

# Acadia Athenæum.

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## TO OUR PATRONS.

IT WILL be seen by referring to another column that the students of "Acadia" have determined to continue the publication of the ACADIA ATHENÆUM during the present academic year. The ATHENÆUM has maintained an existence throughout the larger part of one year, and the reception that it has met with among our former students and the public generally, has been very gratifying to those having it in their charge, and encourages them to undertake its publication again. With regard to its success as a literary periodical, we shall not arrogate to ourselves the province of determining. That we are beyond criticism it would be but folly to maintain. That we have learned by criticism we are free to admit.

Our readers will remember that in a prospectus published prior to the issuing of the first number of our paper, last year, we stated, in words of this import, that it should be our aim to lay before the public such matters of interest in connection with our Alma Mater, as we thought should be more generally known by the supporters of this College, and interested in the work done here. In attempting to carry this design into effect we became unavoidably entangled in a controversy with the "Dalhousie Gazette," the organ of Dalhousie College, and much of our space was necessarily occupied with

answers to charges brought against us and the College we are connected with, by that paper. But whilst, doubtless, to many of our readers this controversy was uninteresting, especially to those who had not access to the "Gazette," or who may not have been in sympathy with us; yet they could not ask us to yield a principle or to desert the combat, so long as we *believed*, and if logical deductions, based upon known and recognized facts, prove anything, *proved* that we had truth on our side. We hope, however, that occasion may not require that our space shall be thus occupied again. Our aim ever shall be to make the ACADIA ATHENÆUM, as far as we shall be able, worthy of our patrons, the Institution whence it emanates, and ourselves.

## COLLEGE OUTLOOK FOR 1875-6.

THE present Collegiate year has opened under very favorable auspices. It must indeed be gratifying to those having the government and supervision of these institutions committed to their charge, to witness the marked success which has attended their labors. It is a somewhat trite, yet true remark, that "this is an age of progress," and the Governors of Acadia seem to be fully aware of the importance of keeping pace with the times. They seem indeed to be men well calculated to fill the responsible position they occupy.

Perhaps the most pleasing, and at the same time convincing, proof of the increasing prosperity of this College, is the manifestly growing interest with regard to our educational institutions at Horton, which is discernible in the Baptist denomination in the Maritime Provinces. Acadia although situated in Nova Scotia, is now no longer looked upon merely as a Nova Scotian College, but as the Baptist University of the three Provinces. Every member of the Denomination is beginning to feel that he has a personal interest in the Institutions here, and that it is his duty to aid in carrying them on. We do not affirm that such is the case, but yet we see a tendency—an onward movement towards that desirable result.

The importance of higher education is being more deeply felt each year. Especially is this the case in connection with the sacred desk. The old idea that education is not requisite to fit a man for that calling is, we are happy to say, becoming obsolete. The necessity of cultured mind, not only "rightly to divide the word of truth," but also to combat successfully the opposing theories of errorists and skeptics of every class is now pretty generally admitted. The reversion of feeling on this point has been gradual in its progress, and is not entirely com-

pleted yet. The large measure of success which attended the labors of the old and justly venerated Fathers of our denomination in by-gone years, is looked upon by some as an argument against Collegiate education, inasmuch as they never enjoyed its benefits. But if the condition of the people at that time be taken into account the case is at once changed. An uneducated people may be led by uneducated men—an educated people require educated men, other things being equal.

Nor is it alone as a preparation for the pulpit, that the importance of cultured mind is being felt, and its benefits appreciated. Men are beginning to see that every avocation in life is ennobled by it. The idea that "mind is the standard of the man," long since advanced by Watts, is now recognized as the true standard of greatness. Hence the young men of our Provinces are now feeling the importance of availing themselves of the present facilities for acquiring a classical education, which are now brought within the reach of all. The increase in the number of students at the different Colleges is conclusive proof of the above statement.

The above considerations lead us to predict a bright future for our Alma Mater, since we already observe, to some extent, the influence of those sentiments on the community at large. Our Freshman Class this year numbers twenty-six—more than double the ordinary number; so that if succeeding classes are as large, and we believe they will be, our numbers instead of being from thirty to forty, will, in the course of a few years, exceed one hundred.

It will not be necessary for us to go into detail in regard to the working, or to the work done by the College, since that topic was discussed last year. Suffice it to say, that in connection with the arts' department we have seven professors engaged in imparting instruction. Five of these devote their time exclusively to the course in arts. The educational advantages of which those men have availed themselves, added to a long experience in imparting instruction, through which most of them have passed, will warrant us we think in the conclusion that they are equal, if not superior, to any educational faculty in the Provinces.

Viewed, then, from every stand-point the prospects at the opening of this year are favourable. Our Denomination is growing in numbers and in liberality. Our College, which has always held a prominent place in its affections, is from year to year becoming more highly appreciated; and our young men feeling the necessity of developing all those faculties with which Nature has endowed them, are looking to Acadia, as the place where their desires in this respect can be satisfied.