

The Acadia Athenæum.

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THE
Acadia Athenæum.

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The Sanctum.

THE rapid increase in numbers of students at Acadia within the last few years is remarkable. When we consider the few pecuniary inducements in the way of scholarships, bursaries &c., her growth is marvellous. There has been no tremendous effort made on the part of the governors to boom the institutions. The college has no array of millionaires at its back to endow chairs and lift it beyond the chilling regions of want. But quietly and surely a growing popularity is pushing the institutions to success and crowding the boarding halls and class-rooms with young men and maidens athirst for knowledge. And yet our numbers could easily be doubled in four years. Were there but half the enthusiasm manifested in talking up the college which its merits warrant, law, medical and theological departments would spring to view here in properly equipped edifices as did by magic the gilded tents of the Caliph in Lalla Rookh: and who says that this is not the destiny of the hill is a prophet of evil.

The work however should not be left to the Professors alone. It is true that they by attending the denominational gatherings, the educational institutes and science schools may press upon the public the claims of higher education and be in a large measure successful in directing students hitherward; but the graduates ought also to be potent factors in the same work. Every man who goes forth with a diploma of graduation disgraces the college if he attain not to superior influence in whatever community he is placed. And they fail in common gratitude who neglect to use this influence in sending young people here. The students as well have during their vacations great opportunities. How they may hunt out those who are anxious for education! How inspire the hesitating and clean away prospective difficulties! Acadia has not yet reached the summit of her greatness. Her future is what her supporters choose to make it.

IT is gratifying to know that a feeling even distantly akin to compassion has taken possession of the faculty. We recollect the time when the juniors had scarcely a breathing space between the Terminal Examinations and their Rhetorical exhibition. Through some means a happier era has dawned. The juniors of this year had two whole days to recuperate. We are glad that better and wiser counsels have prevailed. To grind the very life out of a student and then compel him in an exhausted and nervous condition to face an audience is simply as heartless as it is unwise. The juniors of the future are to be congratulated on the prospect of more considerate treatment being extended to them.

THE particular aim of the founders of the Academy at Wolfville was to provide training for young men entering the ministry in our own denomination, and although the old Grand Pre Academy has developed into a flourishing university with a healthy feeder, and an institution for the general education of young ladies, the original purpose

has never been lost sight of. Acadia College is open to all comers, and offers the same liberal advantages to all, irrespective of sect or calling, and yet in an especial manner, guards the interests of our own denomination.

For many years there was in connection with the College a chair of theology, but as this department failed to fully meet the requirements of these later years, the Maritime Baptists were induced to unite with the upper Canadian Baptists in theological education, and utilize all the strength at Acadia in the interests of general education.

That the Baptists of Canada now have in the west a Theological Seminary comparing favorably with any other on this continent, is undeniable, and yet it is equally true that the matter of theological education for the Maritime Provinces is still an unsettled question, and one that at the present time deserves a great deal of attention.

The principal difficulty in the way of successful cooperation with the Canadian Baptists seems to be the great distance and consequent expense of travel as compared with the easy access to the seminaries in New England. Hence, admitting all the difficulties in the way of such a departure at the present time, we question whether anything short of the establishment of a Theological Seminary in these provinces will meet the necessities of the situation, although much might be done to render more accessible to our ministerial students the advantages which these various Theological Seminaries offer. This can best be done by making more generous provision for the students themselves. It is well known that the majority of the men who enter the ministry of our denomination are of scanty means and usually without even a liberal education. To such an one the difficulties in the way of securing a university course can only be realized by experience. Helps are offered to all such cases by the Theological Seminaries, but the student, if he be true to his own interests, and to the demands of his calling, cannot avail himself of these benefits until he has taken the course in Arts.

A certain proportion of the Convention Fund is set aside for the purposes of ministerial education, but the appropriations are so trifling as not to materially affect the circumstances of the student who receives them. By the time one has worried through one or two years in the preparatory department, and four

years in college, he is most likely to have become so involved in debt as to be obliged to forego the advantages of theological training, and put himself up to the highest bidder, as a candidate for the pastorate. Many there are also not even able to secure the full arts course. This is unfortunate indeed, in the present age, when such great demands are being made upon the ministry, and when men of culture as well as talent are needed.

If however, we are only to have one institution, let that be the general university, but let provisions be made whereby every worthy young man who purposes entering the ministry may obtain all the advantages there afforded. During the first years the student is able to do but little for himself. If he has not already won a reputation as a preacher he is likely to meet very little appreciation from the churches, and, in fact, be left to struggle along as best he may. This principle is wrong. The time the student most needs assistance is not after he graduates from the college and begins theological study, but during his first years of study. Let provisions be made, such that young men for the ministry can finish the arts course unencumbered, and they are in a position to take care of themselves. On the other hand the liberal advantages provided by the Theological Seminaries, are simply holding out a temptation to a certain class of men to neglect the arts course. This is the greatest error any man could be led into. If either is to be dispensed with, let it be the theological course.

To the large number of men in these provinces who have taken the course at Acadia, and then been obliged to abandon further preparation, and to the very many who have not even been able to do that, we have great pleasure in presenting the claims of the "Correspondence School of Hebrew," at New Haven, Conn., U. S. A., of which Prof. W. R. Harper, Ph. D. is principal. We quote from Dr. Harper's letter as follows:—"It is a deplorable fact that a large proportion of college men cease almost abruptly from scholarly pursuits when they leave their recitation rooms behind them. There is a reason for this fact, a double reason indeed, in that few men can do their best without some instruction, and without a degree of regularity in their work. A college graduate is far from being fully developed mentally; he is not in any broad sense a scholar. He is rather in the way

to become one, if he continues the development already begun." Referring to the work of his school he says:—"It conducts classes in most of the Semitic Languages, but especially in Hebrew. Not only ministers, but theo. students, those intending to enter a seminary, college men and professional men are enrolled on its lists. Its work is valuable, fully as much for the scholarly standard and the spirit of work which it encourages, as for the critical and thorough acquisition of Hebrew involved."

We cannot describe the system or the method as we could wish to do; but we advise those of our readers who would keep up their enthusiasm for acquisition, or who are looking forward to the ministry, or who have a passion for linguistics, to send to Dr. Harper, at New Haven, for his calendar. It will not fail to arouse their interest, and may induce them to begin the work.

THE hearts of the students have long been set upon having Sunday evening services in College Hall. A petition urging that provision and numerously signed by all departments of the institution has lately been presented to the faculty. To all the students interested in the religious conditions such services contain the promise of wondrous blessing. The conduct on the part of the hill of the discussion and agitation (if such it be called) has so far this year been characterized with a candour and fairness that must surely have convinced all open to conviction of the justice as well as the necessity of their demands. After vacation all will return with light hearts expecting to find some practical response to their continual pleading.

THE students of Toronto University are somewhat agitated over the recent action of the Senate of that University, making attendance upon all lectures "good or bad," compulsory, and requiring the students "to hand in to the Registrar, before examination day, a detailed statement showing (1) How many lectures they have attended during the term, and (2) How many they have missed." The Professors and Lecturers are also expected to keep a statement of lectures delivered, together with a record of attendance thereat. From the returns thus made, the Senate will calculate the average attendance of

each student, and those who have not made over fifty per cent, will not be allowed to go up for examination.

That any such innovation of a long established custom, should cause a little irritation among the students can be very readily understood, but it should hardly be expected that the new departure would meet any determined opposition from them.

If the inference to be drawn from the terms "good or bad," is that some of the lectures provided by the Senate are not worthy the attention of the students the change necessary, would seem to be in the character of the lectures. But the question arises, who ought to decide this point, the Senate or the students? If the Senate is expected to confer degrees upon students who have completed a certain course of study, that body most assuredly has the right to estimate the worth of such degrees and arrange the course accordingly; and therefore to decide what lectures are "good or bad."

Take another view of the case and allow the student the right of deciding what lectures are profitable to him and how often it is worth his while to attend them and the requirements for a degree are largely at his own option.

But what are lectures for, if not for the benefit of the students? What is the student at college for, if not to make the very most of the advantages there afforded? How is he expected to employ his time if not in attendance at the daily exercises? We believe if facts were gathered from the general standing of any number of students in the majority of the Universities on this continent, the results would prove that the students who do the best work and make the highest all round standing are those who are the most punctual in their attendance upon daily exercises. And not only will this test determine the character of the student during his course but it will largely determine his whole career. On the other hand irregular attendance upon daily exercises begets looseness and inattention until near the time for examinations, when tremendous efforts have to be made, and the long-ago-condemned process of "cramming for exam.," resorted to. Regularity is one of the grandest and most important attainments, not only in any educational process, but in all the subsequent engagements of life.

Every candid student will, we think, upon a little reflection, concede that this is a step in advance for Toronto University and with the hearty co-operation of Senate, Professors, Lecturers and Students in this attempt to insure thoroughness in regular work, we shall expect Toronto University to set before her sister Canadian colleges even a higher standard of excellence than they have yet attained.

DURING the past few years elocution has among the collegians been steadily growing in popularity. A larger number each year are impressed with its importance, and aim to improve the advantages enjoyed in Mr. H. N. Shaw's classes. At first perhaps there was a little criticism of the new methods, and some diffidence among the students about spending the required time and money. As however successive classes of juniors and seniors have stood in college hall an argument in favor of elocution has been presented with logic unanswerable. The vast difference in all the essentials of good delivery between those who have placed themselves under Mr. Shaw's tuition, and others, has been for the peace of mind of the latter as well as the comfort of the audience only too evident. This argument alone has reached hearts steeled against conviction by gentler means. As a consequence, the increasing interest in this study.

It is a source of regret however, that even among those who build hopes of success at the bar or in the pulpit, some remain indifferent to this important department of culture. They no doubt feel they are thoroughly proficient on these points. Ten minutes of their precious time spent in any of the elocution classes would probably convince them how very easy it is to overestimate one's own powers. *Verbum sat, &c.*, but as to others we suppose that not even numerous octavos of weightiest counsel could persuade them to give over their old contention, that nature is the true model. They will cling to this dogma though the heavens fall. Their highest aim is to be natural. And in the coming years, in spite of whatever we may say, there will be other swarms spreading over the country of these unnatural disciples of nature. Of those who become speakers one will howl and rant like an Indian on the war path, or a raving maniac. Another will lean in lazy awkwardness over the

pulpit and read with insipid monotony his tedious MSS. A third will drone in wearisome sing-song his appeal to a long suffering jury. Although nature has imparted to man the faculty of reasoning, no thinking person would say that *ergo* there is no need of mathematics. Is it not quite as essential that our natural faculties for the expression of thought receive due cultivation?

GRUMBLING is a grace that never has flourished in the Sanctum. Though false customs triumph and evil precedents govern and all the clashing elements howl for reform, we merely proceed with stoical calmness and unruffled brow, to offer a quiet suggestion or point to a solution of the difficulty. There is however a limit to even our patience. We would fain be silent, and we trust that except by those who frequent the reading-room the remainder of this paragraph will be passed unread; for we feel compelled to strike a note of dissatisfaction at the condition of affairs which have during the last few weeks characterized that some time neat and well conducted apartment. A very pleasant and commodious room furnished with all the appliances necessary to convenience and comfort is placed by the faculty at the disposal of the students, while the literary society provides all the more important newspapers and periodicals of this continent and England. Surely such a boon ought to be appreciated and its privileges enjoyed rather than abused. Yet a species of vandalism has appeared more in keeping with the barbarism of the Soudan than with the refinement and culture which college men are supposed to possess. In fact the evil has proceeded to that stage when even the law abiding are forced as a means of protection to adopt the methods of which only a few were originally guilty. You may look along the list of papers and behold them mutilated with knife or scissors and despoiled of the very contents perhaps which would make them of value to the purchaser. The illustrated papers become tattered and soiled and usually disappear long before the time of their distribution has arrived. The exchanges unless guarded with jealous vigilance are at once monopolized by parties unknown. If this nuisance continues, the society should keep the room under lock and key with admission only during certain hours when the student having its care could be present.

GUINEVERE.

The poet delights to revel in scenes of natural beauty. He dwells also with the keenest pleasure upon the fair images of his fancy from nature in part derived and truthfully bodied forth in his ever active mind. However enchanting these may appear to him, he must not be satisfied with this which brings pleasure only to himself. He must, on the other hand, seek in the wider study of life, to call forth something grander, nobler, more beautiful, revealing the intrinsic worth of humanity, and arousing in the minds of the men and women for whom he writes, emotions very similar to those which he himself experienced when gazing upon the still shadowy forms of the fairest and boldest results of his genius.

In this way the true poet must read the mind, the inmost thoughts, of man, and give them utterance. He must sketch the soul of man and bring it out on paper, with varying lights and shades, lifelike, natural. He must catch the expression of the soul-face, the image of the eternal in man, and paint it in colors so lasting, in outline so distinct, and faithful to the original, that every one will gaze upon it with fervent admiration, and still gazing unconsciously love *the best*.

The glance of the poet, then, must be of the same intensity as that which the lily-white Elaine fixed upon Lancelot:—

"She lifted up her eyes,
And loved him with that love which was her doom. . . .
And all night long his face before her lived,
As when a painter, poring on a face,
Divinely thro' all hindrance finds the MAN
Behind it, and so paints him that his face,
The *shape* and colour of a *mind* and *life*,
Lives for his children ever at its best
And fullest."

And thus should the poet with intensest abstraction, leaving all earthly things which veil the beauty of the truth, seek to have fixed in his mind the image of the *man*, as beautiful, as true, as good. Then the conception really formed, with most skillful hand, should the face and soul be drawn, upon which we wonderingly looking may reverently admire.

Does Tennyson do this in Guinevere! Whether he designed this most beautiful piece for an ethical study, seeking in it to embody abstract truth in an attractive form which in active setting would not appear so lovely, we may not with certainty say. But great truths, living, concrete truths, are herein contained,

and they appeal most strongly to the mind of the thoughtful reader. There is no great number or variety of characters in this idyll; but those which do appear are most splendidly drawn, not *caricatured*. There comes before us Guinevere, then the "little novice," then Arthur and at all times we seem to feel the influence, if not to see, the presence of the sad throng of pitying nuns.

To one at all familiar with the history or legend so interestingly described in these Idylls, the precise state of affairs, immediately previous to the time and events which this poem narrates, will readily suggest itself. The Queen had fallen in love with Lancelot. This gentle and brave knight had in return felt the force of that same passion which makes all lives so *happy* or so *miserable*. The passion indulged, secretly or openly, was in itself a wrong. The sin detected involved shame, disgrace, despair, bitterest humiliation, and best of all, repentance.

The exquisite dream of reality with which Tennyson clothes this incident, shows to us his art as an artist, and the truth he teaches, so pleasingly presented, his genius as a poet. Many lessons are here for the student. Only two, and those most apparent, will be touched upon in the following paragraphs.

The Queen stricken with shame and remorse has been received by the friendly nuns of the convent, and guaranteed the protection and safety coming from a residence within its sacred precincts. She has not yet, even in her deep humiliation, been thoroughly cleansed from every taint. She yet, in her heart, feels the fire of a lingering love, flaming even amid the ashes of blighted hopes, sundered home-ties and cruel desolation. She ever and anon thinks of her *public* shame, *her own* disgrace, not her sin, as *sin* against the state, the home, herself. She thus with fondness still allows herself to think of Lancelot, the one "whose faith unfaithful kept him falsely true." So time wears on, and she listens to the childish clatter of the little novice, thus striving, in a measure, to forget the past. Slowly, however, the spirit of right in her woman's soul begins to assert itself. That which we can easily forget causes us not much pain of heart to remember. The Queen could not forget. Her guilt, before her mind, gradually began to loom up in hideous proportions, large and dark, larger and darker as the days wore on. "Mine must ever be a name of shame." Her sorrow reached its

depth of withering despair by slow movement, but surely downward and downward it tore her. That same voice "Too late" heard in the gloomy night wind, again finds utterance, (not in imagination this time,) through the little novice, and as it fell in mournful cadence 'en on her very soul, convulsed with a paroxysm of rage and fright in feverish madness, she drove from her presence the simple seeming maid. The reaction brought her nearer to herself:—

"The simple fearful child
Meant nothing, but my own too fearful guilt
Simpler than any child betrays itself."

N. x. brought face to face with her sin, Guinevere sees it in its consequences, as destructive of an empire, as subversive of all purity and goodness among the people, and before her gloom stretches in waste interminable, darkness and death. She strives to repent but the end is not yet, and even while voicing her half-conscious petition to the Almighty, as a vindicator of the sincerity of her desire,

"Her memory, from old habit of the mind,
Went slipping back upon the golden days,
In which she saw him first."

Lancelot, in her memory still lived, a loving form. The King was *not* like her Lancelot. Arthur was still a being high above her, breathing the t in ether of exalted nobility, which to Guinevere meant suffocation. Thus she forgot herself and, immersed in a trance-like state of pleasing memories, heard not nor heeded the approach of her husband.

He came. In all literature there stands forth no higher, grander character than this one we now behold. So suddenly to have found one loved and trusted to be unworthy of that love so freely given, was a blow which overwhelmed him with grief, and pierced him through with deadliest sorrow. We can only listen to him speaking in words measured, slow and impassionate; but even then there is revealed more of real soul agony than would have appeared in the most violent and withering denunciation. His queen was lying at his feet in conscious shame. His soul was as the bosom of the mighty deep, lashed by a hurricane of conflicting emotions driven and tossed. His very voice as the hollow plaintive mourning of the chastened billow was merely a long drawn sigh of pity and regret. He could not lightly regard her sin. In justice he was judge himself; he must tear from his own life that which rendered it sweet and joyous. *He*

loved his wife, and now must leave her. The depth of pathos and anguish is revealed:—

"Thou hast not made my life so sweet to me,
That I, the King should greatly care to live."

To himself, to his knights, to his people he must be just. And this was easy; but to reveal to his Queen in justice, her own, sad, sinful heart, so black; and to show her what it might have been, this to Arthur was the pain of death itself. She could not bear it; closer to his very feet, in fear and shame she falteringly crept; then listened as he spoke again;—

"And all is past, the sin is sinned, and I,
Lo, I forgive thee as Eternal God
Forgives."
Let no one dream but that I love thee still.
Farewell!"

He turned and left her to herself. The MAN not the king had triumphed.

And now the long holden fountain of her woman's heart is broken, and forth there gushes a crystal purifying stream, glittering and sparkling in the clear light of her Lord's forgiveness. The King was never nobler, than when, in deepest love he forgave. The Queen never appears to us so beautiful as when in deepest humility, she loves her Lord, her Arthur, not Lancelot, not another. Thus we have learned the other lesson, voiced in Scripture:—"There is forgiveness with thee that thou mayest be feared."

How grand is Arthur! how noble! how good! The aims of his life were all thwarted; his hopes all blighted, and he fades away from sight as mysteriously as he came. All seems a failure. And yet the leading of one true soul from earthly things engrossing, to gaze upon the chasest peaks of Alpina spiritually, and to impart to that soul an unquenchable desire to reach those heights, renders Arthur's life not a failure, but a splendid victory. There is revealed to us the strong basis upon which he stood, and the heavenly sensibility of his heart is clearly seen, when looking down from that high eminence he pitied, he stooped, he lifted the fallen, and covered the sin in love. He was, it is true, an ideal man. Perhaps he never lived. But to the reader he lives, and will live forever, for the eye retains the image long after the exciting cause has vanished.

"We must not scorn ourselves,"

we must be brought face to face with the grandeur and sublimity, the poverty and beauty, of what is

intrinsically right. Guinevere could not, at her first meeting with Arthur, see in him anything lovely and beautiful. She placed him away from herself in the dim and shadowy realm of the unknown and unknowable. Lancelot was warm and loving; life in him appeared most *human*. Yet love was her mistake. Had she brought the king nearer to herself, and seen him as still a *man*, not a statue of hoiness devoid of the warmth of love and life; or if she had gladly drawn nearer to Arthur, the coldness of her own earthliness, objectively thrown around him, would have been warmed and vivified by his human divinity. So she would have been enabled to have loved him as the highest, thus seen by two quickened eyes. But this she would not do. So long after in bitterest contrition, low grovelling at his feet, she drew near to him and loved him nor "tho't of Lancelot nor another." It is, then, our glorious privilege to realize the ideal of perfect manhood, and heavenly purity, as really and objectively existing. Then, drawing near to this living ideal, day by day, we will find the atmosphere, once thought to be so thin and unsubstantial, the very purest form of diffused spirituality, most wondrously adapted to the breathing of the human soul. These great lessons feebly outlined by the writer doth Tennyson teach, let us learn that

"We needs must love thee highest when we see it."

DEWOLFE.

FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Another year! another year!

Has borne its record to the skies.

Another year! another year,

Untried, unproved, before us lies.

We hail with smiles its dawning ray—

How shall we meet its final day?

Another year, another year,

It's squandered hours will ne'er return.

Oh! many a heart must quail with fear

O'er memory's blotted page to turn.

No record from that leaf will fade,

Not one erasure may be made.

* * * * *

Another year, another year!

Gaze we no longer on the past,

Nor let us shrink with faithless fear,

From the dark shade the future casts.

The past, the future—what are they
To those whose lives may end to-day?

Another year, another year!

Perchance the last of life below,

Who, ere 'tis close, Death's call may hear,

None but the Lord of Life can know.

Oh! to be found, when'er 'that day

May come, prepared to pass away.

* * * * *

Selected.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY.

A King stretched upon the floor of a dusty cabin—the shadows broken by a ray of sunlight from the chinky wall—a spider trying to mount his silken ladder—repeated failures—brave endeavors—ultimate victory—the King silent—the lesson learned—Scotland saved—so the story runs, and "Where there's a will there's a way." Wonderful power has this noble old maxim as, in fancy embodied, it swings into view from behind some mountain of difficulty, barring life's pathway, and bids us "*climb*." We climb, the mountain melts, faith deepens, success is won.

The heart of man is an instrument of many strings, swept in life by unseen hands innumerable, tuned in death for endless threnody or praise eternal. Every life has a music all its own, now sounding out in joy, like an orchestra of an hundred pieces, now sad and low like the night wind sighing through the lonely pines, while high or low its leading part is always heard distinct and clear. From the marvellous melody of such a life as Judson's there chimes a strain of hope sweet enough to sooth the captive in his chains, loud enough to sound across the world. In the jarring clang of Swift's stern satire is heard a minor chord, despair, hope wanes, courage flees, and twilight settles down.

"What man has done, man may do." The man with a purpose in life must surely succeed. No mere accident of birth or position can keep such from the place designed them by Providence. A vine growing from beneath some wall or pavement will often lift immense weights, to find its natural element, the sunlight. So with "nature's noblemen." More styles of men than poets are "born not made." This truth was most tersely put by the eminent Educationalist

who said to some of his constituents, "Send me men, I will return them educated men; send me dunces, I will return them educated dunces."

The "will" which burns a man like fire must find a "way." In some natures the elements of success are as deeply rooted as life itself. To rise is as natural for such as to breathe. Do we want examples, they are at hand—Lincoln, who stands in the history of his country, majestic, immovable. What force of circumstances or fickleness of fortune could bind such as he to the bottom of life's high ladder? How swiftly he climbed from cabin to capitol. Had he difficulties, he surmounted them; misfortunes, he outlived them; disappointments, he gained by them. He *meant* to be great, and though only a bare foot boy of poor but honest parents, he won the laurel wreath. "Where there's a will there's a way." Another example, near home. An old time shoe-maker boy, who by virtue of his indomitable pluck and sheer strength of purpose, has gradually risen through all the grades of Canadian political life, until to-day he stands "the foremost foeman of them all." To name the great Sir Charles is to prove beyond a doubt that "where there's a will there's a way."

The man with a purpose—the salt of the earth. His presence is inspiration—his cheery word a healer of wounds—his hearty hand-shake a song by the way. He wins every time.

Life is a race course. The start does not *always* determine the finish. Success is open to all. The goal for some is wealth, the almighty dollar gleams ahead, like a mirage of the desert, and leads them on in their greedy blindness, until old track-master Death gathers in the chaff of their dried up souls, and their heirs take up the fight.

The mission of others is to make their neighbours miserable—we are *glad* to meet them, we are *delighted* to bid them adieu. Is a neighbour ill? They instantly confide to him the pleasing intelligence that his case is hopeless. Does financial ruin threaten? They all "expected it." Job's comforters are they all. In prayer meeting their favorite hymn is "Hark, from the tombs a doleful sound." They are to the world as a grain of dust to the eye. They are "up to their business." "Where there's a will there's a way."

But the tide of time rolls on, and with it we are floating. Unheeded the days go by carrying only

what we give them, but they bear their load *through all eternity*. 'Tis possible for every mortal to be a blessing. 'Tis joy to fix the gleaming gem of life in a golden setting of nobleness. 'Tis *right* so to trust, so to toil, so to win, that when the great Jehovah thunders forth in judgment and the sun:ight dies before His glory—"Ye shall shine as the stars," and "where there's a will there's a way."

THE JUNIOR EXHIBITION.

On the evening of Thursday, December 20th, the windows of Assembly Hall shed forth the glow of the first noteworthy event of the college year, when a goodly gathering from the institutions and village, as well as from neighboring settlements, mustered to hear the annual orations of the Junior class. As the hour of eight approached the students already massed in the President's hall drew up in a double line, and ascending the broad stairway paced with true collegiate dignity through the eastern portal of Assembly Hall. The Juniors holding the van passed up the centre aisle and took possession of the group of seats awaiting them on the west side of the platform, while the other classes following in the order of advancement assumed the forms reserved for them immediately fronting the platform. Toward the rear of the main platform the Faculty, who had preceded the students to the Hall, had ranged themselves in the orthodox crescent. After prayer by the Rev. S. B. Kempton, the President announced that although each member of the large class had prepared a paper upon the subject assigned, it would be possible for only a small number to be presented during the necessarily limited time. He then announced the following programme pausing at the name of each speaker, who forthwith stepped forward and gave the result of the study and research expended upon the theme assigned.

PROGRAMME.

MUSIC. PRAYER.

ORATIONS.

"The Geological Record." . . . B. H. Bentley, Sheffield Mills, N. S.
 "The Model Biographer." . . . L. F. Eaton, Lower Canard, N. S.
 "Voltaire." J. F. Herbin, Windsor, N. S.
 "Know Thyself." C. A. Eaton, Amherst, N. S.
 "Tennyson's Idylls of the King." C. H. Minard, Wolfville, N. S.

Music.

- "The Public School Curriculum as adapted to Business Life."
F. S. Messenger, Paradise, N. S.
- "The American Rebellion." E. H. Borden, Truro, N. S.
- "The Relation of Ancient and Modern Flora."
H. F. Waring, St. John, N. B.
- "The use of Illustration in Argument."
L. D. McCart, Lower Economy, N. S.
- "Robert Burns." N. A. McNeil, Long Creek, P. E. I.
- Music.
- "Wit, its use and abuse." L. J. Haley, St. John, N. B.
- "The Relation of Colonies to a General Government,"
F. J. Bradshaw, Bedeque, P. E. I.
- "Sir Walter Scott: Poet and Novelist,"
H. G. Harris, Canard, N. S.
- "The Ring and the Book,"
Miss A. G. Jackson, Port Williams, N. S.
- "Modern Monopolies," J. B. Pascoe, Jerusalem, N. B.
- "The French Revolution," D. H. McQuarrie, Mabon, C. B.
- "Is our Civilization Stable?" F. M. Shaw, Berwick, N. S.

Music.

- "The Present and Future of Labor Organizations,"
W. B. Wallace, Granville Ferry, N. S.
- "The English of the New Testament,"
G. P. Raymond, Hebron, N. S.
- "Synonyms," J. E. Eaton, Truro, N. S.
- "The Progress of Democracy in Europe,"
C. M. Woodworth, Weston, N. S.
- "His Christmas Tide," W. W. Chipman, Bridgetown, N. S.

NATIONAL ANTHEM.

The first speaker, Mr. Eaton, by his clearness and accuracy of conception, and richness of diction riveted the attention and evoked the unqualified admiration of his hearers.

Mr. Minard's style is simple, pure and concise and his bearing and delivery admirable.

At this juncture the exercises were varied by a vocal solo by H. N. Shaw, Teacher of Elocution. Mr. Shaw is a favorite with Wolfville audiences, and it is needless to say that in this instance he proved himself worthy of the hearty applause given.

H. F. Waring, the third speaker, dealt with an exclusively scientific subject in a truly scientific manner, yet with such taste as clearly testified that habits of thorough practical study are by no means inconsistent with minds of a more æsthetic cast.

Mr. McNeil combatted the slurs too often levelled against his countryman, Burns, and extolled him as worthy of a place among the greatest names, not only

in Caledonian song, but in the literary annals of the world. The composition of this paper was terse, graceful and expressive and the rendering spirited and easy.

Miss Fitch's violin solo was warmly applauded and highly appreciated.

Miss Jackson carefully reviewed "The Ring and the Book," discussing the characters and impartially comparing the virtues and demerits of its author. The soft yet beautifully distinct tones of the speaker accorded well with the reflective, judicial treatment of her subject.

Mr. McQuarrie was fully absorbed in his theme and handled it with no uncertain touch. This paper was characterized by precision of thought and phraseology.

Misses Brown & Wallace, by their vocal duet, added greatly to the interest of the evening.

Last on the list came W. W. Chipman with his superb and masterly poem "His Christmas Tide," a frantic tale of midnight shipwreck mid the fury of a winter tempest on the Bay of Fundy. The vivid view of the cozy home but lately quitted by the mariner—the lowering gale maddening to a hurricane—the dense drifting snow mingling in the blackness with the white crests of the raging sea,—the freezing spray crusting the decks and seamen with ice,—the skipper's dauntless struggle with the boiling waves, at length abandoned,—the hurried appeal for divine succour,—the shattering crash of the doomed ship upon the breakers,—the desperate but vain endeavors to gain the shore of all but the captain, who is cast half dead upon the beach,—his frenzied efforts to reach some shelter,—and the last sad spectacle where he perishes in a gully within a dozen yards of warmth and safety. These are a few among the principle scenes of terrific pathos with which the poem teems. Mr. Chipman is beyond dispute a poet, and more, a poet of no mean order.

As soon as the President could secure a hearing through the deafening uproar which followed the author of this splendid finale to his seat, he thanked the audience in the name of the class for their cordial encouragement, and also intimated in brief but strong terms the gratitude which he felt all owed to those who had so kindly added by voice and instrument to the general enjoyment. The national anthem was then called for, and benediction by the President, Dr. Sawyer, brought proceedings to a close. D.

OUR LECTURE COURSE.

Friday evening, Dec. 14th, saw College Hall lighted, intimating for the first time this term, that the students were to be treated to a lecture; the speaker on this occasion being Dr. Burns, of Halifax. His subject, which he handled admirably, was "My trip across the Rockies." This trip was undertaken by some of the members of the Presbyterian Assembly, at the close of its session in Winnipeg.

After leaving Calgary he described minutely the appearance of the surrounding country, particularizing the Valley of the Bow; Alberta, which he claims has four millions of acres of grazing land, superior to that of the United States; Anthracite Station, a short distance from a fine coal mine, having a seam eight feet in thickness; Castle Mt., as seen in the glory of the setting sun; Kicking Horse Pass; Donald, the future city of the Rockies; the Double Loop, the greatest engineering feat in the history of railroads; Eagle Pass; The Shespass Lakes, the Killarnies of the Rockies, with the burning beams of the setting sun, reflected from their waters; the Frazer River and Vancouver.

A glowing sketch of cataracts, streams, &c., in a manner which showed beyond a doubt his great power as a word painter was given and a beautiful picture of the jutting crags, towering canons, and trestle bridges which caused the massive proportions of these huge structures of nature and art to loom up vividly before his hearers.

Having reached the summit of the Rockies by the twenty-first of June—the day on which the loyal subjects of Her Majesty were commemorating her Jubilee.—these, no less loyal hearts beat in chorus with the Sons of Britain everywhere, and from the lofty heights was heard to ring the good old "National Anthem," while the hollows and deep recesses all around echoed their patriotic chorus.

Having held the attention of his audience for more than an hour, with his interesting and instructive lecture, he concluded by giving an account of the advantages of the Country, and by propounding in his own inimitable sarcasm, the question:—Are we ready to annex the United States to the Dominion? He evidently believes in "Canada for the Canadians."

It is needless to waste words on the abilities of the Rev. Doctor as a lecturer. He has established such

a high reputation as to render such a labor superfluous. Suffice it to say that on this occasion he touched his subject with a master hand. We may only hope the students will be able soon to hear from him again.

McN.

COLLEGE ITEMS.

St. Joseph's College, Memramcook, N. B., is now provided with a gymnasium costing \$1,800.

Toronto University has a fund of \$3000 towards a gymnasium, and their new building—a handsome grey stone structure—for the Biological and Physiological department, is rapidly approaching completion.

The Collegiate School, Windsor, N. S., has opened a subscription list for the new gymnasium. The \$10, and the \$5 and the \$1 seem to be coming in quite fast.

Middlebury College, (Vt.), has received an additional, \$50,000 for her endowment fund.

The late Adam Gifford has bequeathed £25,000 to Edinburg University; £20,000 each to Aberdeen and Glasgow Universities; and £15,000 to St. Andrew's University.

The Freshman class in Cornell numbers 403.

The University of Bologna, the oldest institution in the world, will soon celebrate its 800th anniversary.

There are nine colleges in the United States which have more than a thousand students.

A professorship of physical culture, with an endowment of \$50,000, is to be established at Amherst College, as a memorial to Henry Ward Beecher.

The Students of the University of Michigan have petitioned the Legislature to prohibit the sale of liquors within five miles of the college.

A University in honor of the late President Garfield, is to be established in Wichita, Kansas, and Mrs. Garfield has given \$10,000 towards the enterprise.

Yale's faculty numbers 140.

Oxford University is the largest in the world. It embraces twenty-one colleges and five halls. It has an annual income of \$6,000,000.

Personals.

[Some of our subscribers complain that too little attention is given to the personal column, and claim that it should be a source of information to the graduates and former students, as to the whereabouts of each other. In regard to the latter the editors agree heartily, but it is not always easy to meet this demand; since it frequently occurs that changes of residence and matters that might, otherwise, be interesting, only reach them in the form of general reports. They would that, henceforth, any former student of Acadia feel at liberty to drop a line to the editors, furnishing them with items that properly belong to this column. No one need hesitate to inform them of his own movements.]

C. W. Williams, B. A., '83 has exchanged the pastoral of the Baptist Church St. Andrews, N. B., for that at Dartmouth, N. S.

C. W. Bradshaw, B. A., '83, is practising law at Winnipeg, Man.

Rev. G. R. White, B. A. '87 is pastor of the Temple Baptist Church, Yarmouth, N. S.

F. F. EATON, B. A., '86, is studying medicine at the University of New York.

REV. S. McCULLY BLACK, M. A., '85, who was compelled by ill-health to resign the charge of the Baptist Church at Kentville, N. S., has purchased the proprietorship of the Windsor, N. S., *Tribune* and entered upon his new duties.

REV. M. B. SHAW, B. A., '86, is pastor of the Baptist Church Milton, Yarmouth, N. S.

PROF. F. H. EATON, M. A., '76, and H. H. Bligh, M. A., '67, have been appointed to fill vacancies on the Board of Governors.

REV. J. W. CORSEY, B. A., '83, is pastor of Evangel Baptist Church, Chicago, Ill.

H. L. DAY, B. A., '88, has joined the senior class in Brown University. Our thanks are due to Mr. Day, for a catalogue of that institution.

REV. J. W. BROWN, B. A., '86, has charge of the Lunenburg, N. S., Baptist Church.

REV. R. M. HUNT, B. A., '79, is pastor at Jamaica Plains, Boston Mass.

G. E. A. WHITMAN, '86, has entered the ministry and is preaching at Weymouth, N. S.

T. S. ROGERS, '83, who was this year elected to the Senate of the College, has lately become a member of the well-known law firm of Townshend & Dickie.

C. O. TUPPER, '83, who took the degrees D. D. S., M. D., in Philadelphia, and since spent a year in Medical Studies in London is now practicing in Amherst, N. S.

T. S. HALL, who took the freshman year with class '91, is now giving attention to mercantile life in St. John. Tom made a fine record on the bicycle last summer.

M. S. READ, after teaching one year has joined class '91.

Locals.

"MOLASSES candy."

"DROP letters."

"DON'T ye hear dem "bells."

A FEW persons in the hall are trying to be pious enough for themselves and all the rest. We think however it would be more satisfactory all round, if every fellow were left to dispose of his own pie.

Bashan was celebrated for its bulls. Certain individuals, who have lately been interested in archaeological research, are now striving to ape the utterance of this emblem of power. The ape part is admirably affected, but whence or how the sound is produced our desire burneth to discover.

Mr. B.—I received a new photograph to day.

Mr. H.—(Sarcastically) are you opening a picture gallery.

Mr. B.—No, a rogue's gallery and would like your picture.

CONSCIENCE-SMITTEN Junior to Government Officer.

"Here my dear madam, I took one nail,"

And he threw ten cents into the *fair one's* pail,

Far away Zephyrs, how healthful their glow

For a "*Gentleman's*" check with his head bowed low.

SCENE in exam.:

Noble boy—(copying concealed parchment)—sotto voce—
"he can't dispute the author's word."

No. 1—Well it just amounts to this, if he examines us on all that mathematics, Monday, I will have to plug at it all day Sunday.

No. 2—Oh well, I suppose that would be case of pulling the ox out of the pit.

No. 3—Not at all, it would be a clear case of pulling the ass out of the pit.

At a recent reception a young collegian was surprised at being asked by a lady the question, "Were you ever in *love at all?*" The former, somewhat embarrassed and blushing, requested a repetition of the question. It proved to be: "Were you ever in *Lovitt Hall?*" Said collegian was very much relieved.

THE wadding of the cannon could not have been worth much as the locks of the front door remained unshaken and unopened.

Prof. (to student passing an examination): "I have not done you justice in this examination."

Student.—"Why?"

Prof.—"You were allowed to keep on your gown."

THE fertile imagination of a youthful student was recently exercised in minutely depicting the moustaches of '89. Surely the poet's pen turns things to shapes, and gives to *hairy* nothing a local habitation and a name.

A FRESHMAN with *clouded* countenance—you have made that coat rounder than a barrel hoop, in the shoulders.

TAILOR.—I only guaranteed to make it fit.

SOPH.—Say Professor, did not the knights, in the age of chivalry, think more of the ladies than they did of the church.

PROFESSOR.—If preference for the ladies was a distinctive characteristic of chivalry, judging from some examples of our *day*, that age has not yet passed away.

WHO was that idiot that stopped in and strided up the aisle between the President of the Athenæum and the lecturer and then bumped up against the latter gentleman, and kept him standing while said *unknown* stowed himself away in a seat?

WE are sorry to learn that in the case of Americans, a familiarity with, "High Life Below Stairs" is no guarantee of even passable conduct alone.

THE officers of the Athenæum Society, for the ensuing term have been elected as follows:—A. W. Foster, '89, President; L. F. Eaton, '90, Vice-Pres.; J. B. Ganong, '92, Rec. Sec.; R. O. Morse, '91, Cor. Sec.; Z. L. Fash, '91, Treas. Executive Committee, H. S. Blackadar, '89, Chairman, A. J. Kempton, '89, L. D. McCart, '90, M. S. Read, '91, O. P. Goucher, '92.

THE newly appointed officers of the Athenæum paper for the winter and spring terms, are, W. W. Chipman, '90; J. E. Eaton '90; J. H. McDonald, '91, Assistant Editors. G. D. Blackadar '91; A. Murray, '92 on the Managing Committee.

STUDENTS standing awaiting an interview:—

Doctor.—"Let me see are you Juniors or Sophomores?"

Mr. R.—"We are loafers just now."

Doctor.—"O! then you are Juniors."

A SOPH. of royal name returning from the open air rink was thus innocently accosted by a small boy, brother of a full grown sister:—"Mr. D., please give that song you sang at our house last Friday night."

ALL the exercises in connection with the December meeting of Acadia Missionary Society were of high character. The programme consisted of the following:—

Essay by C. H. McIntyre. Subj.—"Great Opportunity brings great Responsibility."

Essay by Miss Margeson. Subj.—"The Jew and Christian Missions."

Solo, by Miss Wallace.

Address, by Rev. Prof. Kierstead.

Mr. McIntyre claimed that the truth announced in his subject is axiomatic, that the principle is introduced into all the dealings of men with each other and is the very basis of society. The scriptures enforce the teaching by declaring that "to whom much is given much shall be required."

Comparing the present opportunities for mission work with those of a century ago, he called attention to the increased interest in missions on the part of christian churches, to the attitude of heathen nations towards missionaries as compared with the past. To-day, an hundred doors are open before us; the world is now inviting christian enterprise. India, China, Burmah, Japan, Africa, have all become interesting fields for missionary labor and are calling for christians to come and bring or send the glad tidings of salvation. All these grand opportunities lay grave responsibility upon every christian. The fact that Materialism, Atheism and Infidelity is beginning to flood these lands only increases the obligation.

Miss Margeson referred to the rejection of Christ by the Jews 1800 years ago and the consequent shameful treatment they had received from avowed Christian nations. The characteristics of these people make them most interesting subjects for christian labor, and great success has attended the proclamation of the Gospel among them in recent years. Special reference was made to the work in the South of Russia.

Prof. Kierstead gave a most interesting outline of Dr. Dorchester's discussion of the question of "Has Christianity been a success or a failure." In summing up the practical lessons that might be drawn from the discussion he remarked that, the man who allies himself with Christianity so that the truth of it takes hold of and stirs his life, will find himself possessed of an element of truth for which the world is in search. Advocates of Christianity will never want for audiences nor religious authors for readers. The Christian has the most of truth. The history of Christianity warrants the conclusion that its disciples are allied with truth that has the surest promise of permanency and to them there is more of interest in the unfolding of the future.

MARRIAGES.

At the residence of the bride's father, Ohio, Yur. Co., by Rev. H. N. Parry, assisted by Rev. Jas. Stubbart, Rev. J. W. Porter, B. A., '87, and Grace A., daughter of Captain Charles Porter. (Miss Porter graduated at Acadia Seminary, '86.)

At Vancouver, B.C., Mr. C. D. Rand, B. A., '79, and Miss Kate Genevive Clute.

DEATHS.

At Brooklyn, N. Y. Aug., after an illness of only five days, Horatio H. Welton, B. A. '81, after graduating at Acadia, Mr. Welton spent two years at Harvard and then took degree M. D. and "as the result of a competitive examination," had been admitted to the position of Household Physician for one year in St. Mary's, Hospital, Brooklyn. At the time of his death he had been engaged only a few months in the regular practice of his profession, but it was long enough to inspire the belief that a brilliant professional career was before him.

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