

CONVOCATION at Dalhousie College, Halifax, took place on Thursday, April 25th, when the degree of B. A. was conferred on sixteen graduates, and the degree of Bachelor of Laws on ten graduates. The governor-general's medal was won by A. G. Laird. The year just closing has been a very prosperous one for Dalhousie. The number of undergraduates in attendance is greater than that of any previous year of its history.

PROF. BURWASH, of Mt. Allison, and Prof. Kierstead, of Acadia College, have been appointed degree examiners by the senate of the University of N. B., in place of Rev. Dr. Macrae and G. Herbert Lee, Esq., resigned.

THE Report of Superintendent Montgomery, of the P. E. Island schools, for 1888, is received. The total number of enrolled pupils was 22,478; daily average attendance, 12,248; percentage of attendance, 54.49; number of teachers employed, 509; total expenditure for education, \$147,455.28. The following is the average salaries paid to teachers: Male, first class, \$438.00; second class, 267.77; third class, \$212.75; female, first class, \$375; second class, \$217.52; third class, \$150.67.

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The following Atlantic Province students graduated as Doctors of Medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore, recently.

S. Whitfield Hartt, Fredericton, N. B. (Prize man in anatomy).

F. D. Mosher, Hants Co., N. S.

R. M. Smith, Hants Co., N. S.

The following passed in undergraduate examinations:

S. S. Smith, Pictou Co., N. S.

Chas. M. Weeks, Hants Co., N. S.

DR. J. G. FITCH, who has had good opportunities to observe American schools, believes "that for accuracy and solidity in acquirement, for mental activity, and for interest in their work, the scholars in the best of our English elementary schools would hold their own, and compare most favorably, age for age, with the scholars in the best schools I have ever visited."

INSPECTOR SMITH of New Brunswick says, "From what I can learn I believe the assessment law would be more acceptable to the people if it were so amended as to make all property taxable in the district in which it is situated."

WE hope that Arbor Day in New Brunswick will be suitably observed by the planting of trees on school grounds. Much has been done in the past few years to improve the surroundings of school-houses and make them more pleasant and attractive. Much depends on giving the pupils of our schools stimulus and proper direction in this important matter. Whoever plants a tree and ensures its growth by care and attention is a public benefactor.

THE Pictou Academy Gold Medal for 1889, has been won by Geo. E. Ross, Newport, Hants Co., N.S. The Silver Medal has been won by James Albert Arbuckle, Pictou, at the terminal examination just closed.

The *Quarterly Journal* of the Geological Society for November, 1888, publishes a paper by Sir J. William Dawson, K.C.M.G., etc., on the Eozoic and Paleozoic Rocks of the Atlantic Coast of Canada, in comparison with those of Western Europe and of the interior of America. He sums the whole at the close in the following words:

"In the rocks from the Laurentian to the Trias inclusive, we have on the two sides of the Atlantic a continuous parallelism in the following points:

1. In mineral character and order of succession of aqueous deposits.
2. In the occurrence of great earth-movements of elevation, depression, and plication at corresponding times.
3. In the ejection of like kinds of igneous rocks in connection with like members of the aqueous series.
4. In the order and introduction and extinction of animals and plants.
5. In the specific identity of animals and plants in corresponding formations.

All this, I think, points to an actual contemporaneity of the successive changes on the two sides of the Atlantic basin, and to a special correspondence of the formations of the respective marginal areas as contrasted with those of the continental plateaus. It also indicates a persistence, on the whole, of the oceanic character of the Atlantic depression.

Lastly, it shows the necessity in any system of geological classification of distinguishing the continental plateaus, the lines of great foldings and of igneous action, and the ancient ocean margins from each other, and of adapting our arrangements and nomenclature to their actual diversity. In order to do this, while adopting common designations for the great ages of geological time, and for those systems of formations which mark the successive submergences and emergences of the continental plateaus, separate classifications must exist for the different kinds of areas in their details. It is also, I think, necessary that we should not tie ourselves down to hard and-fast lines, either as to the limits of systems or as to the relative values of their divisions in widely separated localities, as these differ in nature, and nothing is to be gained by conventional arrangements overlooking these differences.

Finally, I can imagine that many questions which have not occurred to me may present themselves to the minds of other geologists who may read or hear this paper. Should I possess any facts tending to the solution of such questions, and not stated in the above pages, they will be at the service of any one desirous to use them for the advancement of science."