

## Messenger and Visitor

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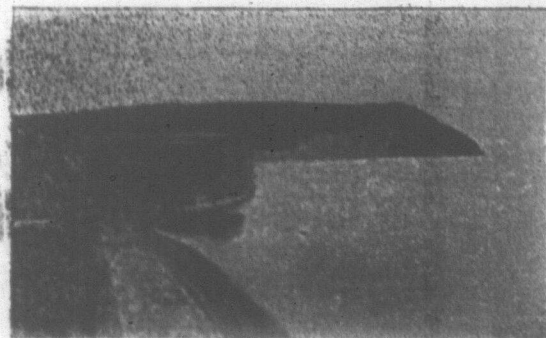
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### From the Hill-top.

BY J. EDMUND BARSS, B. A.

"Still where the ships, like white-winged birds,  
Flee to the western main  
Do dreamy eyes, from roots and surfs,  
Peer through the window-pane."

sang our Lockhart, sounding the dominant note in one's recollections of Acadia's outlook. Fancy her crouched on a plain, or shut in by woods, or out of sight of the sea! No, it was high wisdom that perched this great, white bird of a building on a hill-top, with wings spread east and west, and head uplifted, ever gazing north. There the mountains belt the horizon with blue, and Blomidon pushes into Minas Basin like a ploughshare abandoned by some lazy giant, the red loam still cleaving to its purple sides. Blomidon is ever a study and an inspiration—witness this, from the pen of Dr. Rand:



BLOMIDON.

Whether o'erlaid with marble fogs like snows,  
Or wrapt in dewy ones like silver hair;  
Or chiselled, naked, in the vital air—  
Full-summer strength in purposeful repose!  
The breathless stars lead on the ebbs and flows,  
And the unresting waters wash and wear.  
The deep-set bases of thy presence there,  
To force the secret thy calm lips enclose.

O sleepless sentinel and from of old,  
I guess thy mystery deep and consecrate,  
Yet open to the loving heart and bold;  
The shadow of God is laid upon thy sight,  
In His own mirror at thy feet, and straight  
Transfixes thee in vigil day and night!

Now, the peculiar charm of Blomidon is that he is adequately set off by a most varied scene. Overhead is only sky—though on summer evenings, when a gold finger from the sunset is stretched out above the northern hills, "only" is inappropriate—but between us and him lie, first, the village, at our feet; then, the green breadth of the marshes; beyond, the tides, rushing up brown-red banks crowned with emerald sedge—a contrast to evoke all the artist-soul that is in one. To the left, the Cornwallis river flows crookedly to the sea, its reaches turned to flaming gold by the western sun. Eastward lies the grand Pre'; to the south, the hills. The landscape is full of color, no grey sea-scene, weeping perpetual mist, but red and green and gold fertility, spread lovingly around Minas Basin. There the "many-twinkling smile of ocean" seems born of relief that the fogs of Fundy do not enter. This is not a scene to breed cranks or bigots. —If such there be among Acadia's sons, let us consider how infinitely harsher had been their bigotry, how much wilder their aberrations, had they never beheld this enlarging view.

Quite seriously, there is virtue in hill-tops. Problems of life and conduct which harass the morbid dweller within city walls, perplexities bred of the pavement or the plain, take instant wing when carried to a mountain altitude and confronted with the wider prospect there presented. "The influence of man's environment on his development," despite its suggestion of merely sophomoric eloquence, is real. Who has failed to mark the expansive air of the prairie-dweller? Yet the hill-top view has an advantage above that of the plain. A sense of proportion and relation, denied to him whose home is on the level, may be achieved by one who looks down

upon the world; himself too remote to be deceived by the exaggerations due to nearness or the mirage wavering above the lowland vapours. "Cribbed, cabined, and confined" within the four walls of a study, one may learn something of truth by introspection. Out on the level a further revelation is granted—a sense of the infinite, begotten of star-gazing, and a certain minute knowledge of the ways of plants and animals and the aspects of minerals. None of these is denied to the dweller on the hill-top; but the far horizon beckons him as the unattainable stars never can, and there grows up in him, together with the perception of immensity, a desire of both mind and body to go far afield—a divine unrest, urging him to go in quest of all knowledge, even the deep things of God.

A hill has two uses. One may stand at bottom and gaze up, or climb to the top and gaze off. Acadia has chosen the latter. Like Moses on Pisgah or the Spanish adventurers on that "peak in Darien" her sons have had high inspiration out of that grand picture unrolled at their feet. They know with instant perception the worth of the "vantage-ground of truth—a hill not to be commanded, and where the air is always clear and serene." They almost feel the tug of the moon as the turbid flood-tides charge against their dykes, retreating ever when on the brink of victory. The sense of their living force and all but will, has inspired one of Mr. Herbin's most charming sonnets. It is by his kind permission that we are enabled to quote it in full, as it stands in his latest volume, "The Marshlands."

#### THE TIDE-SPIRIT.

From shore to shore the shi ing waters  
lay  
Beneath the sun, as placid as a cheek,  
As one who does not hear, and does not  
speak,  
Its languid arms reclined as if to stay.  
But as I looked, I saw a ripple play,  
And heard the whisper of a breeze  
afloat,  
And the soft waking of the tidal-note,  
As the great waters turned to move  
away;  
At night again I stood beside the sea  
That clearer spoke, because the day  
was gone,  
And the loud voice of toil in sleep had  
died.  
A murmur, almost words, came in to  
me;  
And then I knew the sea, never alone,  
Was coming with its spirit, side by  
side.

When all is said, cataloguing "natural advantages" is unsatisfactory and description is tedious. This much is true: Acadia's surroundings are of unsurpassed beauty and breadth; all that the kind face of the earth can inspire in a man may be received here.

Lakeville, Conn.

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### What Some Men Say of Acadia's Work.

PRESIDENT CHARLES W. ELIOT, of Harvard:

"It gives me pleasure to say that Acadia College has for many years seemed to me to be an institution of substantial merit and large serviceableness. I hope that the effort which is to be made by her graduates in this vicinity to raise a fund for the benefit of the College will be abundantly successful."

A. H. STRONG, D. D., LL. D., President  
of Rochester Theological Seminary:

"It gives me great pleasure to testify to the thoroughness and value of the work done by Acadia College. I have of late years had many of her graduates under my instruction, and I am sure that no college whatever has furnished our seminary with better scholars or better men. The Christian and missionary spirit of Acadia, moreover, is admirable. I sincerely trust that the effort to relieve her embarrassment by raising a fund for her help will be abundantly successful. The College has done altogether too good work to be allowed now to die or to decline. Count me as an earnest sympathizer in your enterprise."

ALVAH HOVEY, D. D., LL. D., President of Newton  
Theological Seminary:

"I am glad of the opportunity of testifying my deep interest in Acadia University and my conviction of the great importance of the work which it is doing. For a great many years some of its students have resorted to Newton for their theological course. And they have ranked with our best men in character and scholarship. The Faculty at Acadia is composed of able men, and the

training which they give is thorough. It is a school that deserves ample support, and I feel the greatest confidence in the wisdom with which any funds contributed to it will be used. The past history of Acadia is a sufficient guarantee for a high order of work in the future."

WILLIAM R. HARPER, President of the University of  
Chicago:

"From the character of those of its graduates with whom I have a personal acquaintanceship, I can speak most heartily for the high ideals of the Faculty of Acadia College and the thoroughness with which they perform their work. The College has done for the cause of education and the cause of Christianity an immense work in the past. I sincerely hope that its friends will rally to its support and enable it to do even a greater work in the future."

PRESIDENT J. G. SCHURMAN, of Cornell:

"It would be a very graceful act for the Acadia Alumni in New England to raise a fund to help their Alma Mater. I cannot forbear expressing admiration of the excellent work which Acadia College has always done, and that too in the face of great financial straits."

CHANCELLOR O. C. S. WALLACE, of McMaster University:

"I believe that there are special advantages at Wolfville because the University is 'a Child of Providence.' How can we account for the extraordinary influence exerted by Acadia, in our own and in other lands, except on the ground of peculiar supernatural blessing? Teachers who were great by reason of their fellowship with the Great Teacher, and of their unselfish devotion to their work, have made Acadia great. Her sons the world over pray for her prosperity."

REV. A. J. GORDON, D. D., Late Pastor of Clarendon St.  
Baptist Church, Boston:

"I believe there is no College in the country more worthy of the sympathy and help of our Baptist people than Acadia. The excellence of its instruction and the earnest Christian tone which have always characterized it constitute a strong plea for the immediate help of our brethren in the States as well as in the Provinces."

REV. GEORGE E. HORR, D. D., Editor "The Watch-  
man":

"I have the highest opinion of the work of Acadia College. The institution has rendered the denomination, not only in Nova Scotia, but throughout New England, a service of remarkable worth. It should be strengthened so that it may respond worthily to the new needs of the times. At Acadia they make a dollar go as far as any place that I know of, and the College should have a chance to show what can be done with a better supply of money."

PROF. THEODORE H. RAND, D. C. L., formerly Chan-  
cellor of McMaster University:

I seem, in looking back, to owe all I am and all that I have been permitted to do, to the stimulus of my undergraduate years at Acadia, and the inspiring life and fellowship of those years. The work which Acadia's sons have accomplished, at home and abroad, is very noteworthy, and testimony of able educators to the excellent quality of its work abounds. I know of no institution which has done so much with such limited financial resources. The Maritime Provinces have an enviable reputation in respect of the output of their higher institutions, and of none more than those of Acadia University. The Baptist denomination, too, is most widely known by its educational work. This work has not been less effective in respect of the denomi-



PERREUX RIVER, MINAS BASIN.

tion's development and influence at home. One great factor in past success is the life quality of the homes of Acadia's constituency as reflected in its students. It is an inspiring constituency, and every moral and spiritual consideration calls for a yet fuller and nobler realization of the ideals of a Christian university in its behalf and in behalf of the world."

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