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The Wesleyan

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PARIS LETTER

(From our regular Correspondent.)
HOW THE FRENCH SPEND SUNDAY AT THE EXPOSITION. THE DAY THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC ATTENDS A HORSE RACE. THE EXPOSITION NOT YET READY FOR VISITORS OR DESCRIPTION. EXORBITANT CHARGES AND HYPERBOLICAL EXPECTATIONS OF PARISIENS. THE BACKWARDNESS OF THE U. S. AGRICULTURAL EXHIBIT. THE AMERICAN EXHIBIT THAT ATTRACTS MOST ATTENTION.

Americans will remember the agitation of the Sunday Exhibition question during our Centennial, in Philadelphia. Here the question has never been discussed. It is not likely, when President McMahon and government officials attend a horse race, as they did last Sunday, at the Bois de Boulogne, that the municipal authorities will attempt to interfere with the more innocent recreation of the populace. It is doubtful if any class of visitors or exhibitors here, those from England and the U. S. perhaps excepted, are at all surprised or shocked at this Sabbath-breaking. But though the shopkeeper keeps open his shop, and masons and carpenters are at work on buildings; though an American has to look at the Almanac to reassure himself that it is the first day of the week, there seems still to remain a tradition in the French heart, that this day is not quite like the others of the seven. It is the favorite day for holiday. On Sunday, at a very early hour, thousands of holiday makers flock towards the Exhibition from all parts of Paris. Every railway, omnibus, steamboat; every "tramway" (the name given to street cars here) is taken by storm, and at all the stations a dense crowd is constantly forming. Hundreds of cabs, loaded with whole families, may be seen, all going in the same direction. At the gates long files gather and slowly pass through, those behind waiting for their turn with the philosophic patience of a French mob, except when it is charged with revolution. The Sunday visitors make the most of their time; as soon as they are past the barrier they spread in all directions, not a nook being left unexplored. They examine every detail of the show with searching interest, enter every building, and station themselves before every exhibit. They have evidently come to see all that can be seen in eight or nine hours, and they do not "fritter" away their time after the manner of the idle, languid, *blase*, week day visitor. Towards twelve a general need of refreshment is felt, for Frenchmen have had nothing but a roll and a cup of coffee since the day before. The cheap restaurants (most of the restaurants inside the grounds are very exorbitant in their charges) are soon filled to overflowing, but the majority of the visitors seem to be of opinion, that even the cheapest restaurants are too high in their charges, for they have brought a luncheon with them, which they eat standing. Sitting room is certainly one of the great necessities of this Exhibition, and shade is another absent desideratum; so the extempore breakfasters have to make their meal, as best they may; without the benches and Syrian surroundings which made the improvised picnics in Fairmont Park such an agreeable feature of the Centennial Exposition.

Every week the details of the Exposition furnish greater interest, and though at first glance, the improvements of the grounds and buildings are almost imperceptible, on closer examination one sees an approach towards completion at a hundred different points. Certain parts of the grounds which were, last week, in a very disagreeable condition, have since been rolled; parterres and lawns which were being laid out are now completed, and it is probable that, by the middle of June, the entire exhibition will be in condition to receive its guests. But, before the guests come in very large numbers, prices will have to be very much reduced. The houses in Paris that have upon them the sign, "*Chambres alues*" (rooms to let) are almost innumerable, but when one inquires the price he will find that, for a very small room on the fourth or fifth story, a dollar per day is asked, and, with charges for services and other extras, a bill of seven or eight francs is run up for a room with single bed. Where there are two beds, the room may perhaps be had for ten or twelve francs. This does not, of course, include board which will cost, according to a man's taste and appetite, from ten

to twenty francs per day. Living may doubtless be had for less, before Exhibition is over. The high prices asked now represent the hyperbolic expectations of the Parisian housekeeper. They look for all the world this summer, but all the world will not come. England and America, which furnish a large proportion of the battalions of tourists, have heard of the exorbitant prices, and they have gumption enough to shun Paris, or to remain but a few days, before they visit other parts of the continent. After having kept their rooms empty for a few weeks, the landlords will be taught, by the only school in which fools will learn, that to rent a room for a long time, at a reasonable price, is more profitable than to have it vacant, with an exorbitant price posted on the door.

I must defer a description of those specialties of the Exposition in which Canadians are particularly interested, until they have been arranged in better shape for examination. The American agricultural exhibit is much behind hand; the gentleman who has charge of this department has had much to contend with, many specimens having arrived late, and some without a label or other means of identification.

The American exhibit that attracts most attention, and perhaps more attention than any display of its size in the Exposition, is the Type Writer of E. Remington & Sons, Iliou, N. Y. Two young women are writing with the miniature, piano-like machines, constantly surrounded by a dense crowd of frenchmen, trying to look over one another's shoulders, which the average small stature of a Frenchman makes it difficult for him to do. One of the young women speaks only French, the other only American. C. A. S.

MOUNT ALLISON—CLOSING EXERCISES.

The following was the programme of the exercises of the Ladies Academy on Tuesday forenoon:

- I. Devotional Exercises. Music: Piano Quartet: Jubal Overture. Weber. Misses Bourke, Hibbard, Walton and Ida Campbell.
- II. Essays, Recitations, &c. 1. Little Elsie.—Recitation. Miss B. A. Kennedy. 2. "Little Foxes."—Essay. Miss Lalia J. Webster. (a) Vocal Duet, from *Maritana*.—W. V. Wallace. Miss Hibbard and Prof. Sterne. (b) Chorus: The Heavens are telling.—Haydn. Solos by Misses Churchill and Robinson and Mr Lewis. 3. Unseen Battlefields.—Essay. Miss A. J. Robertson. 4. L'Etourderie.—French Dialogue. Misses Tweedie, Bourke, M. Lovitt, Murray and Walton. Music.—Second Finale Chorus, from *Maritana*.—Wallace. Solos by Miss Bourke, Mr. Tuck and Prof. Sterne. 5. High Tide.—Recitation. Miss Annie E. Freeman. 6. Guides.—Essay. Miss H. S. Stewart. Music.—Piano Solo: Rhapsodie Hongroise.—Liszt. Miss Cassie Campbell.
- III. Conferring Diplomas.—Reports, &c. Music.—Piano Quartet: *Martha*.—Flores. Misses C. Campbell, Churchill, Nowlin and Bourke.
- IV. Address by Hon. S. L. Shannon. Music.—Gloria from 12th Mass.—Mozart.

As there were no graduates, the essayists were selected from the graduating class of next year, which is unusually large. Their essays exhibited more independence of thought than generally characterizes the efforts of young ladies. The threadbare subjects—beautiful flowers, soft skies, and prattling brooks—gave place to similes more appreciable, if not more soothing, to the vulgar mind. All were highly creditable productions. The music was something superior. It is seldom one is favoured with such a musical treat. Miss Hibbard's singing evoked prolonged applause. The compass and sweetness of the young lady's voice are astonishing. Miss Carrie Campbell's playing on the piano has never been equaled at Mount Allison. It is not extravagant to say that Miss Campbell, as a musical genius, has no peer in the Maritime Provinces. The music reflected great credit on Prof. Sterne. The only diploma awarded in music were those to Misses Campbell and L. Walton. Principal Inch, in presenting his report, was very much pleased that this, his year of departure, was the most successful since his connection with the

Academy. His reference to his approaching retirement from his present position was in neat and feeling terms. He reported between 80 and 90 in attendance during the year.

Hon. S. L. Shannon, of Halifax, having been called on, delivered an address of about three quarters of an hour in length. His remarks were chiefly directed to the students, and were an eloquent panegyric on the English language. Purity of style was the great point he endeavored to impress upon them. The audience was very large and attentive throughout the whole exercises, which occupied three hours and a half.

The Alumni dinner was served up in the Chignecto Hall at 8 p. m., Tuesday. The various toasts were responded to by Hon. S. L. Shannon, the Hon. Geo. E. King, Dr. Allison, Principal Inch, Dr. Tuck, Prof. Weldon, Rev. R. Brecken, Dr. Stewart, and others. It was not as largely attended as these festivities generally have been, but the meeting was a very enjoyable one.

The Public Alumni and Alumnae meeting was held Tuesday evening Rev. Howard Sprague, A. M., presiding. Miss Hattie Smith, President of the Alumnae, in a few very appropriate remarks, reported as to the flourishing condition of the Society and the work it is doing in connection with the Ladies' Institution. Her hit at the incorporated status of the Alumni, was well received by the audience. Miss S. E. Smith, the essayist of the evening, read a very interesting piece of allegorical composition, entitled "Building." The object of her well-thought-out essay was the ridicule of the materialism and scientific heterodoxy of the day. The original poetry at the close of her essay was full of pathos and rhythm. The grand part of the evening's entertainment was the Hon. Geo. E. King's oration on the "Influence of Colonial life on literature." It is useless to attempt to give your readers any adequate idea of its excellence. He pointed out the cause of our inferiority and meagre attainments in literature, compared to the mother country—showed our dependant feeling and over-estimation of British opinion. In this latter connection he discussed the question of free trade, and showed that because it suited England's circumstances it need not suit Canada's. We want patriotic sentiment. We have a noble country with great natural advantages, and in the course of time, when population, wealth and industries increase, we shall have a more independent and manly spirit pervading our literature.

From a man of Mr. King's known ability we were prepared for something fresh and invigorating, but we hardly expected such a display of literary culture. Beautiful language, ringing sentences and strong, ran through the whole oration. The audience was held in rapt attention throughout. It was one of the ablest efforts ever put forth in Lingley Hall. The following was the programme of the College commencement exercises on Wednesday morning:

- I. Devotional Exercises. Music.—Chorus: "Quoniam tu Solus."—Mozart.
- II. Orations. 1. The City of the Golden Horn. W. E. Johnson. 2. Civilization. J. A. Davis. Music.—Vocal Quartette: Night Bird's Whisper. Misses Barnes and Hibbard, Messrs. Allison and Tuck. 3. Athens in Modern Civilization. Mr. F. Tuck. 4. Origin of Myths. Mr. B. C. Borden. Music.—Piano Quartette: Alumni Polonaise. Misses Hibbard, I. Campbell, Freeman and Bourke.
- III. Conferring of Degrees, Prizes, &c. Music.—Piano, Quartette: Misses Freeman, Blanchard, Fraser and Archibald. Addresses, &c. Music.—Chorus: *Inflammatus*.—Rossini. Doxology and Benediction.

Messrs. Tuck and Borden's pieces are especially worthy of mention as being finished in composition and excellently delivered. As the Male Academy had no exercises, Dr. Allison embraced the opportunity of presenting Master Frank Carter with the prize offered by the Hon. Geo. E. King to the best student in English from the two Academies. The theological prizes offered by John McDonald, Esq., M. P. of Toronto, and Josiah Wood, Esq., of Sackville, were next presented by Dr. Pickard, the first to Mr. Geo. C. Robinson, the second to Mr. T. Williams.

The conferring of degrees occupied quite a little time. A. B. was conferred on B. C. Borden, G. A. Inch, F. H. Tuck, J. A. Davis, and W. E. Johnson. A. M. was conferred on H. V. Willis-ton. And J. R. Inch, A. M., President elect, was made the recipient of LL.D.

On the conclusion of these ceremonies, M. F. H. Tuck, A. B., presented Dr. Allison with an address from the students and Alumni. The address was to have been accompanied by a tea service; but unfortunately it was delayed in New York. The service is a very handsome one, and cost about \$200. Dr. Allison replied in a short speech, thanking the Alumni and students in touching terms. C. Milner, Esq., then presented Dr. Allison with an address from upwards of two hundred and fifty of the inhabitants of Sackville. (The address and reply are both beautiful and touching. We are prohibited from publishing addresses, or we would cheerfully insert this.—EDITOR.)

Previous to this, the professors and teachers of the Institution had presented him with \$75 worth of books as a token of their esteem.

After exhausting the programme, all the strangers gathered at the Male Academy for dinner, and with the afternoon trains the most of the visitors had gone. At the meeting of the Board which followed, D. Kennedy, D. D., was appointed to fill Dr. Inch's place as Principal of the Ladies' Academy, and the Principalship of the Male Academy thus vacated was filled by the election of the Rev. B. Longley, M. A. The staff, with three exceptions, remain nearly as before. The chief change is in respect to the Presidency of the College. Dr. Inch takes Dr. Allison's place. With his extended experience as an educationalist there can be but one opinion as to the success that will crown his efforts. Every department of the Institution is in a flourishing condition, and everything bids fair for a prosperous future. One of the most pleasing announcements on commencement day was that large donations had been made to the Museum. The Rev. Mr. Hertz presented the Institution with the Davis collection of minerals, and the Rev. J. M. Fisher presented a large collection of Bermuda curiosities and specimens of marine plant and animal life. The want of money is much felt in carrying on the educational work at Sackville. The Professors are working at a great disadvantage, though probably not more so than the professors of other colleges. The Alumni Society have come forward in aiding to establish a good library—an absolute essential to a progressive movement in education. If the friends of the Institution, and especially those who have received part or the whole of their education within its walls, would each contribute his mite, either towards the museum or the library, the educational status of these institutions would be greatly improved. Our visit this year has given us real pleasure, and we hope that an increased interest may be taken in an institution which has done and continues to do so much for the good of our country.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING. FIFTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH SABBATH SCHOOL. The fifty-first anniversary of the Methodist Church Sabbath School of Portland was held in the Baptist Church of that place last evening. The meeting was largely and respectably attended, and was presided over by the Rev. Mr. Teed. The meeting was opened with singing and prayer, after which Rev. Mr. Teed said that since last year they had lost the Church in which the Sabbath School scholars assembled, and he continued, the act of kindness of the Baptist friends, in allowing the Methodists of Portland a place in their Church for the holding of Divine worship, was a favor which would ever be remembered. Mr. Teed called upon the Secretary of the Sabbath School to read his report for the past year. It reads thus:

ME. CHAIRMAN,—Having lost all of our Record books and papers by the great fire that destroyed our Church on the 20th of October last, we are not able to present to-night a report for the whole year, but only a report from the 1st of November to the 1st of June. Through the kindness of our Baptist friends we assembled for a time after the fire on Sunday morning, October 29th, in the adjoining school room. It

was a morning not soon to be forgotten by those who were present. The Superintendent of the Circuit in a very touching manner alluded to the loss which we, as a school, had sustained and the position in which we were placed. He told us that these things did not come by chance; that the hand of Providence was in it, and that "Behind a frowning Providence God hides a smiling face."

At the close of the session of the School the officers and teachers met and decided to accept the kind offer made to them by the officers of the Baptist Church of the use of their School room in the afternoon—they intimating their intention to close their school a little earlier in order to accommodate us. Since then we have met regularly in the adjoining room. The attendance for the intervening months has been, under the circumstances, all that could have been expected, the average being 170. We have at present on our list 6 officers, 11 male teachers, 14 female teachers, 127 male scholars, and 143 female scholars, making a total of 301. During the past 7 months we have been favoured with 20 visits from our friends. Of this number 8 have been by our pastor, 5 by members of other churches, and only seven by the parents and friends of the scholars.

In order that the parents may have an idea of what is being taught from Sabbath to Sabbath we give the subjects studied during the past quarter, "Ahab's persistent wickedness or ruin for the transgressor;" "Hezekiah's good reign or diligent devotion;" "Hezekiah and the Assyrians, or God the Mighty Helper;" "Manassah brought to repentance or forgiveness for the penitent;" "Josiah's early piety, or a noble childhood;" "The Scriptures found and searched, or the awakening word;" "Jeremiah in prison, or comfort in trouble;" "The Rechabites or safety in obedience;" "The captivity of Judah or the transgressor's doom;" "The captives in Babylon, or favor for the faithful;" "The fiery furnace, or deliverance for God's servants;" "Nebuchadnezzar's dream, or wisdom for God's servants."

It will be seen by this list that the International Series of Lessons are used in the school, and the whole of the scholars study the same lesson at the same time. It is thus evident that a large amount of Scripture knowledge must be secured by the careful study of such subjects.

The officers and teachers have been, on the whole, pretty punctual. Some have been unavoidably detained at home by sickness and others by other causes. During the past seven months we have lost three of our scholars by death. Lizzie Connell, who died —, William Henderson, who died Thursday, 30th May, after a lingering illness, which he bore with Christian resignation, and William Turner, who departed this life on Friday last. All of these, we have reason to believe, died trusting in the Saviour.

The order in the school, on the whole, has been very good.

The financial state of the school is, we are happy to say, very good. At the commencement of the year we had a balance in hand of \$90, and the receipts up to the present time have been as follows:—Receipts from Concert held in this Church, \$58.27; receipts from Concerts held in the Exmouth Street Church, \$55; receipts from collections in school, \$40.32, making a total of \$244.09. The expenditure has been:—For copies of British Workman and Band of Hope, \$40.63; for sundries in connection with school, \$8.76, leaving the school free from debt and a balance of \$194.70 on hand, the most of which is to be appropriated towards the erection of the new church.

In conclusion, we would earnestly ask the parents and friends of the scholars to come in and see us more frequently than they have in the past, and encourage us by their presence and prayers, convinced as we are that it is vain for us to attempt to secure the conversion of the children without asking the blessing of the Lord on our labors. Our chief aim from Sabbath to Sabbath is to lead the children to the Saviour, so that at last we may meet an unbroken School, not one missing, around the throne of God, "there to cast our crowns before Him, lost in wonder, love and praise."

C. H. C. DUNCAN, Secretary. The President of the Sabbath School moved the adoption of the report, which was carried unanimously.