

Chignecto Post.

Sackville, N. B., December 20, 1877.

CHRISTMAS.

Next Tuesday is the Anniversary of the Birth of Him who came into the world to die that He might save the people from their sins. The Christian calendar contains no day so full of the lesson of humility, Christ the Saviour of mankind was cradled in a manger from which the cattle were fed! No day in the circling year so strongly appeals to the greatest of all virtues, Charity, for Christ was born to save sinners, and though countless as the sands of the sea, they are made as white as snow. No day dawns with brighter or richer promises, for to us as to the shepherds who watched their flocks by night the message comes: "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall come to all people. For unto you is born, this day, in the city of David, a Saviour which is Christ the Lord," and through the rifted heavens the believer sees the white-robed angelic host and hears the triumphant refrain, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

We cannot, as the kings whose footsteps were directed to Bethlehem by the star in the east, lay our tribute of gold and frankincense and myrror at the feet of the infant Jesus, but we can present a no less acceptable oblation to Him, for it is written: "Whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, * * * he shall have his reward."

Whatever may have been the remote origin of the celebration of Christmas, whether born of heathen superstition or of Christian zeal, no doubt it is fitting to commemorate the Advent of the Son of God, and no one can deny the humanizing influence of the day. Possibly the festival of the Nativity may have been fixed on the 25th from the fact that the heathen nations regarded the winter solstice as a most important part of the year, as the beginning of the returning powers of nature, and the renewed life of the gods. The Germans held their Yule Feast in honor of the return of the fiery Sun-wheel, believing that from Jan. 25th to Jan. 3rd they could trace the personal government upon earth of Odin and other deities. Possibly its first institution may have been in Nicomedia in the reign of Diocletian (284-305, A.D.) who burnt up a churchful of worshippers celebrating the birth of Christ. Possibly the grandly dramatic liturgy and the dramatic representations of the birth of Christ, and the manger songs and Christmas carols instituted by the Church in early ages may have some times degenerated into foolish festivals, profanity and bacchanalian orgies. Possibly the Puritan Party, with their present unproductive state, when it voted Christmas Day an invention of the devil and abolished it, and made the holy and ivy seditions badges, but no one nowadays doubts its appropriateness as commemorating the first act in the Divine Tragedy, and its utility in bringing closer to men's hearts the great law of love to man, the brother, as we hope for it from God, the Father. Besides its higher influences, its social power is one of unimpaired good. The glow of Christmas fires, when the snow is on the hills and the north wind howls, the family gathering about the Christmas board is full of generous sentiment and kindly feeling.

Reclamation of Missisquoi Bogs.

The long talked of Bay Verte Canal having received its quietus from the Grit Government, and any hopes of the bogs and lakes of the Missisquoi and Lapland being drained by that great public work having fled, it now is a matter of public interest whether the extensive bogs and lakes in which the Missisquoi and Lapland have their rise should be allowed to remain in their present unproductive state, not only valueless to the proprietors, but presenting obstacles to the cultivation of the surrounding uplands, and injurious to public health. It is self-evident that if this area were cultivated, the surrounding uplands would increase in value and become a rich agricultural district, instead of a wilderness, part of which is inaccessible for seven or eight months every year. Any person passing through Westmorland and glancing his eye beyond the bogs, need not be slightly indisposed to cultivate as the upland a hundred years ago is it now, and so it will remain for generations unless the bogs are reclaimed and made capable of being cultivated.

The reclaiming of these bogs is a matter of interest to the public at large, and assumes the character more of a public work than of a private enterprise in which the proprietors alone are interested, and we call attention to the necessity of some action being taken to accomplish so important and desirable a result. The first question which presents itself is, whether these bogs can be reclaimed and rendered capable of cultivation? To this we answer that after having repeated discussions on the subject with gentlemen of scientific and practical knowledge to enable them to give an authoritative opinion, and with a knowledge of what has been done not only in other countries in reclaiming lowlands from the sea, but even what has been accomplished in Sackville, we have no hesitation in saying that it can be done, if there be a scientific and united direction given to the work. On the other hand if the present isolated and feeble system is pursued it never will be done.

Without entering into a discussion of the different modes of reclamation, and taking up our space with what is a matter of detail, we assume that there are no engineering difficulties to prevent the effectual draining and reclamation of the bogs and lakes of the Missisquoi and Lapland, and that the state of cultivation. Assuming this because if the application of scientific means would be ineffectual the pre-

sent attempts must fail, the question is, what will it cost?

This enquiry we would not pretend to answer with any degree of accuracy, nor could we until the mode of proceeding be known. This much, however, we can say, that if the cost be double what it may be fairly estimated, it will not only pay the proprietors themselves for their expenditure, but the increased value it will give the adjoining uplands will pay handsomely.

There are 5000 acres, it is estimated, of lake and bog. These, if reclaimed, would be worth on an average \$50 per acre, or \$250,000 worth of land would be created.

We believe there cannot be a disinterested voice as to the desirability of reclaiming these bogs, and we would suggest that the proprietors both in Westmorland and Cumberland should be induced to carry out the project. We believe that they would resolve to form themselves into a company and obtain an act of Parliament to incorporate them, authorizing them to hold lands, and giving them all the power necessary to enable them to carry out the project. Each proprietor to hold stock in the company in proportion to the quantity and value of his bog, and the bog to be transferred to the company. By this, all local jealousies would be avoided and a strength given to the corporation which would enable it to carry on the operations with vigor. If such a course were adopted we venture to predict that bog and lake which have always been useless, and always will be valueless, will at once have a market value, and capable of being sold for cash, even before a drop of water is drained off it. Who will be the first to move in this matter?

The War.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—A Russian official despatch, dated Bogot, 13th, says: "Sixty battalions of Turks yesterday attacked the forces of Grand Duke Vladimir all along the line, directing however their principal efforts against the left and centre. They attacked Matokha six times, but each time were repulsed with great loss. At 1 p. m. the 35th Division of the Russian Army Corps appeared on the scene, and attacking the Turks in the flank compelled them to co-operate with the rest of the Russian forces to retire upon Kanas, their retreat to Javan Giflik being cut off. The Grand Duke Vladimir narrowly escaped a ball, which struck very near him."

Suleiman Pasha, describing the same affair, claims that he carried some of the reinforcements of Matokha, but was unable to hold them owing to the fire from the heights and the arrival of Russian reinforcements. He, consequently, withdrew to his original position, after a seven hours' battle. Three thousand Russians were killed.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 18.—The news of the fall of Plevna was received here with calmness and fortitude. All of the public journals urge resistance to the last. Parliament was opened to-day. The Sultan in person all of the Turkish dignitaries and foreign ambassadors being present. The speech from the throne was reserved in tone, and alluded to neither peace or mediation.

The Sultan in his speech said: "I must again appeal to the patriotism of my subjects to protect legitimate right."

DANCING was one of the subjects discussed by the recent Episcopal Church Congress, New York. Some of the clergy did not object to "square dances," in which there might be much healthy recreation and amusement, but beyond that, danger in its deadliest form lurked. Others again assumed a tone of uncompromising hostility to the dance in any form. John Knox's terrifying intrusion at a dancing level in the palace of Mary, Queen of Scots, could scarcely have been inspired by more antagonism to the dance, than the arraignment of this amusement, by some of the fathers of the Church. It was "congenial godless kept."

"The square dance cannot be kept square, and try as we may it is sure to be rounded off by the waltz. In the waltz, liberty of embrace and manual caress are permitted which would increase the occasion of horror in the parlor." The Congress took no action; the great majority of clergymen considering the question was one of taste and not of morals, and its wholesale condemnation would have been too much like a relic of that age of puritanism which characterized the seventeenth century.

MCCARTHY, THE MISSING MAN.—Sheriff Botsford last week obtained detailed statements from every one supposed to know anything about the missing man, does not think the evidence sufficient to establish a strong presumption that McCarthy is dead. The finding of the hat is no evidence. The make and size are quite common, and it may or may not have belonged to McCarthy. If he was murdered and his body weighted and thrown into the Scoudou river it is not likely his hat would have been allowed to float about. Where was McCarthy on the night of 7 o'clock and 9 o'clock on the night of 12th? No one appears to throw any light on his whereabouts for an hour or two in the early part of the evening. The night was rainy and he did not stay out doors, and where was he? Could he not have at that time arranged for a team to take him to Paines, to connect with the night Express?

LORD DUFFERIN'S successor will, it is reported, be the Duke of Manchester. The Duke made an extended American tour a year ago, and has always taken a warm interest in the affairs of the British dependencies, being President of the Colonial Institute. Canadians will remember him as the author of a letter in regard to the Canada Pacific scandal, in which he supported Sir John A. Macdonald. Canada has not had a dual Governor for many a day, not since the Duke of Richmond, who died of hydrophobia.

Mount Allison.

Public Exercises.

THE MALE ACADEMY.

On Monday evening, the young gentlemen connected with the Male Academy held their first Exhibition at Lingley Hall. They were greeted by a full house. The following was the programme:

Devotional Exercises.

I.

"Oh the Mountain Life is Free," Chorus Class.

II.

"Things in General," W. S. Knowlton.

"Prophecy of Cypri," L. J. Sherwood.

III.

"Soldier Chorus," (Psalms) Misses M. Carr, A. Freeman, Walton and Goodwin.

IV.

"Shipping," A. G. Winterbottom.

V.

"Mabel Walcott," Mt. Allison Orchestra.

VI.

Is the Hope of Reward a greater incentive to action than the Fear of Punishment?—Aff. S. C. Murray, A. S. Kendall and E. J. Elderkin; Neg. R. N. Bell, A. R. Fenwick and C. L. Humber.

VII.

"Fete Militaire," (S. Smith), Misses M. Carr and S. N. Worrall.

VIII.

Conclusion of Debate, Reports, &c.

IX.

"Sleep while the soft evening breeze blows," (Dr. H. Bishop), Chorus Class.

X.

Rev. Dr. Stewart who is still somewhat disabled by a knee trouble, was able to be present to conduct the devotional exercises. The Essay, "Things in General," was read by a very small and many young gentlemen, whose anti-protestantism, Scotland, provoked roars of applause. The debate was very well conducted by the respective disputants. There was no time lost in preliminary observations and apologies, but both sides contested closely in well chosen words, the points raised. The music was under the direction of Prof. Sterne. "Mabel Walcott" was received with unbounded favor. The Soldier Chorus and Fete Militaire were rendered with much spirit and were well received.

Principal Kennedy in his report stated the attendance had been 93, of which number 77 were boarders. He said the School had been gradually preserved from any fatal taint. The moral standing was good; some who had been too near the brink had been saved. The term had been a very successful one. Mr. Whiston, Principal of the Commercial College, stated his institution was now in its fourth year, and the attendance was now three times what it was at first. Twenty-four students are now studying for diplomas, and in addition there are 30 book-keepers from the Male Academy. The outlook for the College is encouraging. Rev. Dr. Pickard being called upon, congratulated the Academy on the very pleasant evening afforded. The Male Academy was first; the Ladies Academy and College were an outgrowth from it, and he trusted it would remain first. He was reminded it was just thirty-five years ago when he came to Sackville and on 17th January succeeding the Male Academy was started with seven students.

President Allison said he had observed that the students were divisible into three classes. The first was well developed young men, who came here with definite aims and objects. The second class of students were those who had no definite aim, and a third a large and promising class of boys. He would say to the two latter classes that there are rewards and penalties attached to the student's life. He would remind them that the greatest of rewards is not the wealth, is not the fame that lingers upon and result from the acquisition of stores of knowledge, but is knowledge itself. The greatest penalty for not improving opportunities here are not the failures that await you in life, but the ignorance to which you come yourself. You have opportunities; I assure you to improve them."

LADIES' ACADEMY.

The Exhibition took place on Tuesday evening, Lingley Hall was crowded. The programme was as follows:

Devotional Exercises, Rev. C. Stewart, D.D.

I.

Music: "How cheerily goes the day," (Emerson), Chorus.

II.

1. "Two Views of an Old Friend," Dialogue, Misses Kennedy and Burwash.

2. "Riding Down," Recitation, Miss Beattie.

III.

Music: "March," (Piano, 8 hands), Misses Archibald, Knowlton, Worrall and Bourke.

IV.

3. "Death of poor Joe," Reading, Miss Annie J. Robertson.

4. "The Vagabonds," Recitation, Miss Mabel Bourke.

V.

Music: "Tannhauser March," (Piano Duet), Prof. Sterne and Miss M. Carr.

VI.

5. "Hidden Lives," Original Essay, Miss Laura Tweedie.

6. "The Delectable Mountains," Original Essay, Miss Augusta M. Lovitt.

Music: "Praise to the Mighty God," Chorus.

VII.

Reports.

Music: "Master and Pupil," Duet, Prof. Sterne and Miss Maddock.

VIII.

7. "A Search for Happiness," (A. Colquhoun), Miss Freeman, the unhappy one; Miss DeBelle, wealth; Miss Bishop, beauty; Miss Stewart, science; Miss Ketchum, music; Miss Burwash, Kennedy, Hartley and McGibbon, pleasure; Miss M. Carr, eloquence; Miss M. Lovitt, the cloister; Miss M. Murray, religion.

Music: "Joy, joy, freedom to-day!" (Gipsy Song), Chorus.

IX.

God Save the Queen.

The proceedings were more varied and quite as interesting as on any preceding occasion. The dialogue between two very little ladies was carried on with much spirit. The recitations and readings were rendered as if it was intended that the audience should hear and understand what was said; a consideration that is sometimes lost sight of. The

Essay, "Hidden Lives," was a strong well written production, developing the true nature of human character, viz: the inside life, the inner thoughts and feelings and passions, animating and actuating one and the surface life as one appears to the world. Sometimes the latter rises from the former; sometimes the latter falls, mask worn, hiding the true self behind. The moral to be right and well as to seem right was well inculcated. "The Delectable Mountains," was a finely wrought description of the grandeur of the hills. It breathed the spirit and the freedom of the mountain top, and pointed out the pathway, which if followed would lead to the delectable mountains.

The Colloquy, a search for happiness could almost be dignified into a dramatic representation. The allusions to the world, mask worn, hiding the true self behind, the moral to be right and well as to seem right was well inculcated. "The Delectable Mountains," was a finely wrought description of the grandeur of the hills. It breathed the spirit and the freedom of the mountain top, and pointed out the pathway, which if followed would lead to the delectable mountains.

The musical, instrumental and vocal, choruses and solos, sustained the reputation of Mount Allison in these Provinces, and amply justified the reputation that Prof. Sterne, the Director of Music, and his assistants, Misses Pickard and Stewart, have so fairly won. When all was so good we shall not attempt to particularize.

Principal Inch stated that a very pleasant and successful term had been passed. They had had an attendance of 72, of whom 62 were boarders, 18 attended College classes; 62, instrumental music classes; 34, vocal, and 30, drawing and painting. He referred to the advantage of the Academy in affording facilities for a Collegiate training and full Collegiate honors. He had to regret the popularity of the Musical Department as work in that sometimes interfered with the regular studies, and while music and painting were very desirable accomplishments for any young lady to possess, they should never be gained at the expense of the more necessary acquaintance with the ordinary English branches.

THE COLLEGE.

The half-yearly Exhibition took place yesterday morning. The following was the programme:

Devotional Exercises.

Music: Solos and Chorus, "O Praise the Mighty God."

Solos by Misses S. Maddock and M. Bourke.

I.

1. Declaration, (selected) Battle of Morgarten, Gordon Lewis.

2. Declaration, (original) Daniel Webster, John W. Madigan.

3. Political Essay, (original) Manufacture of Responsible Government in N. S. T. E. Colpitts.

II.

Music: "The Star Spangled Banner."

III.

4. Declaration, (adaptation) Success in Life, H. P. Doane.

5. Scientific Paper, (original) Three Substances and the part they play, J. P. Doane.

Music: "Polly Queen," (Gospel, 8 hands), Misses M. Carr, A. Freeman, A. Jones and C. Murray.

6. Declaration, (selected) Courtship of Miles Standish, G. O. Robinson.

7. Classical Study, (original) Human Nature in Homer, B. Mills.

8. Declaration, (original) Thoughts on the Christian Year, H. E. Kennedy.

Music: Vocal Duet, "O may'st thou dream of me," Prof. Sterne and F. H. Tuck.

Mr. Doane's declaration was very effective. Mr. Prestwood's article on the parts played in organic and inorganic matter, by water, carbonic acid and nitrogen, bristled with scientific facts, well put together. In fact it was rather too scientific for a mixed audience. Mr. Colpitts' article dealing with the struggles and triumph of Howe, Friesen and Winsor in securing responsible Government was highly interesting. Mr. Robinson succeeded admirably in rendering the perplexities of Alden in his mission of wooing the Puritan maiden for the bold Captain of Plymouth. The music well maintained the occasion, the choruses being particularly good. The eight handed piece, Fairy Queen, exhibited a good deal of precision and skill. President Allison stated the attendance at the College last term was 35, being less than the corresponding term last year, but a number have had to suffer interruption of their College Education. A number of matriculated students are returning next term. The success won by Mr. Gooden the winner of the Grit Government Scholarship. He had heard from the Registrar of the University of London that Mr. Gooden had attained the eighth position in the first division. The nearest Colonial competitor was in the fifty-fourth position.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.—The Standard of the 18th inst., explains that the victory of the Russians is not the cause of summing Parliament, but a license which is given to Russia by Germany and Austria to use victory in her own way. This is what constitutes danger to British interest. England can never consent to a quarrel being arranged on these terms. She may even have cause to denounce the belligerence. She claims a voice in the settlement, and it is said that she may be prepared to insist upon that voice, and that the Government is adopting those measures which Parliament will be invited to sanction.

THE WINTER TERM of 21 weeks, at the Male Academy, beginning Jan. 3, offers an excellent opportunity to young men wishing to improve themselves in study. A well-prepared student can complete within this time the very systematic and commercial course, and at very moderate expense. Call and get a catalogue containing full information.

Advertisements This Day.

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AND—

Xmas Goods!

We offer our patrons an extensive variety and as choice in quality as is in this town to select from, in

Plated Ware,

China, Glass,

Toys, Books,

Fruits, Confectionery, Nuts, Raisins, and Scores of Fancy and Suitable Goods for the season.

We invite special attention to this Choice Stock.

J. L. Black.

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JUST RECEIVED:

30 PACKAGES,

Containing something in all Departments of our Stock.

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3,000 lbs. Shoe Steel,

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Lined and Trimmed Robes,

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2 doz. Ladies' Mantles,

In Latest Styles, and varied in Quality and Trimmings.

Will Sell at a Bargain.

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JUST RECEIVED:

Bed-Room Suits from \$22 to \$40.

—ALSO—

CANE AND WOOD-SEAT CHAIRS.

J. L. Black.

BUCKWHEAT MEAL!

3,000 Lbs. Good Quality.

FOR SALE BY

J. L. Black.

WANTED.

20 TONS GOOD PORK.—We

3 TONS BUTTER.—Will pay cash.

Also, all description of FARM PRODUCE and HEMPSPUN CLOTH and SOCKS and MITTS of good quality.

J. L. Black.

3 CAR LOADS.

Containing 30 Tons Weight,

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Which in addition to our Full Stock before in Store enable us to offer the

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Ever offered in this Market.

We don't attempt Enumeration.

Any Article in Dry Goods, (Fancy, Staple or Weaving Apparel,) for Ladies, Gentlemen, Youth or Children, either for outdoor protection or home comfort, in the fullest variety, and

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Herring, Codfish, &c.

50 barrels Herring,

250 lbs. Pollock and Codfish,

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OVER 100 varieties of Fine Paper and Envelopes, put up in all kinds of Fancy Boxes, from 15c. to \$3 a box, admirably adapted for

Christmas and New Year Gifts.

At the Book Store,

AMHERST, N. S.

MAY be found all the latest imported Novelties, at all prices, for Christmas Presents.

At the Book Store,

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DOHERMANN VASES, Toilet Sets, 40 China Cups, Mugs, China Vases, Flower and Figures, Cut Glass and Bronze Ink Stands, and hundreds of Articles for Christmas and New Year Presents.

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MAY be found a large and choice selection of Christmas and New Year Cards, latest English and American Novelties.

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MAY be found a fine Stock of Dolls, Toys, Games, Rubber Goods, etc., for Christmas Santa Claus.

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