

## Dunham Ladies' College Closing Exercises

## THE BISHOP'S SERMON

The closing exercises of Dunham Ladies' College, on Tuesday, 20th June, were very successfully carried out.

It has been the policy of the college executive to secure for this function the presence of one or more educationalists of note, and it did not fall short this year in that respect.

The addresses of Principal Hackett and Miss Derick were of a high character and the fact that such people are willing to come and lend their valuable and valued services at such a time is an indication of the importance of this educational establishment, which is a pride to the district of Bedford.

The venerable Bishop, the president of the college corporation, was in exceedingly good form,

That is the longing of God, and He has placed that child in your bosom that you may train the child for Him.

That is a special seed time, and the harvest surely comes.

Father! God looks to you also to sow, there, the seed of eternal life.

Teachers! You pray for your work and your class, and when you meet the class, surely the longing is: "O that I may win these souls for Christ." That again is the seed time, and the harvest must come.

But here is the ground of your hope.

The great husbandman waiting and watching and interceding for you, as you intercede for dear ones.

church and bring into the garner of Christ at home and abroad many souls for whom Christ died.

Beloved, there goes up before God from city and country a cry of condemnation that is startling in its agony and intensity; a cry that should make us tremble, as we watch and pray and toil for the children of the church.

Do you wonder at this? You will cease to wonder, and be deeply troubled, when you consider that parents who cannot plead the temptation of poverty; parents who are not pressed by necessity, will economize in that which should be the last and most reluctant act of economy, the education of their children. Will save their money from the education of their children, that they may spend it upon the passing and the perishing. Will save it at the cost of the immortal spirit. Will save it at the cost of an imperfectly formed, undying soul. Will save their money at the cost of having a being, formed to take the impress and image of God, distorted and deformed through superstition and error, if not destroyed.

Beloved, there are gathered into your college the young from many sections of our community.



DUNHAM LADIES' COLLEGE.

notwithstanding his very advanced age. We are pleased to be able to present in this number of Gibson's Monthly the sermon delivered by him to the pupils on the day of the closing.

The reference of Principal Hackett to his predecessor, the late Rev. Canon Henderson, was particularly pleasing to the older people present, who have an affectionate remembrance of him when he was the rector of Dunham. To Canon Henderson's work in earlier years is due in a large measure the success which attends the college to-day.

### THE BISHOP'S SERMON.

#### Seed Time and Harvest.

Our blessed Lord and the sacred writers have transferred the promise, "Seed time and harvest shall not cease" to spiritual things.

They shall not cease.

When is the spiritual seed time?

Mother! When you look upon the little soul, first placed in your arms by God, what is the earnest, deep longing of your heart for that child?

Surely with strong emotion, it is: "O that it might be saved!"

Jesus Himself prays for you and the dear ones also.

And "Him the Father heareth always."

The great seed time then is the early spring of life, when the ground of the heart is soft and ready to receive the seed into its bosom.

When the first dawns of life warn us to bring dear ones under the influence of covenanted blessing.

I can scarcely imagine Christian parents, especially a Christian mother, beginning too early to avail herself of spiritual seed time; striving too early to prepare for the harvest of holiness and joy, and I scarcely imagine that the Christian mother withholds her hand as she is cheered by the untailing promise, that even when tongue and eye fail, her life's toil shall still be to salvation and to the praise and glory of God.

If the true principles of our church, as set forth in our Scriptural baptism service, and followed up by our confirmation, were acted upon by parents and sponsors; if the prayer of faith and the Scriptural teaching, there and then required, were conscientiously observed, there would be an amount of spiritual life, a depth of piety manifested in the fresh attractive vigor of our youth that would make us far more a missionary

There are committed to your charge the young from Christian families, where every influence is Godward; and I may assume from families where the thought is only to promote the temporal interests of the children. However it may be, the responsibility—the heavy responsibility—and the grand opportunity is laid upon you each day to occupy the ground of the heart with the good seed, so to occupy it that there shall be no room found for the tares to take root.

Beloved, it is a sowing time replete with rich promise; a sowing time that if you are faithful in sowing the good seed of the kingdom, must issue in a glorious harvest of peace and joy for time and eternity.

Beloved, I appeal to you who are connected with the college. I appeal to you by the preciousness of the undying souls placed under your care. I appeal to you by your love of the church to which you belong; by your love for Jesus, who has purchased those souls with His own blood; by your desire to keep yourselves clean from the blood of souls. I appeal to you Christian parents who desire to have your home teaching sustained by the teaching of the college; to you Christian men and women who are rightly regarded as amongst the pillars and sup-