

lowed me the use of his horse to visit the Black River. The morning was intensely hot, and towards noon the thunder began to reverberate amongst the distant hills. Promised of the approaching storm, I endeavoured to urge my steed to a more expeditious approach towards shelter; but all in vain. He had but recently been brought into these wild regions, and evidently the change had exercised a most depressing influence upon his spirits, if ever he had any. Such roads were never meant for horses to run upon, was obviously his creed; and hence, in the midst of the most rigorous kicking, which threatened a dislocation of boot-heels and uppers, he would very deliberately console himself with a bite of grass wherever it was to be found, consequently a journey that ought to have been accomplished in about three hours, took double the time, and exposed me to all the fury of the terrible storm which ensued. It was one, indeed, of awful grandeur. The wind blew with terrific force, bending and crushing the timber around; the hail poured down, large as hazel-nuts, whitening all the ground; the clouds were down hundreds of feet below filling all the valleys; the forked lightning hissed and darted all around, whilst the bellowing thunder rattled amongst the hills like a thousand parks of artillery. At length, during a short interval of lull and clearance, I was not a little gratified to find that I had not (as I began to fear) wandered from the road, by the small township appearing on the opposite spur. After a fearfully precipitous descent of about a mile, and an equally precipitous and long ascent, I arrived, thoroughly drenched, at the Royal Standard. Fortunately the store afforded me the means of dry warm clothes, though somewhat rough; and a good young friend who had formerly been an exhorter in the Brighton circuit, and who had charge of the store, kindled a fire and did his best to make me comfortable in his bachelor's home. Here, as in other places, I found an earnest desire for the establishment of the Wesleyan ministry in the district. Three hundred persons residing on this and the adjoining range without any religious ordinances amongst them, or even a school for the poor neglected children. "This," said a fortunate, wealthy reofer, "is the reason why I have been spending a miserable bachelor-life for the last eighteen months, my wife and family away at Kilmore."

Tuesday, 2nd.—Returned to Matlock, and spent the remainder of the day in visiting and inquiring concerning the desirability of locating a minister at Matlock, the probability of his success, of securing a residence, church, and support, and concerning the best site to be secured for church purposes. In this latter inquiry was most kindly aided by T. Thompson, Esq., the Government surveyor, to whose urbanity and polite attention, I was much indebted during all my visit. I was again hospitably entertained and lodged by our young friends from Tasmania, for whose welfare, amidst the trials and temptations of digging life, I felt very anxious.

Upon the whole I could but come to the conclusion that we had too long delayed sending help to this important district, where thousands of people are assembled, many of whom are regarding it as their permanent home; where thousands upon thousands of acres remain just in their primeval condition—untrodden by the foot of man, and just as likely to abound with golden reefs as those already discovered, which have raised their fortunate possessors into the position of immensely rich men in many instances. But it will require a man of no ordinary tact and endurance: he should have a strong body and strong mind; strong faith and a strong pony; and then, with downright hard work, he may not only succeed in gaining a competency for himself, but in estab-

lishing churches and institutions which will bless probably multitudes yet unborn, and be the crown of his rejoicing in the great day.

G. D.

Prædication.

TO A MOTHER.

ON THE DEATH OF HER LITTLE DAUGHTER. (For the Wesleyan Chronicle.)

Do not weep!
Thy child's asleep
So sweetly 'neath yon grassy sod;
Her tears are o'er,
She'll weep no more,
Her spirit dwells above with God.
Then do not weep.

She is not lost,
She has but pass'd
From this cold world awhile before,
To yonder seat,
Where children meet
In countless bands—Christ to adore.
Then do not weep.

Lift to the sky
Thy weary eye,
And see amid the shining throng—
A child of tears,
All hopes and fears,—
Radiant with light, and loud in song.
Then do not weep.

Her hand doth hold
A harp of gold;
A pure, bright crown circles her brow,
And notes of joy
Her lips employ—
Thy child's a smiling cherub now.
Then do not weep.

Waiting, she stands,
For His commands
To bear to earth sweet words of love;
And fresh to you
As morning dew
They come; straight from the throne above.
Then do not weep.

Rather rejoice
With heart and voice,
She's taken from earth's taint and woes,
To realms of joy,
Where no ailment
Can cloud the spirit's sweet repose.
Then do not weep.

Geelong.

ELSIE.

Religious Intelligence.

INAUGURATION OF WESLEY COLLEGE.

(From our own Reporter.)

THE completion of Wesley College, St. Kilda Road, was celebrated on Thursday last by an inaugural luncheon, held in the recently finished building. The interesting and important nature of the event drew together a large number of visitors, not only from Melbourne and the suburbs, but also from some parts of the country, and upwards of 250 persons sat down to luncheon, which was furnished by Mr. Stutt, of the City Buffet. Tables were laid in the large school-room on the ground floor, but the space even of this apartment was inadequate for the accommodation of all the guests at one time. Some delay, therefore, took place before the room could be cleared for the important business of the evening; but this circumstance seemed to be regarded rather as an advantage than otherwise by the visitors, who employed the interval of time in making an examination of the building, and admiring the spaciousness of its apartments and the completeness of its appointments. Only one opinion was expressed as to the suitability of the building for the purposes for which it is intended, and, indeed, all who inspected it were highly satisfied with the result of their examination.

Shortly after seven o'clock, the Hon. A. Fraser, M.L.C., took the chair, and the pro-

ceedings were commenced by the choir, who were conducted by Mr. John Russell, singing the chorus, "And the glory of the Lord."

The Rev. W. Hill having read the fourth chapter of Proverbs, from the 1st to 14th verses, the Rev. J. G. Millard offered up a suitable prayer.

The CHAIRMAN then rose and said, that he took the chair on that occasion with very great pleasure. He considered that this ought to be regarded as a red-letter day in the history of Methodism in these colonies, especially in Victoria. It was delightful to see so many educational institutions as had been raised in this colony during the last few years. Many persons who were present could remember when it was a difficult matter to select any educational institution to which to send their children; but it was encouraging and cheering to find that both in this, and the neighbouring colonies, large educational institutions had been raised from time to time; and he was happy to say that the Wesleyan denomination was not behind others, although it did not attempt to outstrip them. He trusted that the Wesleyans would keep pace with the other denominations, not in a spirit of rivalry, but in the worthy, object of providing for the young boys who were now growing up a means of education equal to what could be found in the mother country. (Applause.) This he believed would be the fact with regard to this institution; and seeing that it had one of the ablest ministers in the colony as its president, as much success might be expected for it as for any other institution in the country. He trusted that they would work harmoniously with the other colonial institutions of a similar character, and only endeavour to outstrip them in the amount of good which could be effected. (Applause.) He would now call upon the Rev. J. C. Symons, the Secretary of the College, to read the committee's report:—

The Rev. J. C. SYMONS then read, amidst frequent applause, the following report, prepared by the committee:—

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF WESLEY COLLEGE.

The committee of Wesley College deem it proper, on the present occasion, to give a brief history of the origin and progress of the educational enterprise which we are met this day to inaugurate.

In the year 1854 the Government placed the sum of £20,000 at the disposal of the various denominations for the erection and establishment of grammar schools, from which amount £1384 10s. was allotted to the Wesleyan church. In the year following an additional sum of £1384 14s. 6d. was voted by the Government.

Application was made to the Government for a suitable site upon which to erect the school buildings, and eight acres were granted, fronting the St. Kilda Park. To this an additional grant of two acres has recently been added by the kindness of the Government, securing the frontage to the St. Kilda-road.

It was felt that the sums voted by the Government were altogether insufficient for the erection of any buildings which would be suitable for the purposes of a grammar school; and on July 17th, 1857, a meeting was held in the (late) Collins-street church to devise means for holding a bazaar to raise funds for erecting the grammar school. The meeting was attended by several ministers and about fifty ladies from the various Wesleyan congregations of Melbourne and its vicinity. It was then stated that Walter Powell, Esq., had generously offered to select and send from England, a donation of articles suitable for a bazaar to the value of £500. A number of ladies became responsible for supplying goods to the

value of £25 each, and the scheme for the bazaar was duly initiated.

The bazaar was held on the 16th March, 1858, and five following days, in the Exhibition-building. It was opened by His Excellency Sir H. Barkly, and was in every respect a success. The public journals declared that "the spectacle presented to the visitors was such as to elicit from all the opinion that on no former occasion had a more magnificent assortment of goods been displayed in the colony. The gross receipts of the six days' sale amounted to the handsome sum of £2300; the net proceeds being £1925. Regarded as the effort of a single denomination, the bazaar must be considered as having been unequalled in financial success in the colony.

It was felt that much of the success of the bazaar was due to Mr. Powell's donation of five hundred pounds' worth of goods; and the committee recorded their "sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Powell for their valuable contribution, and for their taste and skill displayed in the selection of such a variety of elegant and valuable articles."

Early in 1859 (March 11th), the committee resolved to fence in the land, at a cost not exceeding £350.

On September 20th, a sub-committee was appointed to obtain plans and estimates. On November 25th, the sub-committee made their report. Charles Webb, Esq., was unanimously appointed architect. He submitted two designs—one in Gothic, and the other in Italian. The latter was unanimously approved of. Tenders were invited for such portion as could be erected for £5000.

On January 2nd, 1860, the committee received and considered fifteen tenders. The meeting adjourned to the 9th, when, in consequence of its being found that no portion of the building at all adequate to the requirements of the school could be erected, except for a sum very much in excess of the amount in hand, it was resolved to postpone operations for eighteen months.

The Commissioner of Land and Works was informed of the reason which had induced the committee to delay for the present the erection of the school.

In order to meet the amount for building, Mr. Powell stated that he was prepared to subscribe the sum of £1000, provided double that amount could be raised.

Various financial difficulties, which it is unnecessary now to explain, prevented this generous offer being accepted, and the committee were unable to take any steps towards building.

This led, on December 16th, 1862, to a scheme for making such alterations and improvements in the Wesleyan Immigrants' Home as would enable it to be used for a Grammar School and Theological Institution, until the committee might be able to carry out their original intention. After serious consideration this idea was abandoned.

On July 9th, 1863, the plan for erecting a portion of the front building, at a cost not exceeding £3500, was considered, but was found to be impracticable.

On October 13th, 1864, the committee were able to avail themselves of a portion of their funds, which had been for some years beyond their reach. Instructions were given to the architect to obtain tenders for the front portion of the building. Ten tenders were received; and that of Mr. William Ireland was accepted, for the sum of £4935.

The foundation-stone was laid January 3th, 1865, by His Excellency Sir C. H. Darling, in the presence of the committee and a large number of spectators.

As the building proceeded, the committee became anxious to secure a competent staff of teachers. Availing themselves of the visit of the Rev. D. J. Draper to England, and of

the great interest which Mr. Powell has always shown in the institution, these gentlemen were solicited by the committee to select for them a highly-qualified person as headmaster for the school. In the exercise of their discretion, Messrs. Draper and Powell have engaged James Corrigan, Esq., LL.D., T.C.D., who was for some time principal of the Dublin Training-School, and since one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools in Ireland.

From the high terms in which Dr. Corrigan is spoken of by Messrs. Draper and Powell, together with the testimonials which he has presented from numerous ministers and gentlemen, the highest expectations are entertained of his fitness for the important post which he is to occupy. Dr. Corrigan is a Wesleyan, and a local preacher. It is a subject of regret that Dr. Corrigan is not with us to-day. The temporary illness of his wife delayed his sailing; but he is expected in the *Essex*, early next month.

In the appointment of the assistant-masters, Messrs. A. F. Bennie, M.A., and H. M. Andrew, B.A., the committee believe they have secured gentlemen who are thoroughly competent for their work.

It has always been the usage of the Wesleyan church in educational establishments of the class of Wesley College, to appoint a minister as its head. In the selection of a president the choice of the committee fell unanimously upon the Rev. J. S. Waugh—a choice which will in due course be ratified by the Conference, and which has already received the unqualified approval of all the friends of the institution.

It was felt to be most desirable that from the opening of the school the president should reside in the school building. But to accomplish this, additional accommodation would be necessary. The committee did not feel themselves at liberty to incur the additional expense.

While these subjects were under consideration, Mr. Powell—in addition to his previous donation—munificently offered to give £1000 towards finishing the buildings, upon the condition that an equal sum be raised in the colony. Assured that this liberal offer would be instantly accepted by the Wesleyan public of Victoria, the committee determined to make instant provision for the residence of the president. This they have been able to accomplish by the erection of one of the wings to the main building. By arranging some of the rooms as kitchen, laundry, &c., the expense will only be about £500 above what must have been spent for the erection of detached kitchen, &c.

It is necessary to refer for a moment to the subject of fees. The committee resolved "That the educational and boarding fees should be as moderate as is compatible with the efficient and profitable working of the institution." The fees which have been decided upon, and which are published in the prospectus, are unusually moderate for a school of the class, and the necessarily expensive working of Wesley College. Indeed, some of their friends consider the committee have fixed them too low. It is, however, to be remembered that beyond the payment of expenses, and a sinking fund to keep the buildings, furniture, &c. in repair, it is not desired to make any profit. It is upon this ground that we appeal to the public to contribute to the cost of erection, &c.

Already the committee will have expended—when the present contracts are completed—not less than £7200. Furniture will cost over £750. The expenses of the head-master from England will be, at least, £400; which, together with other incidental expenses, will reach a total of £8500. There have been received from the Government, £2769,

bazaar, £1925; interest, £911; donation from P. Davis, Esq., £100—total, £5765. This will leave £3000 to be raised.

Towards meeting this sum, Mr. Powell offers—1st, to give £1000 in quarterly instalments, extending over two years, an equal amount being raised within the same time by local contributions; or, 2nd, Mr. Powell will pay his donation in one year, and will give books to the value of £30, if £1500 be raised in Victoria in one year.

The committee confidently appeal to the present meeting, and to the colony, for the amount necessary to claim Mr. Powell's second offer. This would enable them to contemplate, at the end of the year, a debt of little more than £500.

The committee may be permitted to congratulate the Wesleyan public of Victoria, upon the elegant, substantial, and well-appointed building in which we are now assembled. They would have been glad if all the works had been completed, and that the college could have been seen as it will be when all the rooms are finished and completely furnished. The portions unfinished, however, will not interfere with the school or boarding arrangements, and in at most a month all will be completed.

The committee have spared no pains or expense in the building, furniture, and arrangements, for the comfort and health of the pupils. They have striven to do their duty faithfully, and with reference to the union of economy and substantiality. They believe that the measures which they have adopted will, with the Divine blessing, secure to the students in Wesley College a Christian education, combined with the best secular knowledge; and that numbers of our youths will be proud in after days to refer to Wesley College as their *Alma Mater*.

Melbourne, 11th January, 1866.
The choir now sang, "O Thou that Toldest"—the alto solo which introduces the chorus being capably rendered by Miss Fanny Reeves.

The PRESIDENT then delivered the inaugural address. He spoke as follows:—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I cannot but wish that the task of addressing this assembly had been devolved upon some one more adequate to its right performance, and that the few remarks which I am to offer had been announced by some less imposing title than that of "an inaugural address." That designation is not one of my choosing. It is only a short time since the arrangement was made for me to stand in the position I now occupy, and in the interval I have had no learned leisure, nor any other kind of leisure, in which to premeditate an address worthy of this occasion. The important con-nexional office which I at present hold, and which I am soon to relinquish into other hands, accounts for my present position before you. It is one of the penalties of office. It is a very pleasing sight to look upon so large a number of persons, representing the intelligence and piety of Methodism in Victoria, assembled to inaugurate an institution belonging to their own body for imparting a liberal education. Some are far distant whom we would like to see among us to-day. We would like the large-hearted and munificent friend of this undertaking to be here—Mr. Walter Powell; and we would rejoice to have Mr. Butters and Mr. Draper here—both of whom had to do with the initiation of the idea, and with the formation of plans for action. To you who have helped the undertaking to its present stage this is a time for joyous congratulations. The lady toilers in the bazaar held for this object, nearly eight years ago, the numerous contributors, the members of the committee, with their indefatigable secretary (the Rev. J. C. Symons,) and other faithful friends, have, in this noble edifice,

in some sense, their enduring monument. It is right in this place to make grateful mention of the liberality of the Government and Legislature of Victoria, to whom we are indebted for the valuable site on which the college stands, and for a pecuniary grant in behalf of the erection. In the harmonious and efficient working of the various means employed for the accomplishment of our plans we ought especially to recognise the goodness of that Great Being whom in this undertaking we desire to serve and glorify. As within these walls our youths are to receive an intellectual and moral education, in accordance with the great principles of our Divine religion—so we desire to place our institution under the fostering wing of Almighty God. Every Christian's house is dedicated; and this house, for the training of the sons of Christian parents, we likewise dedicate to God. We wish it to be a Bethel, not a Bethaven—a house of God, not a house of vanity. "What man is there," said Moses, referring to the beautiful custom of the pious Jews, "that hath built a new house, and hath not dedicated it?" That is, that hath not taken possession of it in a religious way, and by acts of devotion. And should we be unmindful of a usage so holy and becoming? In promoting Christian education we are serving Christ, and so we wish to dedicate this, our "new house," to the service and honour of Him at whose feet the learning and the intellect of the whole world will yet be laid.

It has been said of the present age that "it is the age of education," and that "the schoolmaster is abroad." In comparison with former times, these expressions are undoubtedly true. How low learning had fallen in the dark ages is a matter of history. We know that, until the sixteenth century, what little learning existed was shut up in monasteries. The historian of the Reformation tells us that before that time even, "the higher clergy were often sunk in deep ignorance." A bishop of Dunfermline congratulated himself that he had never learned either Greek or Hebrew; while the monks contended that all heresies sprang out of these languages, and especially out of the Greek. "The New Testament," said one of them, "is a book full of briars and serpents." "The Greek," continued he "is a new language, recently invented, and of it we ought specially to beware. As to Hebrew, my dear brethren, it is certain that all who learn it that very instant become Jews." Then, in the order of Providence, came the invention of printing, and shortly afterwards the mighty Reformation. The darkness began to pass away. The shackles of the human intellect began to fall off. Religion and learning, hand in hand, began once more their march of light. They had stupendous difficulties to surmount throughout the continent of Europe. Even in England, in the university lecture-rooms, if a student, when reading Latin, came upon a line quoted from the Greek, he said, "*Græcum est, non potest legi*," (It is Greek; I am not able to read it,) and passed on. Grammar schools, so called because the Latin grammar was the principal thing taught in them did not include Greek, or reading or writing, in their course of instruction. From the time of Henry VIII., the state of learning gradually improved, and truer ideas of education began to obtain. The progress has been mighty since. In comparison with the past, ours is indeed an age of educational advancement. True it is that in our day learning is often perverted, and that she is not always the handmaid of piety; but yet it is also true that the former days were not better than these; that in no former period did science and literature come more fully to the help of the Lord than in this; and that never were there

so many educated, refined and lofty intellects paying reverent homage to God the Saviour. Thorough scholarship and sanctified intellect are in our day demonstrating the stability of the old Christian faith against the attacks of men who would "spoil us through philosophy and vain deceit." The uplifting influence of education is widely felt throughout the Christian world by countless masses of men. In every country, she counts her friends by legions. No man is deemed respectable now who is unacquainted with science and with books. The ploughman, the artisan, and the miner of our day know something of learning. The people of this new land of ours agree to cherish and promote it. Gold is not the only thing that men prize here. There are two things which Australia honours, and they are—character and education. With all their faults, our people value these things. In no country under heaven is a man of true character and education more likely to gain respect and position than in this land. The Parliaments and Governments of our various colonies have not been unmindful of the educational interests of all classes of the people. The successive Governments and Parliaments of Victoria, to their honour be it spoken, have nobly befriended them. They have multiplied, directly or indirectly, educational agencies and auxiliaries throughout the land. It is something wonderful to contemplate the extensive and varied educational apparatus which our rulers and legislators have so wisely helped the people to secure. The Mechanics' Institute, the Literary Association, the Botanical-garden, the Public Library, the system of Common Schools, the Schools for higher education, and our University, are means of education, and furnish proof of the enlightened and liberal views by which those in authority have been influenced. Learning of the highest class can now be obtained within our own shores. Victoria has begun to train her youth for the highest positions. We are educating our own mechanics, and lawyers, and doctors, and we shall soon have Theological Halls in which to train our own divines. This is as it should be. The education of the future men of Australia should be racy of the soil.

With your permission I would like to say a few words about education itself. Everybody is saying, educate, educate. Now, let us take care that education be of the right kind, that it be conducted on right principles, and that it shall tend to the highest good. To educate is, as the word implies, to draw forth, direct, discipline, and train the faculties and powers. It is not only giving instruction and conferring accomplishments. It is that, but it is more than that. It has to deal with body and mind, and with heart and conscience. Referring to it chiefly now in its intellectual and moral aspects, it is but a means to an end. To quote the language of the judicious Hooker, it "is the means by which our faculty of reason is made both the sooner and the better to judge rightly between truth and error, good and evil." This must be its main object, whatever may be the boy's destination in after life. It has to do with his training for this world and for the next, and therefore it should be religious. You may give your sons a knowledge of languages and science—you may surround them with the garniture of polite learning, but their education will be miserably defective, if you lose sight of their relations to God and to eternity. What will they be better than "painted sepulchres" after all, if their moral nature be not moulded by Christian principles? A young man designed for the profession of medicine or of law, for the counting-house or for the pulpit, should, of course, be suitably educated for the position to which he aspires; but whatever may be

his future course, he should be educated and trained as one who is possessed of a sinful nature—as one who is redeemed by the blood of Christ, and is passing through a state of probation to the eternal world. With literature and science, therefore, we would combine religion. The education which does not include this essential element, though otherwise comprehensive, is imperfect, because it is godless, losing sight of the boy's relations to Christ and to the future state. The Bible must form the true basis of a liberal education; and I believe the time will yet come when the worldly notions that now prevail on this subject will be abandoned, and no man will be acknowledged as a rightly-educated man, whatever may be his elegant and varied acquirements, who shall be found to be unacquainted with Christian truth. The Bible is the best preceptor. It pronounces on subjects of truth and error, of right and wrong, with infallible authority. It reveals our moral disease and the Divine remedy. It shows how the "wisdom of the world," by itself, is utterly feeble for good, and how true wisdom begins in "the fear of the Lord." Therefore, we say that education conducted without respect to the "living oracles of God" is a deception and a cruelty.

We are very solicitous about our rising youth. Everyone cannot give his sons a liberal education, but many can and ought. The wants of our age and of our adopted country, the interests of religion and of the Christian churches among us, demand an increasing number of thoroughly, Christianly educated men. Ignorance and illiteracy can do but little for the world or for Christ. If I could make my words heard in the homes of Methodist parents throughout this land to whom God has given ample means, I would say to them, Give your children a comprehensive education. Cultivate their minds and their consciences. Endow them, as far as you can, with a better fortune than gold or silver. Equip them for the duties of the coming time. You may not be able to select their path in life or choose their place, but you can educate them, and by God's help train them in the way in which they ought to go. Then will they rise up to call you blessed, and to aid in the intellectual and religious progress of our land. Be assured there can scarcely be a more lamentable exhibition of parental unkindness than inattention to children's improvement in such an age as this. The neglect of such a parent will be a stigma upon his name, and might, by a species of retribution, lead his children to condemn his memory. On the other hand, how great is the joy of the parents who have wisely and faithfully employed their advantages, and see their son adorned and enriched with the treasures of a good education and of grace, advancing to take his place among the thinkers and workers of the day. Over that youth who has sanctified his intellect and learning by his personal consecration to God, well may his father's and his mother's hearts exult with a pride which no one will condemn. To be sure, there are youths surrounded with advantages who neglect them or despise them—who, consequently, will continue all their days to be intellectual paupers, and on whose heads alone will rest the blame of their miserable failure. And there are accomplished young men who, for want of the crowning glory of a liberal education—a good character—a character laid in the fear and love of God, miss their way. But happy are the parents whose trained and pious sons, well taught by men, and also taught of the Lord, go forth in their various paths to fulfil their duties among men. Happy will be our land if in her social fabric many such polished stones be found.

As an instrument for securing the educa-

tion of youth, the importance of the school is very great. There are other instruments, but this, if not the chief, takes rank among the highest. It is one of the most ancient institutions; it has been established in every civilised land; and, in modern times, it has attained an influence greater than it ever had before. It is seen in various forms, so adapting itself to the educational requirements of all classes in the community. There are primary schools for imparting elementary and general instruction. It is one of the glories of our age that most of the great countries of the civilised world have in efficient operation, for the benefit of the million, systems of common school education. In this respect our age has never had a parallel. Our new country is not behind the older countries of Europe. Every man's child among us may acquire the elements of a useful education. I claim respect for the common school. It is moulding the mind and the manners of the masses of our future men and women. It is securing among us an educated and intelligent population. It sanctions suitable arrangements by local committees for imparting religious truth to the children. I am thankful for our common schools. And I honour the competent, painstaking, conscientious schoolmaster, albeit it is too often his lot, even in this enlightened and generous Victoria, to be hard worked and poorly paid. His life is one of honour, but it is one of toil. If as you pass along you meet with a pale-faced man of worn look and thoughtful face, and whose semi-gentle garb betrays the gentleman of narrow means, you may conclude that, in all probability, he is some *torso* pedagogue. It has been said of him that "his only palace is the school-house, his sceptre the birch, and his sinew is the delight of labour without the burden of a salary." Yet he is possessed of a mighty influence, and has much to do with shaping the character of the coming age. I wish now, however, to refer more particularly to the schools for higher education. These come midway between the primary school and the university. They are known as academies and grammar schools, and sometimes, but with less accuracy, as colleges. These institutions take a wider range of learning. They raise a higher standard of attainment. They exercise an influence on public education beyond their own bounds. This influence is felt in the common and primary school below them, and in the university above them. They uplift the lower, and prepare the mental material on which the other is to work. Without them, the ordinary school and the university would alike languish. They help to refine and elevate society. The educational advantages furnished by these establishments are superior to what any private tuition can supply. The notion that private teaching is to be preferred to that of public schools is now generally abandoned, and needs no refutation. So greatly, too, do modern public schools excel those of former days in the important points of careful moral oversight and training, that if the poet Cowper were alive now, he could not, I think, find many an answer to his description in his poem entitled "Tirocinium, or Review of Schools."—

Would you your son should be a sot or dunc,
Lascivious, headstrong, or all these at once;
That in good time the stripling's finished taste
For loose expense and fashionable waste
Should prove your ruin, and his own at last,
Train him in public with a mob of boys,
Childish in mischief only and in noise;
Else a manly growth, and live in ten
In infidelity and lewdness men.
There shall he learn, ere sixteen winters old,
That authors are most useful, power or gold,
That piety is all that school is meant,
But taverns teach the knowledge of the heart.

Such a state of things as the poet sketches would, in this day, be hard to find. The morals

of all rightly-conducted schools are carefully fenced and guarded. They are conformed to the character of a happy, cheerful home as much as possible, so that every boy may feel that his teachers are among his best friends, and that the lines have fallen unto him in pleasant places.

The relation of the church to the education of its youth is intimate. She is to purify the fountains of instruction. She is to encourage and promote the expansion and improvement of the human mind. Now, let me say that this is one of the high vocations of Methodism, and nobly has she striven to walk worthy of it. It is not too much to say that general education, as well as religion, was raised and stimulated by the Wesleyan revival. Methodism was born in a university, and has always been a friend of mental culture. Many of her first ministers were scholars. She descended into the cottage and cabin, and gave the lower orders of England such an intellectual upheavement as nothing before had ever done. She had formed Sunday-schools before the name of Robert Raikes was heard. Her Wesley wrote grammars of Latin, Greek and Hebrew, a system of logic, and many other works besides for the encouragement of general learning. He founded Kingswood School for the common people. Apart from moral results, what intellectual fruit has Methodism borne! She is not yet more than a century and a-quarter old. Within that time few churches have produced a richer literature. Her five commentaries on the entire Bible are monuments of learning. Her schools and colleges are multiplying in England, in Ireland, and in the colonies. In the United States she has no fewer than twenty-eight universities, containing 4675 students, and endowed to the extent of £5,600,000. Besides these, she has in the same country two theological schools, and seventy-six academical institutions. If any Methodist denounces learning, Methodism is ashamed of him. In this country she has been one of the most earnest promoters of public education. She has earned, in this noble work in Victoria, a good degree. Other churches have done well, and she has not lagged behind. The last published statement of the registrar-general, in the tables relating to education, showed that, of the three principal Protestant denominations in the colony, the Wesleyan body was "found to have the highest proportion of children possessing the rudiments of instruction." Methodism in some of the other colonies has been before Victoria in the establishment of collegiate schools, but to-day she inaugurates "Wesley College," for the purpose of superior education. Her educational work, however, is only well begun, and she has yet to found her colleges for ministerial candidates. May she be found, to the end of time, faithfully pursuing her course for the intellectual and religious advancement of her people!

The institution which we inaugurate this day may have initial difficulties to surmount; it may not all at once be filled with pupils, but we have no doubt of its ultimate success. It enters into no unfriendly rivalry with existing kindred schools. Many Methodist families have long felt and deplored the want of such a place; that want is now supplied. The accomplished and practised teacher who will be at the head of the school department has long filled important public positions in connection with education. He is in every way worthy of our confidence, and will be sustained by able helpers. Let our friends encourage the effort, and with God's blessing it must prosper. The object is one that commends itself to the enlightened liberality of our people, especially of our wealthier friends. The building is yet incomplete, the preliminary outlay is considerable, and the

working expenses for some time may be in excess of income. The formation of a library must be in due time begun. We have much to do, but all is within our power if the friends of Christian education will help us. There is wealth enough to do it easily and soon, if those that hold the wealth have but the heart and the will to use it. One friend, already named, has, in behalf of our new enterprise, sent to the Methodist people of Victoria a spirited challenge. His £1000 are promised on conditions which will pledge us to at least a corresponding sum; or, by a later modification, to £1500. I have no doubt the response will be: "We gratefully accept the challenge."

And now, one concluding word. We began this work in the name of the Lord, and to his furthering blessing we commend it. We ask the sympathy, prayers and help of the friends of Christian learning. To quote a figure once applied to a similar institution, may our college be like an angel standing in the sun, sending forth streams of light for many a year throughout this land!

The rev. gentleman was repeatedly cheered during the delivery of his address, and was warmly applauded at its conclusion.

The choir here sang "Gloria in Excelsis." Dr. Cutts then moved the following resolution:—

"That the best thanks of this meeting are due, and are hereby presented to Walter Powell, Esq., who, in addition to his previous subscriptions, has generously offered a donation of (£1000) one thousand pounds (together with thirty pounds' worth of books,) towards the completion of Wesley College, on condition that fifteen hundred pounds (£1500) are raised by subscription in Victoria within the year 1866." He (Dr. Cutts) was sure that the best thanks of every member of the Wesleyan Church were due to Mr. Powell for his very liberal offer. (Applause.) This, however, was not the only liberal thing that Mr. Powell had done, and he need only refer to the report for proof of his munificent liberality. Besides this, Mr. Powell not very long ago presented £500 to the Wesleyan book establishment, and he (Dr. Cutts) had been informed that he had every intention of remembering the institution in his will. (Cheers and laughter.) From personal knowledge, he could state that Mr. Powell had always shown the greatest sympathy for institutions of this character. There were many who had behaved very liberally towards Methodism, but Mr. Powell had no peer—he stood head and shoulders above the rest. It was really refreshing in these times, when so few people were willing to give, to find gentlemen with the brains to make money, and the heart to give some of it to Christian and other philanthropic enterprises. (Cheers.)

The Rev. JOHN EGERTSON felt very great pleasure in taking part in the business of this meeting, and especially in seconding a vote of thanks to his esteemed friend, Mr. Walter Powell. He believed that Mr. Powell was thoroughly worthy of all the thanks that they could render him; and if they could only catch his generous spirit, there would be no difficulty in getting the £1500 by the end of 1866. He believed that Mr. Powell had acted thus liberally from the influence of true Christian principles. He believed that Mr. Powell's firm conviction was that the sound and careful education of the rising generation was the basis of all prosperity, and although Mr. Powell had left Victoria, his heart had not been estranged from it. He still felt interested in its prosperity, and took delight in every institution that would tend to elevate its character. (Cheers.) He had been exceedingly gratified with the inaugural address delivered by the President. (Applause.) Sentiments had been uttered in that address

which he trusted would appear in print, and he hoped that the whole of the colony would have the opportunity of reading them. He believed that the people did not yet sufficiently appreciate the value of these institutions. There could be no doubt, however, that kindred institutions like the Church of England Grammar School, and the Scotch College, in which the heart was educated as well as the mind, would exercise a great influence on the characters of many who might afterwards take part in the legislation of this colony. (Applause.) He could not look back upon the history of our native land without feeling that religion had had a mighty influence in the establishment of the present enlightened condition of society. If he were asked upon what the national greatness and prosperity of England were based, he should reply that he was persuaded that it was the religious element which had secured it. (Cheers.) He looked upon Sabbath-schools as one of the great agencies which had caused attention to be directed to the religious element in our schools; and he believed as long as the church discharged her duty by advancing the religious welfare of her children, institutions of this kind would always prove of the highest value to the colony. He therefore rejoiced that they had obtained as principal for this institution a gentleman, who not only possessed high classical attainments, but who was also a man of high religious principles, and who felt that it was his duty to sanctify himself with the service of religion. (Applause.) If we wished the character of the community to be elevated—if we wished for prosperity—and if we wished religious feeling to animate the masses—we must have education impregnated with religious truth. (Applause.)

The Rev. W. TAYLOR (of California,) supported the resolution with great pleasure, but he thought it was scarcely complete. It was very proper to thank Mr. Powell for his kind offer, but he thought something more should be done. He thought the offer should be at once accepted: and he begged leave to add to the resolution words to that effect. The amendment was accepted by the mover of the resolution, and subscriptions were then solicited. Mr. Taylor did not intend to make a speech, but he desired that the ladies and gentlemen present should make a number of speeches; some could make hundred-pound speeches, others fifty, twenty, ten, five, or even one-pound speeches. With considerable humour, and earnestness, he urged the meeting to raise £1000 that night. In less than half-an-hour the following promises were received: Mr. Whitney, £100; Mr. J. H. Wymond, £100; a Friend, per Mr. Whitney, £25; A Friend, per Mr. Vasey, £20; Mr. R. Hodgson, £10 10s.; Dr. Cutts, £10 10s.; Mr. Mars Miller, £10; Mr. H. Copeland, £10; Mr. J. Copeland, £10; Rev. J. C. Symons, £10; Rev. W. Taylor, £10; Mr. J. T. Harcourt, £10; the Hon. A. Fraser, £10; Mr. D. Blanchard, £10; Mr. Bosisto, £5 5s.; Mr. Holloway, £5 5s.; Mr. Booth, £5 5s.; a Friend per Mr. G. F. Moate, £5; Mr. G. F. Moate, £5 5s.; Mr. Shewin, (Tasmania,) £5; Mr. Thomas Evans, £5; Mr. J. Warrook, Maldon, £5; Mr. Thomas Osborne, £5; Rev. G. W. Patchell, £5; Mr. J. K. Knipe, £5; Mr. E. Hartley, £5; Mr. J. E. Johnston, £5; Rev. W. Hill, £5; Rev. J. Dare, £5; Rev. J. S. Wagh, £5; Rev. J. G. Millard, £5; Mr. E. B. Morecombe, £5; Mr. R. Crouch, £5; Rev. George Daniel, £5; Rev. J. B. Smith, £5; A Bushman, £5; Mrs. Moate, £3 3s.; Mr. A. J. Smith, £3 3s.; Mr. J. Stark, £3 3s.; Mr. Judd, £3 3s.; a Prahran Sunday-school teacher, £2 2s.; Mr. W. Hutchinson, £2 2s.; Dr. Rankin, £2 2s.; Mr. Thomas Curtis, £2 2s.; Mr. W. G. Murray, £2 2s.;

Captain McCallum, £2 2s.; Mr. Marsden, £2; Mr. Caunter, £2; Mr. Ick, £1 1s.; Rev. Mr. Lelean, of Tasmania, £1; Mr. E. Cooper, £2 2s.

These subscriptions, together with a collection which was afterwards made, amounted to the sum of £172 4s. 3d.

The vote of thanks to Mr. Powell having been put, with the addition suggested by the Rev. W. Taylor, was carried unanimously.

The Rev. J. HARCOURT moved that a vote of thanks be presented to Mr. Russell, conductor; Mr. Fielding, organist; and the ladies and gentlemen of the choir, for their very able and efficient services.

The Rev. J. DARE seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

On the motion of the Rev. W. A. QUICK, President of the Horton College, Tasmania, seconded by J. Whitney, Esq., a vote of thanks was tendered to the Hon. A. Fraser, M.L.C., for his services as chairman.

The choir having given the "Hallelujah Chorus" with considerable effect, the Rev. S. Wilkinson, chairman of the Maitland district, pronounced the benediction, and the proceedings terminated.

MELBOURNE SECOND CIRCUIT.—*Sackville-street.*—The anniversary services of this place of worship were held on Sunday, December 3rd. The sermons were preached by the Revs. Usher, J. C. McMichael, and G. B. Richards. All the services were well attended. On Monday, a tea and public meeting was held, when addresses were delivered by the chairman (S. G. King, Esq., of Hotham,) the Revs. Walker and Richards, and Messrs. Cooke, Wilton, Palmer, and Robinson. From the statement of Mr. Nettleship, the treasurer, it appeared that the debt, originally (£200,) had by persevering effort been reduced to £20. The financial result of this anniversary (which was one of deep interest) enables the trustees to rejoice over the fact that this church is now free from debt, besides leaving a few pounds in hand towards painting the building.

DRYSDALE CIRCUIT.—*Anniversary of the Drysdale Sabbath-school.*—The anniversary sermons of the above school were preached on Sunday, December 24th, in the morning at eleven, and in the evening at half-past six, to large and attentive audiences, by Mr. Matthew Burnett. The parents and children were addressed in the afternoon at three, by the same gentleman. On Tuesday, the 26th, the tea and public meeting, as usual, was numerously attended, when many from Geelong and the surrounding neighbourhood embraced the opportunity the holiday afforded of having a drive, and partaking of the good things provided by the ladies. The public meeting was presided over by Mr. John Burrows, of Geelong; and after the report had been read by Mr. Allan, the meeting was addressed by Rev. J. Y. Simpson, Mr. N. Brown, of Geelong; Mr. Webb, of Brighton; Mr. Hope, Mr. G. Jennings, of Melbourne; the minister of the circuit, and other gentlemen. The proceedings of the evening were highly satisfactory to all. After the usual votes of thanks had been proposed and carried, the meeting separated about ten o'clock.

AVOCA AND ST. ARNAUD CIRCUIT.—On Sunday, December 24, 1865, the anniversary sermons in aid of the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School, Avoca, were preached by the Rev. Wm. Davies, of Maryborough, to crowded congregations. On Tuesday afternoon, 26th December, the scholars having sat down to a tea provided by their teachers, adjourned to the Mission Paddock, where they appeared to enjoy themselves to their hearts' content with a well-selected variety of innocent amusements. In the evening a

large and respectable company, including many of the senior scholars, with their parents and teachers and other friends, partook of the excellent bounties provided for the occasion with a satisfaction which was evidently enriched by the hearty congratulations of their visitors from a distance. The public meeting, one of the best ever held in the beautiful vale of Avoca, was conducted by our newly-acquired friend and fellow-labourer, Mr. Wm. Williams, late of the Ballarat circuit, who discharged the duties of the chair in a manner which called for repeated applause. Mr. Wm. Sutcliffe, ever ready on all occasions to lend a helping hand, read the annual report, from which it appeared that whilst the committee had to regret the removal of no less than thirty-one of their number from the district, there remained an average attendance for the year of ninety-eight scholars in connection with their school. After commenting on the successful working of the school during the past year, the committee called attention to the great loss they had sustained in the removal by death of their late Sunday-school superintendent, Mr. Charles Green, who had filled many important offices in the church to the satisfaction of the community at large, by whom he was deservedly held in much esteem for his valuable counsels and devotion to the various interests of the cause of God in this circuit. Mr. Kelly then addressed the meeting on the importance of Sunday-schools, and was followed by Mr. E. Snell, one of the superintendents of the school, who bore testimony to the loss sustained by the committee in the death of Mr. Green, &c. Mr. Richards, of St. Arnaud also alluded to the decease of Mr. Green in an able and highly profitable address. The Rev. Robert L. Vickers, having noticed the very tasteful decorations of the church, the efficient service rendered by all parties intrusted with the preparations for the anniversary, with special allusion to the efficiency of the choir, occupied the meeting at some length in an address which repeatedly elicited their approval. A recitation was then given by one of the scholars, and the collection made, which amounted to £21. Other addresses were then given by Messrs. Reed, Grewar and Curdew, &c., and the meeting terminated, after the usual compliments in thanksgiving and prayer.

Honebush.—On Monday, the 25th of December last, between forty and fifty scholars of the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday-school were accompanied by their friends in the commodious and tastefully decorated waggons of Messrs. Kenyon and Agnew, to the Pyrenean Falls, near Avoca, where they pic-niced on a substantial collation, and indulged in a variety of sports. After tea, the party returned through Avoca, with flags and banners and Christmas songs, to their respective homes.

Railbank Sunday-school Pic-nic.—On Dec. 18, the parents and friends of the scholars belonging to the above school, in all about 200, took possession, at an early hour, of one of the long, deep, woolly gullies at the base of the Pyrenees. Here in the cool and solemn shade of the brave old mountain, at an easy distance from the Government reservoir, which afforded an ample supply of good water, a spacious and well constructed booth was erected in a manner that reminded one of the proverb—"Many hands make light work." With right good will, also, did they join in the varied amusements of the day, to the thorough enjoyment of all parties. An excellent tea was then served, and all returned to their homes in the spirit, we trust, of thanksgiving and praise.

Railbank Sunday-school Anniversary.—The anniversary of the above school was commemorated on December 31st, when the public