from their conduct, that because they were unable to do all that they wished, they were relieved from their obligation to do what they could. From this state, they have been at last aroused by the zeal and persevering exertions of the Rev. Hugh Ross, of Tatamagouche, at whose suggestion the meeting above referred to was called, the proceedings of which we are now to lay before the public.

A variety of circumstances concurred to direct the attention of the meeting to the re-opening of the Natural Philosophy Class. The importance of this branch of study—its connection with the public character of the Institution—and the circumstances of those who had commenced their Academical course previous to the remodelling of the charter, and the appropriation of a large proportion of the Provincial allowance to the Lower Branches, and who were consequently unable afterwards to complete their education as they originally expected, called loudly for consideration. Besides, the resources of the Meeting were necessarily limited, and they concluded that to provide funds for the reinstalling the second teacher, was beyond their abilities, and that by attempting too much, there was danger of doing nothing effective.

A difference of opinion existing among the members of the meeting, respecting a variety of circumstances connected with the re-opening of this class, a deputation consisting of the Rev. Messrs A. McGilvray, H. Ross, and J. Waddell, was appointed to wait upon Dr McCulloch, and consult with him as the person best qualified, from his connection with the Academy, about the best means to be adopted for the accomplishment of the contemplated object. The result of that interview, and the subsequent procedure of the meeting, you will learn from the Resolutions themselves, which we hand you for insertion in the Bee, at your earliest convenience.

JAMES ROSS,
DAVID MATHESON.

At a Meeting of the Alumni of the Pictou Academy, held in the Grammar School House, in Pictou, this 3rd day of May, 1836.

The Rev. Angus McGilvray in the Chair:

Resolved 1st. That this meeting consider the prosperity of the Academy to be closely connected with the interests of liberal education in this province—that they deplore its present depressed and inefficient condition, and contemplate with fearful apprehension the proposal of the Legislature to withhold from it that pecuniary aid which is indispensable to its existence and success.

2. That the interests of the Pictou Academy are dear to this meeting, and they are determined to the utmost to promote its prosperity, in connection with that system of education established in the bye laws of the Institution, and sanctioned by our late Governor, His Excellency Sir James Kempt.

3. That as the study of Natural Philosophy forms an essential part of the established course of instruction, and is indispensable to the completion of a liberal education, means should be immediately employed to re-open the class in that department, to enable those young men who are prepared to enter upon the studies to complete their Academical course.

4. That this meeting guarantee to raise the sum of £75, to employ an Operator to assist Dr McCulloch in prosecuting the course of Natural Philosophy, during the current year.