

Contributed.

OPPORTUNITIES.

Acadia College deserves well of us. As students, we were the heirs of the past, and we ought to be the benefactors of the future. I was glad when I saw the Associated Alumni receive the endowment of fifty new members last June. What these represent in possibilities and goodwill towards Acadia, we cannot compute. Let us in every way strive to bind them closer. To them I would say, let us never falter in our endeavours till Acadia's course, advantages and degrees are, beyond all possibility of doubt, better than those of any other Maritime college.

The necessities of the present point out the time for our best endeavours. Five dollars, now, may do more to assure the success of Acadia than twenty in twenty years. A gift of ten thousand, now, may really be more valuable than twenty thousand by the last will and testament; and this is surely a shrewd way to enjoy your money while living and honor your name after you have passed away. It is because I look for the few coming years to bear our golden opportunities and fix our comparative status, that I feel anxious to conserve every effort. Acadia's students and late graduates were never before so loyal. It should be our effort to link these to us as a power, and stimulate the same spirit among coming students. To do this, we must advance.

The whole core of our institutions at Wolfville consists of seven or eight professors, who receive about two-thirds of a salary. If they are not worth one-half more, they are not worthy of their positions. Towards them we are forced to practise an economy that is not economic, for, their present pay will not allow them to visit other institutions, to study abroad, or even to exert the influence they should on the educational systems of the Maritime provinces.

At the recent meeting of the Governors, it transpired that the Seminary was about paying its running expenses; the Academy with its \$15,000.00 endowment in Chipman Hall (\$16,000.00 at 5% = \$800.00) and the profits of its own boarding house, also presented about an even balance. But the college appears to enjoy a deficit of about \$2000.00 per annum. This means that if five of our professors had their salaries reduced \$400 per annum, or if we

reduced the staff by two, we would come out nearly square. If any improvement is suggested to raise the standard of thoroughness the remainder of this deficit is before the Governors' eyes.

The success in raising money for the new Seminary, and more especially for the department of manual training, points out that successful appeals to the general public must be for new objects. People tire hearing of the old ones. New departments may be added by popular benevolence, but the aid by which, only, we can hope to raise the standard of salaries and the thoroughness of the work done in the professorships already established must, it seems, be derived from three sources:—

- 1.—Large endowments as those of Curry and Barss.
- 2.—Contributions from the Alumni.
- 3.—Contributions from the students.

As to the third, I will only say that if one hundred and twenty-five students paid the regular fee of twenty-four dollars each, it would amount to three thousand dollars. Let anyone who is interested inquire how much of this regular fee is paid. I know what a struggle some of the students have, and how, perhaps to some, this twenty-four dollars may be the last straw which they could not carry; yet to all I would say, learn the luxury of doing good by making the college, in some way, more efficient by a graduating gift. In this, most classes have failed.

With the Alumni it is different. Even those who are in their post-graduate course, have greater capabilities for bearing burdens than when they were freshmen. Many others have advanced into positions of wealth and influence, where one hundred dollars does not mean more than what five once did. They boast, they are able to, and do pay all their debts. We would ask them to consider: While at Acadia, neglecting incidentals, if they paid their regular fee yearly, they in reality only paid one-fourth of the debt. It would have taken about four times the regular tuition fee for the running expenses, leaving out of account the first cost of the buildings and grounds. Therefore, on leaving college, the best of us were on our own account three hundred dollars in debt to the college. Suppose we only pay the interest on this at five per cent. per annum, it would amount to fifteen dollars for each student, or five thousand two hundred and fifty dollars for three hundred and fifty graduates. This would support three pretty good