

were all put down by the Saracens, and the teachers scattered over the world. The argument from institutions of an educational kind under the theocracy, in favour of theological seminaries under the ordinary dispensations of Providence was stated and applied; and some account given of Christian seminaries from the middle of the second century downwards. The interesting account of the teaching of Polycarp, the disciple of John, as given by Ireneus, one of his pupils, was quoted from the ecclesiastical historian Eusebius. The famous school of Alexandria with its celebrated teachers, Athenagoras, Pantenus, Origen, and others, with similar schools in other cities, passed under review; and special notice taken of the encouragement given to such schools by Constantine and other Christian emperors, checked for a short time by the malignant efforts of Julian the apostate. The darkness that pressed on was in part relieved by the private academies of such men as Athanasius, St. Augustine, and Cyprian, and the theological college of Iona, in Mull of the Hebrides, diffused the light of science and religion over Britain and some parts of the continent. Charlemagne, Alfred, Alcuin, Anselm, and others, arrested by their seminaries the rapid progress of ignorance, and the "liberal studies" known by the names of *trivium* and *quadrivium*, scattered some scintillations of mind over a shapeless mass. The Protestant Reformation revived learning, and in both the Lutheran and Reformed churches, seminaries for training young men for the ministry were established or revived. Among these the academy at Geneva was specially noticed. It was opened in 1559 by Calvin and Beza, with an audience of six hundred students from all parts of Europe. To the present day it has had a succession of very accomplished teachers, but of late years its theology has been sadly blighted by rationalism. We now look with greater hope to the evangelical school under such men as D'Aubigne, Gaussens, and La Harpe. In the sounder schools of Germany and the United States, large additions have been made to the curriculum of theology; and exegetics, oriental literature, and Biblical criticism, in the widest sense, now occupy their deserved place. Let us hope that the sadly tainted theology of Oxford is undergoing a winnowing process, and will soon give place to forms of thought more Scriptural and holy. At the close, a fitting tribute was paid to the types of pure theology and sound Christian teaching in the lives and labours of such men as Chalmers, and Brown, and Alexander, and Cunningham. The lecture extended to about an hour, and was listened to throughout with deep attention and interest.

THE WIDOWS' FUND.

We have great pleasure in stating that the effort made by the congregations formerly connected with the United Presbyterian Church to raise such a sum for the Widows' Fund, as was considered equitable, has been very successful. The congregation of Lagauchetiere street, Montreal, have resolved to raise the sum of six hundred dollars in three yearly instalments, on the understanding that a proportionate amount shall be otherwise raised. Other congregations have acted with most commendable liberality in the matter.

We have pleasure in inserting the following notice with reference to this matter:—

The ministers of the Canada Presbyterian Church previously belonging to the United Presbyterian Synod, who may be desirous of joining the Widows' Fund, are reminded that according to the law of Synod the period for doing so in this case expires at the date of its next meeting in June. It is well known that many ministers have refrained from joining the Fund until they should learn the success of the movement for raising within the congregations of the late U. P. Church the sum specified by the Synod at its meeting in Montreal. The Committee appointed by the Synod to raise the sum are happy to be able to report that the movement is *so far* very successful. Reports have not been received from all the Presbyteries, but from such as have been, it seems altogether certain that such an amount will be raised within the specified period