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Lines

ON THE DEATH OF A MUCH RESPECTED MEDICAL DOCTOR, OF THIS CITY.

Angel of Mercy! this thy wondrous prayer,
Spare useful lives, and make the just thy care.
But He! too wise to err, has ordered this,
Has saved by calling to a realm of bliss!
The dearest man in meek submission low,
For some of earth may wish, what dost Thou?
Such was he known to all, the exceeding grief,
Not unforgetful of his prompt relief.
His skill professional was his need—
A Christian doctor is a friend indeed;
For, while his healing art they may command,
They share the bounties of his liberal hand.
Such was he known to all, the exceeding grief,
Now called to take of the exceeding great reward.
Inevitable to us are all His ways,
Who calls for boundless trust, for constant praise!
Then came we hear the tidings—not as ill
Was a subject of His Master's will.
Waiting His will, who master'd out his days,
Lengthening the sum of never ending grace,
Softening bereavement to the sorrowing friends,
While consolations such as these He lends.
Halifax, June 22nd, 1853.

Old Joe Lancaster, or "Company Enough."

Somewhat more than ten years ago, two men, both past the meridian of life, might have been seen winding their way along a narrow, secluded road in one of the many valleys which skirt the base of the Cumberland hills. Lovely as the scenery was around, yet the theme which called forth the following remark seemed to have so interested the speaker that all other objects of the sight of it, and turning a countenance happy in the expression of enjoyment on his listener, he said:

"I have been all round the neighborhood, and yours is the house I must preach in. Will you consent to it?"

The party addressed was a farmer, rough in his exterior, blunt in his speech, and possessing an eye so quick in its movements, and searching in its perceptions, that his applicant felt that any other than an honest object would quickly have been detected and as promptly discarded. His conscience, too, though it did not seem to be enlightened to any great extent, appeared weighty and well-respected in its feelings, and even then, as the mighty illuminating power from on high accompanied the whole with his own appeal, the man of God discerned his operations, and that conscience, as an imprisoned giant shaking even from the dungeon, the whole edifice with its terrible voice, he turned to reply, he referred to the Saviour of the Heavenly Guest here, and he had heard he may receive us.—*Christian Miscellany.*

Theory of Epidemics.

Some able writers have endeavored to account for the manner in which diseases emanate from the air, by a theory not unattended to attention. As the air is ever more or less filled with the emanations of putrefying animal and vegetable matter, they have assimilated the action of these particles upon the blood, to that of yeast on wort. By the fermentation produced by yeast, the sugar is changed into alcohol. It is, apparently, predisposed for the change, and the slightest assistance it receives enables it to unite the former union of its particles, and to enter into a wholly new state of chemical combinations. Just so, animal matter floating in the air, in the chemical state of gases called putrescence, if not sufficiently diluted as capable of entering the blood, with which it may come in contact, into an analogous state of fermentation. Thus of course, it totally alters its nature, and renders it incapable of fulfilling its proper functions.

Other writers have supposed that the air, when rendered impure, becomes overladen with multitudes of microscopic insects, who attack the human body as smut attacks corn. Conceive a minute fungus, whose spores, floating in the air, form the germs of epidemic disease. But all the various theories brought forward proceeded from the assumption of a vitiated state of the atmosphere.

To understand the full force of these theories, we must remember that the human body is a wonderful combination of innumerable particles, all placed in different degrees of chemical affinity or antagonism to each other, and by their separate, and in their proper relations, by the inscrutable powers of vitality. Fort wine will tan and convert into a species of leather the stomach of a dead person; and the gastric juices, that possess the power of dissolving not only animal substances, but even metals, fails to digest the least degree, the tender vessels with which they are in constant contact, as long as life holds its full dominion.

How wonderfully does one single fluid—the blood—in its passage through each organ of the body, yield to it the different secretion required to enable it to fulfil its proper functions—supporting, at the same time, that very vitality which it at once sustains and serves! Life has no sooner departed, and let loose all the different atoms of which our earthly tabernacle is formed, than they engage in the great strife that evuates in its total dissolution. As in a moral sense, the spirit is ever at war with the inclinations of the flesh; so, too, in a physical sense, the different elements of the body are only preserved in their integrity by the despotic control of vitality.

These considerations derive some title to notice from the unshaken fact that epidemics are almost invariably accompanied by an extraordinary development of insect life; and seldom fails also to produce more remarkable effects upon the lower animals.

We have often heard of the "showers of blood" that are said to have preceded pestilence, striking terror into the minds of the vulgar. The showers of colored rain are almost invariably caused either by the multitudes of microscopic insects, or sometimes by the growth of a species of fungus. Dudley, Digges, in the Arctic regions, are sometimes covered with snow and a bright crimson.

Whether these crimson globules belong to the animal or vegetable kingdom, has been much disputed; but Sir John Ross, the discoverer, insists that they are vegetable production, and has called them the "Uredinae." He has so styled them, because, he maintains they belong to the genus "Uredinae," vulgarly known as the smut in wheat.

It is evident that the phenomenon of colored rain cannot occur particularly in our latitudes, without some extraordinary atmospheric changes, of which philosophy has failed to discover the cause; but it frequently takes place on the eve of a pestilence.

Dr. Barker has recorded the fall of an ink black forest rain (doublets animalcules) near Carleton on the 14th and 15th of April, 1842, as a period coincident with the outbreak of the cholera in that town. This belief in a connection between both circumstances, also prevails extensively in India; and though perhaps it receives an undue amount of credit, the popularity of the theory vouches for the frequency in the mind of the general public. The development of insect life also preceded the pestilence elsewhere, as has been frequently witnessed and recorded.—*Dublin University Magazine.*

The Comet of 1856.

The following interesting details respecting the comet which is expected to make its appearance about the year 1856, are given by M. Rabinet, an eminent French astronomer, and a member of the Academy of Sciences, in an article recently published in the "Revue des Deux Mondes." This comet is one of the greatest of which historians make mention. Its period of revolution is about three hundred years. It was seen in the years 104, 392, 638, 975, 1264, and the last time in 1556. Astronomers agreed in predicting its return in 1848, but it failed to appear—*many an astronomer, according to the expression of M. Rabinet, and continues to abide still, unseen by us.* Already the observatories begin to be alarmed for the fate of their beautiful wandering star. Sir John Herschel himself had put a crane upon his telescope, when a learned astronomer of Middleburg, M. Bonnycastle, re-assured the astronomical world of the continued existence of the venerable and magnificent comet.

"Disquieted, as all other astronomers were, by the non-appearance of the comet at the expected time, M. Bonnycastle, aided by the preparatory labours of Mr. Hind, with a patient and truly Dutch, has revised all the calculations, and estimated all the actions of all the planets upon the comet for three hundred years of revolution. The result of this patient labour gives the arrival of the comet in August 1856, with an uncertainty of two years more or less; so that, from 1856 to 1860, we may expect the great comet which was the cause of the abdication of the Emperor Charles V. in 1556.

It is known that partaking of the general superstition which interpreted the appearance of a comet as the forerunner of some fatal event, Charles V. believed that this comet addressed its menaces particularly to him, as holding the first rank among sovereigns. The great, and once, but now wretched and shattered monarch, had been for some time the victim of a nervous fever. There were threatening indications in the political if not in the physical horizon, of a still greater tempest to come. He was left to cry in despair, "Fortune abandons old men. The appearance of the blazing star seemed to him an admonition from heaven, that he must quit the world, if he would avoid a fatality from which only without authority might be spared. It is known that the Emperor survived his abdication but two years.

Another comet which passed near us in 1835, and which has appeared twenty-five times since the year 18 before the Christian era, has been associated by the superstitious with many important events which have occurred near the periods of its visitation.

In 1066 William the Conqueror landed in England at the head of a numerous army, about the time that the comet appeared which bore the name of the Harbinger of the English as a prognostic of the victory of the Normans. It infused universal terror into the minds of the people, and contributed not a little towards the submission of the country after the battle of Hastings, as it had served to discourage the soldiers of Harold, the English. The comet is represented upon the famous tapestry at Bayeux, executed by Queen Matilda, the wife of the conqueror. This celebrated tapestry is preserved in the present episcopal palace at Bayeux. It represents the principal incidents, including the appearance of the comet, the story of the conquest of England, by William, Duke of Normandy. It is supposed to have been executed by Matilda, the conqueror's wife, or by the Empress Matilda, daughter of Henry I. It consists of a linen web, 214 feet in length and 20 inches broad; and is believed to have been woven by the hands of an inscription indicating its subject. The figures are all executed by the needle.

"The same comet, in 1456, threw terror among the Turks under the command of Mahomet II., and into the ranks of the Christians during the terrible battle of Belgrade, in which 40,000 Mussulmans perished. The comet is described by historians of the time as 'immense, terrible of enormous length, carrying in its train a tall which covered two celestial signs, (60 degrees), and producing universal terror.' Judging from this portrait, comets have singularly degenerated in our day. It will be remembered, however, that in 1811, there appeared a comet of great brilliancy, which inspired some superstitious fears. Since that epoch, science has noted nearly eighty comets, which, with few exceptions, were visible only by the aid of the telescope. Kepler, when asked how many comets he thought there were in the heavens, answered, 'As many as there are fish in the sea.'

"Thanks to the progress of astronomical science, these singular stars are no longer objects of terror. The theories of Newton, Halley, and their successors have completely destroyed the imaginary empire of comets. As respects their physical nature, it was for a long time supposed that they were composed of a compact core, surrounded by a luminous atmosphere. On this subject the opinion of M. Rabinet, who must be regarded as good authority on such questions, is as follows:—'Comets cannot exercise any material influence upon our globe; and the earth, should it traverse a comet in its entire length, would perceive it no more than if it should cross a cloud a hundred thousand

million of times higher than our atmosphere, and which could no more make its way through our air than the slightest puff of an ordinary bellows could make its way through an anvil.' It would be difficult to find a comparison more re-assuring."

It is strikingly true, that the comet which is now in the sky, is the same as that which appeared in the year 1811. It is the same as that which appeared in the year 1811. It is the same as that which appeared in the year 1811.

Stray Thoughts.

Twilight is purpling all the eastern hills with her fading radiance, fair fleeting clouds of crimson and amber float like gorgeous banners round the sinking sun. The glory of the departing sunlight mantles the tiny grassy slopes, and the ancient trees cast deep shadows on the "hills from old heroic ages grey," and the calm is all pre-occupied with the solemn darkness of night.

So passing and changeable is this life—Time lays his heavy fingers on our hearts, and they wither. They "grow in beauty side by side and fill one home with gloom," abide not evermore beneath the shade of the ancestral roof-tree. The spoiler enters the earth-home, and lo! the brow once so fair in its infantine beauty, is mantled with the heavy dew of death—yet all over with the petals yet unfolded, fades away from us. Then the mention of high duty and holy privilege, calls another fort to gird on the armor, and battle earnestly, manfully in that sacramental host, whose watchword is "God with us."

Life hath ever its turmoil and its change, yet all over with the petals yet unfolded, fades away from us. Then the mention of high duty and holy privilege, calls another fort to gird on the armor, and battle earnestly, manfully in that sacramental host, whose watchword is "God with us."

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The Unpardonable Sin.

To every mind susceptible of religious impressions, a terrible mystery gathers around the transgression which Christ affirms finds no forgiveness. There is a universal feeling, that the sin which is committed by the sinner, is a sin which is unpardonable. The sinner who has committed this sin, is a sinner who is unpardonable. The sinner who has committed this sin, is a sinner who is unpardonable.

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The Dying Swan.

BY MISS E. A. WOODRUFF.

I listen to the song
Which, gliding bird, doth from the waters rise
In airy sweetness to the smiling skies
And float the hills along.

Wild is thy strain and lone;
With strong sweet power my startled heart
Pours my being through in music's rills
Of mournful echoing tone.

A bright spot o'er thy heart
Hath the fair earth cast in her smiling hours;
Sighs that thou art from her glorious power
Bow down.

'Tis thine now to depart?
Like children in their glee
Her young rills laugh amid the meadow flowers,
Flinging bright glances to day's swift-winged hours,
Joying in life so free.

And to the dreaming night
They sing, when the lone valleys lay laid,
As o'er the earth she bends her queenly head,
Rich crowned with jewels bright.

Beauteous undying glances
Along their paths; and wouldst thou never leave
Her thrilling presence that thou seem'st to grieve
In thy song's sweet flow?

O ye earnest thy strange spirit
To drink forever of that ceaseless pain
The earth records to him who gave thee being,
A sick boon to inherit?

Wouldst I ever join thy strains
Of untamed melody to the rich songs
Through forest-aisles, o'er blooming hills and plains,
By soft winds borne along?

Vain striving to divine
The source whence flows each and each enchaning note,
Which like molten tones successively float
In this last song of thine!

Yet is it not a bliss
To watch with melody to loose the link
Which binds the spirit to the crumbling brink
Of changing world like this!

This would I pass from life
With song triumphant from my pale lips poured,
Growing but sweeter as my spirit soared
From earth's vain joy and strife.

Though never more my eyes
Should to the morning's splendour lift their gaze,
Or watch at close of Summer's golden days,
The burning western skies;

Should never more for me
Should Spring with life and beauty tread the vale,
And some fragrance fill the passing gale,
And earth be fair to see;

Though I should not rejoice
When green-robed Summer smiled on hill and dale,
The Summer I have ever loved so well
Though never more my voice;

Should tremblingly assay
To utter faintly my heart had known;
Yet oh! I would not breathe one mournful tone
In my last earthly lay!

I would that joy should swell
My spirit's anthem; that the voice of Faith
Should the pale Terrors charm which wait on death,
And whisper—'All is well.'

I would that in the strain
Were some caught from a higher, holier sphere,
Where gladsome songs have few faint echoes here,
Where mingle joy and pain.

Then would my spirit soar
Through endless day; nor would the anthem cease
Begun on earth—in Heaven a song of peace,
Immortal evermore!

Little Robbie's Death.

A few nights ago, says Mr. Pickard of Philadelphia, just as I was going to bed, a lady came in, and asked me to go over to a neighbour's house, and see "Little Robbie," who was dying. Her comment on the strange scene induced me to go. Just before I went in, he had several times called, "Come, children, come!" and I found that all the little ones of the household—who had gone to bed—had been brought into his chamber by his parents to take their last farewell. He called each one by name. "Come, children, come! Come, children, come!" and whenever his parents would ask, "Where, Robbie?" he would answer, "To Heaven."

After the children retired to bed again, he repeated again and again the call, "Come, children, come! Come, children, come!" and whenever his parents would ask, "Where, Robbie?" he would answer, "To Heaven."

Then he would say, as he lay on his back, with his eyes fixed on the ceiling, "Please God take Robbie. God please take Robbie." These expressions were continually interspersed with "To Heaven, come!" and "Where, Robbie?" he would answer, "To Heaven."

For three or four hours he lay thus gazing intently upward, as though he was looking into heaven, and almost incessantly, during that time, uttering these expressions in an audible and almost ringing tone. "Please, please, God take Robbie a white rose." A red one being the only one convenient, it was brought. When it was offered, he rejected it, saying, "No, no, Robbie don't want that." After awhile he asked again for a white rose. When it was brought he said, "Let me smell it. That will do; yes, put it away now." This was but little intermission during the last few hours of his life of the above remarkable expressions, so that he must have uttered these scores, perhaps hundreds, of times. At one time as I stood over him, gazing with wonder on him, I recited the hymn—

"There is a happy land,
He ceased to talk, while I spoke, showing that the subject agreed with and filled up his thoughts; but as soon as I had done, he began again, "Please God take Robbie," etc. Again he was silent during most of the time that prayer was offered at his bedside. The last words he spoke was almost inaudible, a mere whisper, "Come, children, come"—he had not breath to utter the last word, and the fluttering spark of life went out.

A Fable for Strong Minded Females.

The following beautiful allegory is from the interesting *Allegories* of Henry R. Schoolcraft, Esq.—A vine was growing beside a thrifty oak; and had just reached that height at which it required support.—"Oak," said the Ivy Vine, "may I not lean on you? You are a sturdy oak, and you may support me. My support, replied the oak, is naturally yours, and you may rely on my strength to bear you up, but I am too large and too solid to bend. Put your arms around me, my pretty vine, and I will naturally support and cherish you, if you have an imagination as high as high as the clouds. While I thus hold you up you will ornament my rough trunk with your pretty green leaves and shining scarlet berries. They will be as frontlets to my head, and I shall stand in the forest like a plant which has been nurtured by the hand of man. We were made by the master of life to grow together, that by our union the weak may be made strong, and the strong render aid to the weak." But I wish to grow independently, said the Vine, "why cannot you twine around me, and let me grow up straight, and not be a mere dependent upon you?" "Naturally," answered the Oak, "did not so design it. It is impossible that you should grow to any height alone, and if you try it, the winds and rain, if not your own weight, will bring you to the ground.—Neither is it proper for you to run your arms and legs about me, among the trees. The trees will begin to say, 'I don't like it, it is a stranger—get her gone. I will not cherish her. By this time thou wilt be so entangled among the different branches, that thou canst not get back to the oak; and nobody will then admire thee, or pity thee.' Ah, me," said the Vine, "let me escape from such a destiny, and permit me to grow independent around the oak, and they both grow and flourish happily together.

Leaning on Christ.

When I was a child, I had a brother who was afflicted with a disease in one of his limbs, which threatened to terminate his life. After a long and protracted illness, his disease took a favourable turn and he began to recover. As his health and strength gradually returned, a longing desire to be upon his feet and look again upon the face of nature, would tempt him to rise from his bed, and try his strength by endeavouring to stand. But finding his enfeebled powers unable to sustain the weight, he would seize upon a door that opened into his apartments, and thus maintain an erect position.

A short time since, I heard him illustrate the reliance of the soul upon Christ, by this incident in his early history. "Oak," said he, "is that open door, on which I used to lean; while I held it fast I was enabled to stand, but letting go, I fell. So when I endeavour to stand in my own strength, I fall; if my attempts serve but to show my weakness, but holding on to Christ by faith, when I am weak, then I am strong. Young Christian, trembling believer, hold fast with an unyielding grasp to Christ. The more you feel your weakness, cling the closer to the Saviour. Let your motto be—

"Weaker than a broken reed,
He is every moment ready to succour me,
Other help have I none,
Heavy helpmeet is Thy Name."

Sewen Properties of Scripture.

The properties of scripture may be summarily enumerated as follows:

1. All of it is clear and intelligible enough to persons who sincerely desire so conform the heart and life accordingly.
2. The Word of God is found to be of special effect upon the human heart for conviction, conversion, instruction, and comfort, in all ages and nations; and thereby evinces its divine authority; whence it follows—
3. It is the standard for determining every controversy in matters of faith.
4. It is perfect, as containing whatever is necessary to be known and believed in order to salvation.
5. It is also profitable, as containing nothing irrelevant or useless.
6. The provision of God has watched over it, so that it retains its purity unaltered, and can be enjoyed now, as it ever could be from the beginning.—*Anglican.*

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Obituary Notice.

Died at Sackville, Westmoreland, New Brunswick, on the 6th instant, in the 65th year of his age, Mr. FERDINAND C. SCURRY...

Provincial Wesleyan

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1853.

Confidential.

We do not see any just cause why editors may not have occasionally a little confidential conversation with their readers.

We claim, then, this privilege, and would hold the ears of our friends for a few minutes. Distance will prevent you, friends, from feeling the grasp too tight, and not intending to inflict any injury on those necessary ornaments, we shall let you off as easily as we can.

For the past four years, if we have not done all we would, we have done it in the best of circumstances we conveniently could, to provide for your mental entertainment, we hope for your profit also, not overlooking your spiritual improvement.

Our editorial course has been one of increasing toil to itself. In the prosecution of our work, we have literally burnt the candle for late nights, oftentimes until the gray of the morning has warned us of the necessity of retiring to seek some broken rest.

As long as you seemed satisfied with our weekly (we hope not weekly) appearance, we have cheerfully toiled, and submitted to the sacrifices we have been required to make.

Our official position, we assure you, has been no secret, and nothing but a very strong conviction that we are in our providential path, has induced us to continue in it.

We feel thankful for the increased number of subscribers forwarded during the year by our respected and highly valued Agents, and if the paper is calculated to do good, it is matter of rejoicing that it has been so efficiently introduced in accomplishing its mission.

That in review of the Academic year just terminated the Board express their high approbation of the zeal, ability, and efficiency with which the respected and talented Principals, and the Faculty associated with him, have discharged their important duties, alike in the departments of tuition and government; and their gratitude to Almighty God for the growing favour with which the Institution is regarded by the public, as manifested by the increased number of Students in attendance during the year.

That the examinations and other exercises connected with the close of the present term, have been regarded by the Board with more than ordinary interest and gratification, as evincing highly successful results of the admirable system of instruction which has been in operation.

That the cordial thanks of the Board be presented to the Rev. John Allison, for the highly appropriate, able and felicitous Address, on the obligations of educated men, which he has favoured us in connection with the exercises of this year; and that he be respectfully requested to furnish a copy of the address, for publication in the columns of the Provincial Wesleyan.

In the first of the preceding Resolutions, reference is made to the cheering fact that there has been an encouraging increase in the number of Students the past year. From the Report of Classes, forwarded by the respected Principals to our late District Meeting, it appears that from August 6, 1852, to May 20, 1853, the total number of Students entered, was 135.

Improving exercises in Composition and Declamation regularly occupy a portion of the time of the Students alternate Saturdays; to which I ought to add, what the Board desire to be generally known, and what every devout and enlightened friend of education will rejoice to hear, that all the resident Students have received instructions in Biblical knowledge, each Sabbath during the term.

To these plain facts and unvarnished statements, it were altogether superfluous to add any thing in the way either of eulogy or appeal. The history of the Wesleyan Academy furnishes the best, because a practical record of its progress. The noble design which, twelve years ago, existed only as an aspiration in the heart of its disinterested Founder, has become a tangible and a telling reality.

And, when we think of the progress of the Female Branch now in progress of erection, and added to that which has been so long in successful operation, CHARLES F. ALLISON, Esq., will have conferred upon his country, as well as upon the Church of which it is an ornament, an obligation of incalculable magnitude.

I am, My dear Sir, Yours respectfully, MATTHEW RICHIE, Halifax, N. S., July 1, 1853.

The Wesleyan Academy, Mount Allison, Westmoreland.

We have deemed it but our duty, as journalists of whatever was occurring around us affecting any of the general interests of our Province, to present to the public through our columns such information as we could conveniently secure from time to time respecting the progress of the very important work which has been so successfully carried on in this favoured one among the higher educational establishments of our Province.

The academic year which has just closed, has, we rejoice to learn, from the statistics which we have obtained, been one of not only undiminished but increased prosperity. During the last term there have been in the three departments of instruction a total number of one hundred and five students of different ages and attainments, from the mere lad of twelve, in the fourth, to the young man of twenty or more years, in the collegiate department.

We understand that the anniversary exercises, on Monday and Tuesday of this week, were of the most interesting and encouraging character to all who were privileged to be present on the occasion. They commenced on the former day at 9 A. M. with the simultaneous examination of classes in each of the four convenient recitation rooms of the institution. In the course of the day, classes, thirty in all, were examined in English, Grammar, Geography, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, Algebra, Geometry, Mensuration, Land Surveying, Chemistry, Geology, Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, French, Latin, Greek, Rhetoric and Mental Philosophy, in the presence of the Members of the Board of Trustees and other

promise, while his exemplary assiduity in his different studies had won for him the unequalled approbation of his instructors, and a standing for scholarship second to none in the Academy, had made respectable proficiency in the important art of composition. In concluding passages, in which the estimable Founder of the Institution, the Faculty, the Church and his fellow-students were successively addressed, were characterized by genuine pathos, and found the most appropriate and irresistible means of his crowded auditory. Were the students generally, who seek an education within the portals of Mount Allison Academy, to emulate the diligence of this young gentleman who, with the accumulated success of five years' application, is now issuing from them, it would soon sustain a comparison with kindred institutions even more advantageous than it does at present.

This closed the exercises, so far as the students were concerned, of the late Academic Anniversary, leaving an impression upon the equality and the heart of all who witnessed them, equal, tender and tenacious. Documentary testimonials of character and Scholarship were given by the Principals to those students who have spent a considerable time in the Institution, and whose connection with it now terminates.

Then came the address on THE OBLIGATIONS OF EDUCATED MEN, by the REV. JOHN ALLISON, which for the classic beauty and purity of its style, and the comprehensiveness, discrimination and lucidity of the views which it embodied on its happily selected topics, would have illustrated a high reputation for philosophic observation and eloquent exposition. The excellent Chaplain, whose influence on the moral and religious character of the Institution is increasingly effective and appreciated, gave out a suitable hymn at the close of Mr. Allison's admirable address, and called upon the Rev. Dr. Ritchey to engage in prayer. Happy and hallowed day! May thy salutary influences extend to immortality!

An request by the Board of Trustees, to place in your hands for publication the following Resolutions, adopted at a meeting held in the Receiving Room of the Institution, immediately subsequent to the public exercises on Tuesday, I ought, perhaps, to apologise for the space I have occupied in introducing these Resolutions, which will be found officially to corroborate the general views to which I have given utterance.

Resolutions proposed and unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Wesleyan Academy, Sackville, held on Tuesday, June 21, 1853.

REV. RICHARD KNIGHT, PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR. "I. Moved by the Rev. Ephraim Evans, D.D., seconded by S. Fulton, Esq., M. P. P.

That in review of the Academic year just terminated the Board express their high approbation of the zeal, ability, and efficiency with which the respected and talented Principals, and the Faculty associated with him, have discharged their important duties, alike in the departments of tuition and government; and their gratitude to Almighty God for the growing favour with which the Institution is regarded by the public, as manifested by the increased number of Students in attendance during the year.

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friends of education from different parts of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward's Island.

On Tuesday morning, the spacious Chapel or Lecture Room was filled to overflowing by a most respectable assembly, convened to witness the most public exercises, which began at nine o'clock with the reading by Masters Nellie, Wood, McLeod, Olive and King, from the Junior classes, pieces in composition. Then came performance in declamation by J. G. Angwin, J. L. Reid, J. B. Snowball, Alex. Wright, J. Knight, C. W. Smith, J. T. Knowles, S. King and A. E. Wilson, in which each speaker sustained very well his part. These were followed by the delivery of original essays or orations by F. W. Wood, on "The Importance of Early Life," by A. S. Tuttle, on "Education," by C. C. Gardiner, on "Patriotism," by S. P. Tack, on "The Mind of Nature," by G. G. Johnson, on "A Study," by A. D. McLeod, on "National Greatness," with vaudeville addresses. The three first named speakers belonging to the intermediate, and the other three to the collegiate department.

The original pieces were pronounced by competent judges to be highly creditable, both in composition and delivery, to the Academy, as well as to the young gentlemen themselves; the last, especially, was listened to with great attention, and many a youthful eye testified to the power which the moistened eye exercised over the feelings of his audience.

The Principals then made the customary report of the standing secured by each student by his diligence and good conduct during the Term in "Literary Rank" and "General Department." Twenty-two were found entitled to the fourth, forty-nine to the third, twenty-six to the second, and three, viz., S. P. Tack, A. D. McLeod, and Samuel Avery, Jun., to the first or highest "Literary Rank." Diplomas or certificates were then given to four of the students, who, after having been two, three and five years connected with the Institution, were about to pass forth to "the battle of life."

An appropriate address, on "The Responsibilities of Educated Men," was then delivered by the Rev. John Allison, of this City. It will be seen, from the notice in our advertising columns, that the next Term is to commence on Thursday, the 4th of August next. Parents who have sons to be sent from home for education, cannot, we believe, do better than to secure for them the advantages of the moral and mental discipline of the educational course at Mount Allison.—St. John Courier.

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A Word in Season.

Whether for weal or woe to this Province, there is an immense amount of business in progress during the present season. Even to those who are familiar with the generally extensive operations of Trade along the River St. John from its outlet to its sources, the transactions of this year afford much matter for reflection, and not do we hesitate to say that the value of the property conveyed on either route by this single channel, would far exceed that of any similar conveyance in the North American Colonies.

How far this extensive trade—its consequences with respect to the improvement and the increased circulation of money throughout the general prosperity, we will not pretend to determine. Certain it is that each and all of these circumstances are vastly agreeable at the present moment—yet strange as the anomaly may appear to those who are not intimately acquainted with the physical and commercial constitution of New Brunswick, we may state within the strict bounds of truth, that the present year and its two immediate fore-runners—so indisputably famous for good easy times—have witnessed less real and substantial improvement in the permanent sources of Provincial wealth, than have the very worst years hitherto known in the country. The money so plentifully made has been recklessly spent. The necessities of life have been supplanted by its abundant comforts, and these again have been dissipated in the most unproductive manner. Expensive habits have been formed, and the means of support neglected and despised, and thus, while the people exhibit in their persons, an extraordinary degree of ease and affluence, the country, with all its natural beauty and fertility, remains a comparative wilderness!

The real business of the country has not without success reached its crisis. The nature of things will not permit it to retain its overstrained position much longer; and well indeed will that man exhibit his prudence who can have the strength of mind to stop the play while it is good. Many of the Farmers and Farmer's sons have not without success reached their crisis. The nature of things will not permit it to retain its overstrained position much longer; and well indeed will that man exhibit his prudence who can have the strength of mind to stop the play while it is good.

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Wonderful Cave in California.

A correspondent of the Calaveras Chronicle furnishes the following account of a wonderful cave in that county:

Calaveras county seems to abound in natural curiosities, as there are many caves well worth visiting in that part of the country. The great prevalence of limestone in our ranges of hills will naturally account for these interesting formations. Lately I availed myself of the offer of a kind friend to conduct me to one of them, and was much pleased with my visit, although I am sorry to say, that visitors seem to emulate each other in their zeal to deform and deface what they see most carefully guarded and protected.

The cave to which I allude is situated about a mile from the town, on the south bank of a small branch of Sutter Creek. The entrance is through a small opening in the hill, just sufficient to admit a man's body. The descent is easy, the many projections of the rock affording ample means for footing.

Neither is it of very great depth, the top of the platform not being more than ten feet from the entrance, which slopes gently down till the centre is reached, forming a chamber of about twenty feet high, and about fifty long. The floor is composed of octagonal calcareous formation, along which, in a narrow bed, silently flows a cold stream, rising from a spring in one of the lateral chambers. The roof is divided into compartments, the centre being a large circle, from which depends clusters of stalactites of every variety, some crystalline, others opaque, while some again partake of a variegated hue, as if tinged by coloring matter. The ground around the cave is very fertile. The rock in the opening of the roof is as perfect as if moulded by the hand of art, terminating in massive pinnacles with richly adorned capitals, strongly reminding one of an ancient Gothic cathedral. From the main chamber three galleries, leading into small apartments, lead in groups of the most fanciful pinnacles, varying from the massive rock to the most delicate and finely pointed crystalline needles.

The duck-billed platypus (Ornithorhynchus paradoxus), seemed on its first discovery to be a creature quite as wonderful as any mammal. It has the body of a hairy quadruped, with a duck's bill; the feet are webbed and turned backwards like the flippers of a seal; and all the outlets from its body end in the same orifice (hence the name of the tribe, monotremes). It is of amphibious habits, and obtains its food from the muddy bottom of a lake or river. It is able to live under water for a considerable length of time. It produces its young in the same manner as many reptiles, from eggs hatched within its body. It possesses, instead of the usual shoulder-blade, a bone similar to that called the merry-thought in birds; and it appears to be a very peculiar animal, inasmuch as it is able to supply milk for its young, from a mammary gland named. This eccentric animal, on its first introduction to societies in Europe, created among naturalists great excitement; and grave doubts were entertained of the reality of its existence. When the arrival of more specimens proved that the platypus was not a manufactured monster, it was found necessary to assign to it a distinct and prominent position in the great zoological system, for upon no existing genus could the bird-beast-fish reptile be accurately classed. Many extraordinary theories were broached respecting it. The absence of any sensible nipples in the female was adduced as strong proof that the mode of reproduction was similar to that of birds—that the quadruped actually laid eggs. It was not until 1834 that Professor Owen set the subject finally at rest, by proving from repeated experiments and most minute and untiring investigation, that it is an eutherian, and it now goes the shelter of its mammalian rank. A London bookseller is said to have offered \$500 for this biographical treatise.

A FIELD OFFICER.—A German traveller informs the Rev. Dr. Phillips, a missionary in North Africa, that he has discovered a race of negroes near the kingdom of Bambara, that are Jews in their religious rites and observances. Nearly every family, he says, has among them the law of Moses, written on parchment; and although they speak of the Prophets, they have none of them in writings. There are yet vast unexplored tracts of land in Africa, doubtless, inhabited by negroes who have never looked upon the face of a white man. When adventurous travellers penetrate into these regions, much will be discovered and developed to astonish and interest the world.

RENEWING HIS YOUTH.—REV. W. Ellis, whose labors at Tahiti and the Sandwich Islands, and whose "Polynesian Researches" have made him widely known as the intrepid missionary of the cross, is again preparing to enter the field of missionary labor, after having been compelled by age and illness to retire; he goes forth at the head of a large and effective corps to re-occupy the long abandoned ground of Madagascar, and lay his bones on missionary ground. 7000 pounds sterling have been raised as a special fund for the support of this mission.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH, JUST PUBLISHED, is a volume of one hundred and seventy-two pages. The total collections during the year, were \$166,901 08. The Society embraces twenty-one Conferences.—The largest amount was received from the South Carolina Conference, viz. \$32,316 50. The Dublin Evening Herald gives the number of converts from Romanism to Protestantism during the last year, 40,000.

THE WHEELING (Pa.) Times states that a rumor is current in that city that a citizen of Centre Wheeling has fallen heir to an estate in England estimated at \$55,000,000. Upon this sum also, it is said, he will realize the interest for one hundred years.

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