

MESSENGER and VISITOR.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1906.

THE ANNIVERSARIES AT WOLFVILLE.

It is doubtful whether any of the anniversaries in connection with the general work of our denomination, even if we include our Convention itself in the reckoning, has a larger place in the interest of our people than those which mark the close of the year's work at Acadia. It may not be that the interest is in all cases due to an intelligent apprehension of the worth of our institutions of learning to our denomination and to our country generally...

least interesting were the essays by the Misses Blackadar and Cook. The latter promises to make a stalwart supporter of woman's rights. There were some very effective touches of sarcasm in her essay. Some facts brought out in Mr. Cooney's address will be referred to in another connection. His plea for enlarged facilities and an endowment for the Academy was a very strong and vigorous one.

At the conclusion of the addresses, Principal Oakes presented certificates to seven who had completed the course, and had matriculated into the college. Eight others hope to be able to pass their matriculation examinations in time to enter college next autumn.

The public exhibition of Acadia Seminary was held on Wednesday evening. Never were the manifestations of interest in the Seminary more marked. During the afternoon the people kept streaming in to Wolfville by train and by private conveyance along the various roads. When 7:30 arrived, the spacious college hall about the entrance being occupied. The eight of the young lady students as they filed in, clad modestly in white, and filled up the large space reserved for them in the centre of the hall, was a very pleasing one. It is cause for gladness that the report of the year's work at the Seminary is one of great and cheering success.

Following is the programme of exercises, and although a rather long one, the audience listened with the closest attention to the close: Professional March from "Tannhauser." Misses Bligh and Christie. Prayer. Dr. Saunders. Essay with Satisfactory Power of the Individuality. Evelyn E. A. Lowe, Amherst. Improvment Op. 66. Miss King. Solo: "The Hermitic Art." Jennie Seaborn Walker, Yarmouth. Sextette: Rocked on Rippling Waters. Misses Nelson, Coffin, Crowell, Eaton, Dixon, King.

The graduating class, consisting of the nineteen whose names are on the programme; received their degrees in the usual form. This is the largest class ever graduated from Acadia or from any college in our provinces. We understand it was stated that the class of sixteen from Dalhousie this year was the largest from any Maritime college up to that time. This is an error, as Acadia had seventeen graduates last year. The young gentlemen who go out from College hall this year are full of promise. Eight of them have devoted themselves to the Christian ministry. It is expected that Acadia will graduate a class of about forty next year.

The degree of M. A. in course was conferred upon Rev. M. B. Shaw of Berwick, C. H. Day of Yarmouth, and Rev. J. A. Faulkner of Stratton, Pa., and the honorary degree of M. A. upon Rev. J. E. Goucher of Truro and S. Seldon of Halifax. We are sure the honorary degrees conferred will be highly appreciated by all. Announcements were made of the splendid donation by Mark Curry, Esq., of Windsor, to provide for the support of a professor in History and Political Economy in perpetuity, and that the Governors have decided to call this the Mark Curry professorship; of the donation of \$200 by the graduating class, and of \$100 each by the other classes and by the students of the Academy—in all \$800—toward the erection of a gymnasium. The announcements were received with applause.

On Thursday afternoon we visited the studio and found quite a number of sketches and paintings of various kinds, executed by the lady students. Not being an artist, it is impossible to give an independent judgment on the work. Some samples of painting on China impressed us as very well done. Miss Harding is enthusiastic in her work, but labors under disadvantages through want of adequate models and casts. Neither is the room occupied as a studio one to stimulate the imagination or awaken enthusiasm. The report of the Principal of the Seminary speaks in high terms of the work done. As many as thirty-one have taken instruction in one or more of the various branches of painting. It is hoped that measures may be taken, at an early date, to provide better accommodations for this as well as for other departments of the Ladies' Seminary.

He has become a recognized power in the forces upon which our College depends. It is fast gathering in to itself the interest of the old graduates and deepening it by making it practical. The chief business of the meetings of the Alumni this year was in reference to the proposed Alumni professorship. It was found that the \$1,200 which it was proposed to raise for the salary of a professor until an endowment sufficient to bring in an income to this amount can be raised, had not all been secured, although it is hoped that it will be obtained before Convention. About \$1,100 have been subscribed for the endowment of the professorship.

Mr. Woodworth gave a rather dark picture of the present condition of politics—dark, alas, it is to be feared, because true—and argued that our youth should be taught the ethics of politics as well as of other relations of life, and have their patriotism aroused by appropriate studies. In this way the youth of the country would be guarded against and raised above the corruptions and crooked methods so prevalent in politics to-day. Mr. C. A. Eaton was the orator of his class. His voice is clear, his modulation very flexible, his manner easy and his general delivery most effective. His language also was picturesque and forceful. He was heard with hushed attention. Mr. Chipman gave us a poem. We shall not attempt to describe it, as we hope to publish it for the benefit of our readers.

The notice of the Board was called to the absence of any announcement of anniversary exercises in the public press—especially in the MESSENGER AND VISITOR. It was found that no one especially, had the matter in charge. A resolution was adopted that the Executive Committee attend to this in the future, and also see to it that reports of occurrences of interest during the College year should be sent to the denominational paper.

In view of the offer and request of the Alumni mentioned above, the Governors decided to institute a chair in Physics, to be called the Alumni Professorship of Physics in the department of the Natural Sciences, and the Senate was requested to present a nomination at the meeting of Governors in August. Through the success attending the work of the College, Academy and Seminary, all the rooms in the present building is crowded and overcrowded. Especially is this true of the Ladies' Seminary. Miss Graves having called attention to the inadequate facilities afforded by our present Seminary hall, this, in connection with the general need, led to the appointment of a committee, including Miss Graves and Miss Harding, to report on a policy for the Ladies' Seminary and recommend such steps as shall remedy the present state of things. As never before, parents are feeling that their daughters must have education as well as their sons. While this is the secret of the large numbers attending the Seminary, it is to be hoped that it is also the assurance of an interest in female education which shall make it easy to obtain the funds necessary to make a long step in advance.

The perfection of Christian character was the endowment given the church by the first outpouring of the Spirit. Individual consecration, faith, holiness and power were so great that it put in the shade what there was of organization; and it overshadowed it so deeply that we in this day, as we attempt to exalt religious organizations, find no examples of them in apostolic times except the church. But what we do find is the incarnation of the holy One in His people, giving to individual Christians a force and power irresistible. As this was the prime factor in church work then, so it is now, and so it ever shall be.

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Governors on the relation between the two bodies, it was finally decided to appoint a strong committee to bring in the draft for an amended and consolidated charter for the consideration of the Governors in August next.

There has been a growing feeling in the denomination that our College should provide instruction for our theological students—especially for those who cannot pursue a full course of special preparation for their work. This feeling has grown so strong and has taken such hold of the membership of the Board itself, that the matter came up for serious consideration. It was finally decided to appoint an instructor in English Literature, thus making it possible to give what will be equivalent to the work of one man to theological instruction. A committee was appointed to nominate the instructor made necessary by this action, to outline the course of theological instruction, and to report at the meeting of the Governors at the Convention. We are sure this action will be hailed with great satisfaction by our denomination generally. Of course additional expense will be involved; but it is hoped that the brethren and sisters especially interested in theological education in connection with our College will gladly make up the amount required.

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ter which are being introduced, it will not be a wonderful thing if the hand of him who is a roaring lion is going about seeking whom he may devour, is seen in them. This always has been so, and is likely so to continue.

In the light of these facts, it is well for us to look at this whole subject of religious organizations. By this we shall see that the oft-repeated plea for the introduction and continuance of them—that they are doing good—is not a sufficient justification for their support. The fact that these many societies are doing good, must not be allowed to cover up the fact that they may also be doing evil. A bigoted zeal may prevent adherents recognizing the evils done; but it will not prevent the fatal results of evil doing, even under a religious garb. Then there is evidently a latent longing in this sin-cursed world for change—for something new and sensational—not always for something good. This may arise from the conscious unrest of an evil life, which hails with delight any alternative. To many the latest craze is always the best—just the thing wanted—and just the thing the many have been looking for. In all religious and moral reforms there are also to be found a class of workers who are inveterate shirkers. A multiplication of organizations affords them choice opportunities to indulge their propensity. Individual effort is swallowed up and indistinguishable in the large corps of workers. These organizations also afford chances for promotion to official places, and the gratification of selfishness of a low type. Not infrequently the financial prospects of individuals are wonderfully brightened, and their anticipations more than realized in these growing institutions. It is to be expected, therefore, that the growth of many reform and religious institutions of the modern pattern, shall be phenomenal. And it must not be forgotten that their rapid growth is not a proof of the genuineness of their principles, or prophetic of their usefulness. They may be of the early cloud and morning dew kind, in that they soon pass away; but differing from these in that they are most harmful in their influence.

Again, it is not a valid objection to a religious organization that it puts at fault the ordinary methods of church work. The fact is that many, if not all of our church forms and habits, need reviving. As in the commercial and national life of our times, constant revision is in order, so must it be in the work of our religious life. Christianity is ever and must ever be a live issue in the world. Any attempt to fossilize it is a failure. Any attempt to secularize it is also a failure. "As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be," while it has just application to religious principles, has no sensible application to church life and work, in a variable world like this. The afflictions of the churches of Christ are now suffering from the cause for organizations should be an eye-opener to this important fact. In religious campaigns there is no place for nesting, no place for more than temporary resting. The conflict of good and evil is perpetual. Centennial seasons in our churches will not end the fight. The most perfect organization of religious forces, in itself, is not the mightiest factor in the conflict. It is evidently being over-estimated in our day. "When we turn to the New Testament we can discover but little done by Christ to organize His disciples. His last general directions for discipling the nations do not give any guidance as to many particulars which in our modern missions we deem indispensable." As a plan in itself has no force, and as it is the man in the plan that makes it succeed, so our Lord's reliance was on personal Christian character, on the power the truth would have on the hearts of His disciples, and on the stimulus it would give to life and action.

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Rev. S. J. Archibald... brings the sad, though not unexpected intelligence of a faithful minister. My pleasant relations with brother (Rev. S. J. Archibald) who was then so earnestly devoted to their earthly ministry. As a fisherman was earnest, full, and instructive. His was not a nature contented with embracing whole truth when once seen, hence his break with a Christian body which had been identified from his early days. Though he had been few years, he was as familiarly interested in every one of our denominational work as we with us always. But my purpose in expressing my high personal character and worth of acquaintance I shall ever be gratefully obliged to whom memory I can not gratefully cherish. I join with the many mirrors of our departed felt sympathy for Mrs. family, in their great trials.