

Messenger and Visitor

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CALENDAR OF ACADIA UNIVERSITY.

We congratulate the faculty of Acadia on the excellence in matter and form of the Calendar for 1904-1905. The mechanical part has been well done by the printers, the News Publishing Company, of Truro, N. S. The "cuts" of the buildings make good illustrations. The index is well made and the arrangement of the book complete. This little book of a hundred pages contains abundance of matter at once interesting and suggestive to our people. The history of the college is a large portion of the history of the denomination. The charter gives the authority of the state for the work undertaken.

AIM.

"On the intellectual side it is the aim of the college to furnish a broad, liberal culture, including the development of mental power, the formation of right mental habits, the cultivation of pure and elevated tastes, and the acquisition of systematized knowledge in the chief departments of learning. The culture furnished is designed to prepare students in a genuine way for the specialized courses of the graduate universities and professional schools, or to send them forth into active non-professional life with a training at once thorough and many sided.

"The College aims, not only at intellectual training, but also at the development of right character. It is an avowedly Christian college, setting forth the Christian ideal of life as the one true ideal for its students. The importance is recognized of surrounding the student with positive Christian influences and of keeping before him distinctively Christian ideals. To this end the professors and teachers are all Christian men. While Christian, the College is not sectarian. The professors are not necessarily Baptists, and students of all denominations enjoy equal privileges. The college is in all departments open to both sexes."

LOCATION.

Wolfville is a beautiful town in the heart of the country made famous by Longfellow's "Evangeline." It is situated on the upward slope of the southern shore of the Basin of Minas. The College buildings are well up the slope and, looking Northward, command a fine view of the Cornwallis Valley, the Basin of Minas, the meadows of Grand Pré, the North Mountain, terminating in Cape Blomidon, and the distant shores of Cumberland County. It may be said indeed that the surroundings of the college are of unsurpassed beauty and breadth, and all that the kind face of nature may inspire in a man is here."

The college buildings are four in number:—

1. College Hall contains lecture rooms, laboratories, library, museum, chapel and Assembly Hall. It is a building of excellent proportions and chaste appearance; internally, it is commodious and comfortable. It is heated by a hot-water system, the museum and library contain large and valuable collections, the laboratories are well equipped, the Assembly Hall is a large and handsome room. All the lecture rooms are seated with chairs of modern design, with writing-desk attached.

2. The Manual Training Hall contains three departments.

(1) Wood-working departments, furnished with eighteen work-benches, vices, full sets of carpenter's tools, turning-lathes, jig, scroll, and circular saws, drill machine. The machinery is driven by a water motor.

(2) Iron-working department, furnished with seven forges and anvils, also vices and tools for work in forging, welding and filing.

(3) Drawing department, provided with all necessary facilities.

3. Chipman Hall, the college residence, is a thoroughly comfortable boarding house, under the direction of the college authorities, capable of accommodating about sixty male students. It is furnished with a hot-water heating system, with electric lighting throughout, and with all modern conveniences. The rest of the male students find homes in approved boarding houses in the town. For a limited number of the young ladies attending college, boarding accommodations and privileges are afforded in Acadia Ladies' Seminary; the rest find accommodations in town subject to the approval of the Faculty.

4. The Gymnasium is a spacious and well-appointed building under the control of a duly appointed instructor of gymnastics.

We shall have more to say of the Calendar in another issue.

OUR OWN CRIMINALS.

On Friday, 22nd inst, in New Brunswick one murderer paid the penalty of his crime and in Nova Scotia, another was sentenced to death. Amid the glories of a Canadian summer, in the midst of high Christian civilization the worst of crimes casts its awful shadow. Sin when it is finished brings forth death. With all our optimism and congratulation of ourselves on our advancement and goodness it is seen that murder still dwells in the hearts of some and issues in the shedding of the blood, even of the wife a man has sworn to protect. After all the evolution of the ages, men are not all born good. These ghastly deeds pass the comprehension of the law abiding citizen and especially of the Christian. Human sin and divine love pass knowledge. But they are facts and neither of them should be ignored. The sinfulness of the human heart, its enmity against God must be recognized. Paul's picture of the unclean heart as given in Galatians 5, 19-21 still stands as a photograph of the unregenerate of today: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God." "What a piece of work is man," we may well say! Not fit for the Kingdom of God; not fit for life on earth. Still stands the word of our Lord: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." This great truth must still be preached as the hope for man under God's abundant grace. The affairs of empires are of great consequence; but as Dr. W. R. Williams has said: "The conversion of a soul is to the true minister, in his best hours, of more concern than the fortunes of an empire." The fact that men "are dead in trespasses and sins" and the fact that God who is rich in mercy, for His great love can quicken them together with Christ are two of the lessons our criminals should teach us.

Another message they bring is the necessity of preaching the Gospel in every district. The revelations of iniquity here named show that the standards of the Gospel are in some cases almost unknown. The neglected spots will furnish criminals as well as the great cities. Brethren of the churches can we say we have preached the Gospel to all within the areas of our influence?

Does any one ask whether the preaching of the gospel will be of any effect? "To human judgment nothing could be more insignificant than these twelve Galileans (the apostles), ignorant of the learning of the schools, unprovided with money or support from men, going out to preach the gospel of a rejected Messiah who was but a few months hence to be crucified as a common malefactor. On the other hand, nothing in all history has developed so much power and influence among men as that same gospel, rising in Jesus Christ and spreading abroad throughout the world at the hands of men, for the most part chosen and called from the ranks of the common people. Its onward flow (sometimes an onward rush) has been a torrent which has carried all before it. To-day it is the mightiest moral force in the world, and there are none to sneer at it except fools and knaves (though many still oppose its onward flow), while millions all over the world and among all peoples live to bless God for his love and for his unspeakable gift in Christ Jesus."

Our own criminals may well keep as humble. They may also exhort us to warn every man and to beseech every man to be reconciled to God.

THE DEATH OF THE SAINTS.

On July 21st at Partridge Island, N. S., Miss May Gould, of Fitchburg, Mass., fell from the side of the hill she had climbed, a distance of forty feet and was almost instantly killed. Miss Gould was one of seventy-five excursionists who were spending the day at Partridge Island, one of the beautiful places of Canada at which Dr. J. H. Rand wrote a number of his poems.

With the enthusiasm of the tourist and anxious to obtain the best views of nature she sought the summit of the hill whence she was carried to death. So sudden, so sad, away from home, from friends, without warning, without farewell she "crossed the bar."

Miss Gould, we learn, was an active Christian. For years she had been teacher in Sunday school, her class at present numbering ninety or more. While on her vacation she continued her studies of her Bible for her class work.

How strange, many will say, that the Lord allows one of his own workers to meet so sudden a death.

Yet we are told "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Everything about the believer is precious to Christ. Not a hair of the head is unknown to him. In what special way this death was precious to him we may not be able to say. Possibly some of her pupils who

have not been won to Christ by her teaching may be saved by her death.

Mrs. Browning's words,

Eyes that the preacher could not school
By the wayside graves are raised;
And lips cry 'God be pitiful'
That ne'er cried 'God be praised,'

may find a fulfilment in this case. He that keeps Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. Watching she was when he called for her.

But the Christian dies daily, to self, to sin, to the world—and this death, too, is precious in the sight of the Lord. This death becomes the gate to life. Sacrifice for Christ is life for Christ. To die daily to absorbing worldliness, to pleasure, to pride, to the lust of the flesh is gain to the believer. He gets his life by dying. He gets his victory over the world by the surrender of faith. The death of the saint, in both senses, is precious to the Lord.

Editorial Notes.

—That advanced scholarship in England is no longer by any means the exclusive possession of the Established Church is attested by the fact that, from 1886 to 1904, out of fifty five students who have gained the coveted honor of Senior Wrangler at Cambridge University twenty-five have been Nonconformists, leaving twenty for Anglicans, Catholics and Agnostics.

—Readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR are interested doubtless in the work which is being done by our brethren in other parts of the Dominion. In another part of this paper will be found a report of the proceedings of the British Columbia Baptist Convention, held early in the month at Vancouver, furnished by Rev. LeRoy Dakin who not long since left us to take up pastoral work in the west. We have the promise also from Rev. C. W. Corey of Strathcona of a report of the Manitoba and Northwest which was recently held at Portage La Prairie.

—The missionaries of over sixty societies in China have resolved to erect a great building in a prominent situation in Shanghai as a memorial to the martyrs who gave up their lives rather than deny their Lord in the recent Boxer rebellion. The chief feature of the memorial will be a hall capable of accommodating 2,000 or 3,000 people. Shanghai is the main entrance gate of China and is visited every year by hundreds of thousands of Chinese from all parts of the Empire. When finished the building will be a missionary headquarters for China and all the various organizations will find accommodation there.

—"Those preachers," says Dr. Robertson Nicoll, "who know how to make the Bible a living book are the preachers for this time, and all times, for whatever may be said to the contrary all we know about religion is to be found in the Bible." "The preacher should know the best things in English literature. Whether he reads his sermons or not he should write many of them, and he should write them as lucidly, as precisely, as carefully as he can. There is no hearer, however uneducated, who does not feel in some way the difference between what is good and bad in English, and every day the people are getting more and more sensitive on this point."

—Intending delegates to the Convention at Truro would do well to read the notice of the Entertainment Committee on page nine of this issue. As will be seen, the Committee state that they will not be responsible for the entertainment of any delegates whose names do not reach them by August 1st. The responsibility for their entertainment will therefore rest with the delegates themselves if they neglect to send in their names as directed. The Committee are of course desirous of doing their best for the delegates, but it should be considered that they have a large task on their hands, and delegates should endeavor to make it as easy as possible.

—About a year ago we recorded the success of Acadia students at Yale University. We have not full reports for the year just closed, but we are informed that Mr. Austen Bancroft, son of Rev. J. W. Bancroft, who took the degree of B. A. at the head of his class at Acadia in 1903, led the graduating class of B. A.'s at Yale this year. We are also told that in the graduate schools Mr. R. D. G. Richardson, Acadia 1898, led in the Department of Mathematics; that Mr. E. H. Cameron, Acadia 1900, led in Philosophy; that Mr. Avard L. Bishop, Acadia 1901, led in the Economics. Mr. W. M. Steele, Acadia 1903, son of Rev. Dr. Steele, who during his two years of study at Yale made a high record, has been appointed Professor of Philosophy at Furman University, South Carolina. Let the succession be kept up.

—Preaching recently at St. Mary's Church, Warwick, Bishop Gore of Worcester offered some remarks on toleration in the course of which he asked: "Had they learned the lesson of the futility of attempting to quench the religious feeling of minorities because they thought them dangerous or disliked them? Had they learned the lesson that spiritual conviction must be propagated by spiritual means, and that to seek to override the religious convictions of minorities by State authority was to attempt that which was disastrous most of all to those who were stronger?" The Bishop's words imply underlying principles for which Baptists have long stood and sometimes suffered. Referring to Bishop Gore's remarks as "golden words" the British