

eminent service to his fellow-creatures if he combines with his knowledge living principles of honesty, benevolence and piety. If learning is not thus cultivated, it produces a lamentably opposite effect by lending powerful and dangerous armour to roguery, and hardening guilt in its deadly and downward career.

In the Pictou Academy we acknowledge a peculiar interest. We do not feel such interest, because we regard it as the palladium of our church in this country, or because we now attach any importance to the struggles of the past, or because we mean in this way to pay honor to those who have battled for religious equality within its walls, but for a reason, the counterpart of all such as these—that it is in connection with no one Protestant denomination. It is an important example of an unsectarian institution. It is a place where many excellent men of different religious bodies have obtained a solid and extensive education that has made them useful in the world. It is a small experiment of what we should like to see tried on a much larger scale. A full development of this example would be a provincial university open to men of all creeds, with a test religious enough to exclude infidels. It is encouraging to perceive that this experiment in the case of the Pictou Academy is, in spite of struggles and opposition, not unattended with a fair measure of success.

Our Synod intermitted its business for a few hours, that members might be able to attend an examination of this institution, which was held on the first of July last. We had the privilege of visiting both departments, which are under the care of Principal Costley and Mr. Jack. We heard the classes under the care of the latter gentleman perform their exercises in arithmetic, geography and English composition, neatly and well. They seemed to have been subjected to a very thorough drill upon a good system. The classes in charge of Principal Costley made a most creditable display of their acquirements in classical learning and mathematics. They could translate Horace with taste and justice, and were able to scan and name the numerous varieties of Horatian verse. In the exercise of translating impromptu English sentences into Latin, they showed quickness and familiar knowledge of Latin idioms. The principal having delivered a course of lectures on the experimental part of Natural Philosophy,

experiments were shown, illustrating some of the common phenomena, upon which the pupils answered pertinent questions. An address was unexpectedly presented to Mr. Costley by his pupils, expressing their respect for him and their sense of the benefits they had derived from his efforts. Mr. Costley briefly replied.

We are of opinion that the town of Pictou, before every other place in the county, is highly privileged in having such an institution in its midst. We think also that persons at a distance may, in search of an education for their children, probably send them farther and fare worse. Scientifically and morally a good education is at present bestowed in the Academy of Pictou.

We understand that the Rev. James Mair, of Barney's River, is at present soliciting subscriptions in aid of the erection of a new church in connection with his congregation. The congregation is highly deserving of aid, as the effort for them is very serious. We understand that while they are not a numerous nor a wealthy people, they have exerted themselves to their utmost. Money given to a church is the best and safest investment on earth.

The Rev. Mr. Macdonnell, of Fergus, C.W., is now on a visit to Pictou, where is well known and much esteemed by many friends. He preached in St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, on Sabbath, 24th July, and leaves by the Lady Head steamer on the 29th for Quebec.

The congregation of Mr. Macrae in St. John's, Newfoundland, at the call of their highly gifted and deservedly esteemed pastor, have subscribed above £100 for the introduction of gas into the church.

The receipt of 5s. from a friend of our Jewish mission is hereby acknowledged. The money has been given to Mr. Epstein, who is to publish a statement of his receipts in the Lower Colonies on behalf of the mission. He joins the steamer Lady Head, which leaves this on the 29th, at Dalhousie, after having thus completed his tour among our churches here and in New Brunswick.