

the confidence of the members of the Church in all our colleges, if the names of professors and lecturers were in every case submitted to the General Assembly before appointment. Such I understand has been the custom in Knox and Montreal colleges, and I am sure that the authorities of Queen's College, have no reason to fear ungenerous treatment on the part of a Church, that has so recently shown its interest in that institution, by large subscriptions towards its permanent endowment.

In regard to Dr. Proudfoot's lectureship in Knox College, whatever may be said as to your interpretation of the Assembly's decision as against "Clericus," one thing is clear, that there are a considerable number of brethren who desire a change of some kind in that special department of instruction. So far as I have been able to gather the feelings of the Church, they may be classified as follows:—

First.—There are those who maintain—and not without good reason—that when a third professor was appointed in Knox College, the present lectureship in homiletics was to be abolished.

Second.—There are those who maintain that if a lectureship in homiletics and pastoral theology is desirable, and cannot be overtaken by the regular staff, it should not be given *permanently to any one minister of the Church*, however excellent in some respects his qualifications may be. "Clericus" has referred, and very properly, to the Yale lectureships, where the position is only held for one year. Eminent men like Drs. Hall and Taylor, and Philips, Brooks, speaking from full hearts of their own experience as *successful pastors*, have done more to stimulate the students of Yale, (and may I not say all the theological students of the American Continent,) than a course of finished prelections, delivered by a permanent lecturer, could do in a century.

Third.—There are some who are satisfied with the present arrangement, and prefer to let well enough alone.

Without attempting to argue these different views, it seems to me that there are cogent reasons, why, in deference to those who may dispute your interpretation of the Assembly's decision, and who desire a change of some kind in the present arrangement, the General Assembly should seriously consider the matter in all its bearings.

The revenue of Knox College for years past, has been quite insufficient to meet its legitimate expenses. It may be said:—"Our people ought to do better"—but this fact does not raise the revenue however frequently the statement is repeated. I am one of those who desire to see *four* regular professors in Knox College and in every college of our Church, but until the finances are in a better condition, is it wise to increase our pecuniary obligations by the continuance of such lectureships, as the one in question? If the plan proposed by "Clericus" is adopted, each lecturer appointed for one or two years can visit in turn *all the colleges*, at a very small expense to the Church. He need not be absent from his charge over two or three months at the longest. The honours of our church are none too many, that they should be continued to any one man for an indefinite term of years, unless, *as may be the case*, there is only one man that can fill such a position.

And this brings me to another reason why the plan proposed by "Clericus," commends itself to the Church. Is it reasonable for the Assembly to take any minister away from his congregation, *year after year*, for a term of months? I know not in what way Dr. Proudfoot's pulpit is filled in his absence, but were it filled by the ablest men of our Church in regular succession, it would not counter-balance the injury that the want of pastoral oversight involves.

These remarks, Mr. Editor, are made without any disparagement to the respected lecturer in homiletics and pastoral theology in Knox College. The question is to be settled on general grounds and not with reference to the qualifications of any brother who happens to fill the position at the present moment.—I am, yours respectfully, AN ELDER.

#### FUNDS—A COMPARISON.

MR. EDITOR,—A friend has placed the following calculations before me. They are, I believe, accurate. It may be of some use to publish the figures at this season of the year: Amount raised for Home Missions in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec during the past six months, \$6,380.91. Amount raised in the Mari-

time Provinces for the same object during the same period, \$5,283.04. The contributions for Foreign Missions from the Western Section amount to \$5,603.96. For the same object there was raised in the Maritime Synod \$5,731.24. Of course the Western Section will, before June, increase its contributions five fold. It will need to do so, and the multiplication must begin at once. The Maritime people are evidently ahead in the race, and very far ahead considering their numbers and resources. LOOK OUT  
Jan. 28, 1870.

For the Presbyterian.]

#### THE TEA MEETING IN THE CHURCH.

The crowd had met, and swift the angels came,  
As was their wont, into the house of God.  
"Rejoice, they're going to praise the Holy Name,  
We'll wait their song up to our blest abode."

"Is this the holy feast of Him who died,  
Grand in His meekness, peerless in His love—  
The principalities of hell defied—  
And reigneth now in th' heaven we left above?"

A prayer is said—what next? a rush and din,  
Dissonant sounds in that dearhallowed place,  
Instead of praise 'tis like the breath of sin.  
Each seraph hears aghast, and veils his face.

A feast is spread, but not celestial food;  
Yet who would look for other banquet here?  
The time is set for only frivolous mood,  
And flippant colloquy with jest and cheer.

Oh, for the burning zeal that stirred our Lord,  
When from His courts He swept the crew profane;  
Wield, Lord, again, Thy potent whip of cord,  
And cleanse Thy house from desecration's stain.

Where have the angels gone? alas they fled,  
Unto a place afar in th' azure deep,  
"They mar Thy sanctuary Lord," they said,  
"We've fled in shame, and hither come to weep."

Ah! ye who name the name of Christ, beware,  
Be clothed in wisdom's dignity and fear;  
Your master's honour guard with jealous care,  
Not cause the blush of shame, and secret tear.  
C. C. A. F.

#### MISSION WORK ON THE CANADA PACIFIC RAILWAY.

MR. EDITOR,—I suppose it is now almost too late for me to say much about my long and wearisome journey from Heckston, Ontario, to Section 15 C. P. R. in the same Province. However, let me in a few sentences pass quickly over the old route. I assure you I did not experience any remarkable kindness from the steamboat and railroad officials on the way to Manitoba. The passage from Sarnia to Duluth was very rough, and I felt—well perhaps you know how I felt better than I can describe. There was a complete change of government in a certain region, and I was a little sore and somewhat at a loss on account of it. The officers of the rickety old steamer "Quebec" did not give any manifestation of a kind, sailor-like disposition, but seemed to be altogether wrapt up in themselves and utterly indifferent to the wants and good will of their passengers. The accommodation on the Northern Pacific Railway was not by any means good. There was no "Pullman" and not even a special car for first-class passengers; so that, with a crowd of emigrants, squalling children, a cold stove, and, at night, just about enough light to make misery visible, peace and comfort was not within reach for at least twenty-four long hours. The breakfast served in a so called "hotel" near the Glyndon station was not calculated to tempt even a good appetite. At Fisher's Landing things were no better. When I asked a well-informed gentleman to direct me to a good hotel he said "They are all bad." However my stomach compelled me to enter for refreshments, and I entered the Manitoba House. To reach the dining-room I had to pass through a barber's shop and a cigar store into a kitchen which also served for the eating room. My appetite was almost satisfied before I took my seat at the table, for dirt and edibles were mixed in about equal quantities. All I need say about the Red River steamers is that grumblers must be in their element on board of them. Very soon after I landed at Winnipeg I was delighted to meet two good old friends, Messrs. Ross and Douglass, and also Mr. Robertson, who has in not a few instances proved to be to me a friend indeed. After spending less than a day in the capital I started again for my appointed field of labour. I will not weary you with a description of my three days' ride of eighty miles on a lorry drawn by a spirited horse, of shunt-

ing over bridges and culverts, of a night of unrest under a canvas tent, of the marked kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Molesworth, and Mr. and Mrs. Blanchard on section 14, of my success in managing a horse in bad swamps and worse muskegs where the poor beast searched in vain for bottom, and of the almost impassable rocks over which I had to pass between the end of the track, which was at that time eighty miles from Winnipeg, and Mr. Whitehead's contract. I cannot understand how the plant and provisions for section 15 were taken over such a road. It was only by a very good and most careful manipulation of the reins that I succeeded in getting my horse across, through, or over, many of the muskegs. At Cross Lake, the western end of section 15, I met Mr. Chas. Whitehead who gave me some necessary directions and made arrangements for my accommodation at all the stations on the line. My best thanks are due to Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Ruttan for their good-will and endeavours to make my services acceptable to the men.

The country in the vicinity of section 15, and for miles on either side of it, is rough beyond all my powers of description. From one end of it to the other there is nothing to be seen but clear, beautiful lakes, hills and mountains of rock, and scrubby trees. I do not miss the mark when I say that there is not soil enough in any one place, except in swamps and muskegs, to make a five acre field. There will never be a waggon road within fifty miles of this section, and now the only way to pass from one point to another on the line is by a miserable trail, and over it horses are very seldom taken. With Jack Frost's bridges across the lakes, dog teams and horses, with strong cutters, can be used to good advantage. The work of construction is progressing in a way which should be satisfactory to all parties concerned. Mr. C. Whitehead is one of the best railway builders in America. Messrs. Mouroe, Ross and McLeod, Division Superintendents, are thorough, practical, energetic railway men, and Messrs. McDonald, Kavanagh and Holden, office clerks, can hardly be surpassed in their line. Mr. Ruttan, the contractor's engineer, has the confidence and respect of all parties, and is nobly supported by Mr. Middleton and two assistants who seem to be always working but never tired. In such hands the work will not be allowed to lag. Since the strike, which took place some days ago, day-labourers are all paid at the rate of twenty cents an hour, consequently the weak, inferior and incapable need not apply; but for strong, active, experienced railway men, who are not afraid to face hard work, the way is open. The disappointed have the strikers to blame.

I have had meals, with the men, in nearly all the camps, and I cannot say anything against the provisions and accommodation. The board is very good, considering that Winnipeg, the base of supplies, is a hundred and ten miles, at the nearest point, distant from the section, and that the road, in many places, is for the greater part of the year impassable. The office buildings and camps are the best I have ever seen on such a railroad. The camps are generally built in two compartments, a sleeping and an eating room, for from forty to sixty men. In the sleeping apartment the bunks are placed in two tiers along the sides, so that each man has a bed to himself. The dining-room is provided with two long tables, benches, cook, cookie, and the utensils necessary for cooking. The provisions are distributed from time to time from the head quarters on the divisions.

On Sabbath, June 9th, I held my first services in the camps, on the Section, and received a very good reception from men of all denominations. In my intercourse with the men from time to time I find that many are pleased and a few delighted to have my services, and that many are altogether indifferent and a few—Protestants and Orangemen among the number—consider the mission a nuisance. Every day the men are changing, going to and from the work, so that only a few of the men who were on the line a year or six months ago are here now. But notwithstanding all the changes and the late attempt at a strike, I can say that a quieter, more peaceful and intelligent lot of men it would be almost impossible to find on any public work. I have not seen the first sign of a quarrel. One reason for this good state of matters is the absence of any great quantity of intoxicating spirits. Occasionally whiskey and brandy are smuggled in and sold to the men, but now that the