

nambulism would show; but it remains to be proved that such is really the case. The natural, the *prima facie* conclusion is that in dreamless slumber the mind is unconscious. We know nothing to the contrary. It is according to the general analogies of nature that the mind should take this temporary rest. The idea does not necessitate the mere existence of that mind. Moreover it will be found upon reflection that those peculiar phenomena of sleep which are usually adduced as an evidence of mind's being ever active, can be quite as well explained on the opposite hypothesis.

CONCLUDED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.

### Correspondence.

THE Secretary of the A.-A. A. C., informed us some time ago through the "Messenger" that Mr. Simon Vaughan, of Liverpool, England, has offered a prize for the best essay on the following subject. The inception and history of Acadia College to the present time, and the influence exerted by its students variously on the world, and especially on the Dominion of Canada, and its future prospects and capabilities.

A few remarks suggested by the reading of the above may be made without at all trenching upon the ground which will be covered by the essays of the several competitors for the splendid prize now offered.

Such an announcement made in this crisis of our educational affairs has great significance. Fears are entertained lest this crisis pass without an effort being made adequate to the great demand. Here, then, there is thrust upon the attention the all-important subject, "The prospects of Acadia." And we are hopeful that good may come in the awakening of many who, if they have not been hitherto indifferent, have at least been wanting; in the opening of purses,—plethoric ones especially referred to,—to help advance the most vital interests; and in the general girding on of the armor by all who profess themselves the friends of education.

Permit us to follow out a little further what the announcement of this prize suggests. There is the generosity of the donor—his good-will to us. There is the manifestation at a kindly interest and

sympathy never more needed than at the present time. There is the exhibition of a spirit which will, it is hoped, actuate every graduate, an example set which all would do well to copy. Of course, it is the spirit and principle of doing good that is meant here; ways of doing good are manifold. Every graduate, we said. Yes; to them we look at this time and for the best of reasons. There is a strong demand on your culture, on your ability to do efficient work. Before the power of hearty united action obstacles are easily surmounted, and obstructions brought low. No good reason can be given why pressing, crying want for the wherewithal should exist, giving occasion to outsiders to bid us with a sneer look to our depleted treasury to know how much Baptists care for their College. We do look for a general waking up to the exigency of our affairs; indifference, if it exists, should give place to nothing short of enthusiasm; fresh and healthful views of duty ought to expel all prejudice and apathy. In fact there is wanted a new life from within manifesting itself in stronger and less selfish action, a zeal that is pure and burning, a purpose at once high and uncompromising.

This is said in no spirit of fault-finding, nor are we prompted by feelings that have their root in any insensibility to merit. Graduates of our College wish her well; many of them are her truest friends. You have but to talk with them or read some letters that have lately appeared in the "Messenger" to know this. In those letters there breathes the spirit of enthusiastic and devoted alumni, and to alumni we look for counsel, sympathy, and substantial aid in this the day of Acadia's special need. Why? Because they well understand these needs by virtue of their position, by virtue of what they have themselves received. The very word *alumnus* points out or suggests obligation. It has both a passive and an active sense—the one who is nourished, and he who nourishes. The former has been fulfilled; the latter awaits or is in process of fulfilment.

Our attention too is called to the fact that the college has a history. True this history does not reach far back—not even half a century. Indeed there are a few among us who nobly and manfully fought our educational battles when as yet our college was not. In this respect there is a