

The Record.

MAY, 1861.

THE RECORD.

The notice in the last appears to have had some effect in bringing in outstanding arrears. But there are very many still who have been receiving the *Record* for years and have never paid at all. We again earnestly call upon all agents and individual subscribers to remit with as little delay as possible.

THE CLOSE OF THE COLLEGE SESSION.

The Session of 1860 closed on Wednesday 3rd April. The examinations were conducted on the preceding days, and were attended by several members of Synod from various parts of the Province. The closing Lecture was delivered by the Reverend Professor Young. The subject selected by the Professor for his Lecture was, "Recent Assaults on the Christian Faith, with special reference to Essays and Reviews, by ministers of the Church of England." The Lecture, which was listened to by a large assembly, and repeatedly drew forth tokens of warm approbation, was characterized by all the logical acumen and keen analysis which mark Professor Young's efforts. We regret that we cannot give our readers the Lecture as it was delivered, as we have not been furnished with a copy of it. We feel that any attempt at an abstract would not succeed. We are sure that the church generally would rejoice were Professor Young to extend his Lecture, and give it to the public in a permanent form. The subject discussed is one which, in both continents, is engaging earnest attention, and we believe Professor Young is as well qualified as most to examine the arguments of the essayists, and to expose their baselessness. So far as yet appears, no proceedings will be taken against them, although they are all members, and many of them prominent ministers and teachers in the established Church of England. The work is to be left to be dealt with, not in the way of Ecclesiastical condemnation, but with the weapons of logic, and the arguments of sound philosophy and theology. As the common christian faith is assailed, and as there is reason to believe that the poison may spread, it is most desirable that an antidote should be provided, and that our young theologians who, are looking forward to the work before them, should be thoroughly prepared to meet and grapple with the

plausible reasonings of the school to which the Essayists belong.

We should have observed that Principal Willis presided, and conducted the opening and closing exercises, adding a few appropriate remarks at the close of Professor Young's Lecture.

We may mention that three Students have completed their course this session, and are ready for their trial examinations. These are Messrs. Graham, Eadie and Mackay.

The following Students were successful competitors for the Bursaries which were open for competition, viz.: Mr. Mackey, the John Knox Bursary; Mr. H. Gracey, the George Buchanan Bursary; Mr. L. Cameron, First Gaelic Bursary; and Mr. McColl, Second Gaelic Bursary.

The Prince of Wales Prize which is announced in another column will we trust draw forth a number of competitors.

THE APPROACHING MEETING OF SYNOD.

We advert to the approaching meeting of Synod chiefly for the purpose of suggesting the propriety of congregations, as well as private individuals, making the meeting, and the important matters to be before it, subjects for special prayer. Perhaps special prayer meetings might be held previous to, as well as during the meeting of Synod, by the office-bearers and members of the Church. The occasion is a most important one. The results of the union then to be consummated will tell most powerfully on the future progress of the Church, and on the religious condition of the Province, and it becomes us to pray earnestly that the united Church may be anew baptized with the Holy Spirit, and may be enabled to go forth in the strength of the Lord to the work before her. Perhaps too we need to pray for grace to keep us from indulging a too elated and boasting spirit, as if we were now becoming a very strong and powerful body. Whatever numbers may swell our roll, our strength can lie only on the blessing and presence of the Great Head of the Church. Let us pray that we may be enabled in every thing to renounce all glorying in ourselves, and to have a single eye to the glory of our God and Saviour.

THE STATISTICAL RETURNS.

Blank schedules for the statistical returns have been forwarded to all the ministers on the roll of the Synod. On being filled up they should be forwarded by the 5th May to the Clerk of the Presbytery, whose duty it is to prepare a Presbyterial return for the Committee on Statistics. It is of very great

consequence that these matters should be attended to. In past years there have been always some congregations whose statistics have not appeared in our returns. Thus an injury is done, not merely to themselves, but to the body at large to whose interests injustice is done. Much will depend on the Clerks of Presbyteries, and we doubt not they will exert themselves to have the returns of their Presbyteries as full and correct as possible. We have forwarded to Presbytery Clerks some additional Schedules for vacant congregations, and mission stations.

Let any should not receive a blank return or should lose, it we subjoin the list of queries. It will be borne in mind that by resolution of last Synod the contributions to the College and to the other Synodical objects are to be taken from the books of the General Agent.

STATISTICS.

1. Designation of Congregation.....
2. Name of Minister
3. Date of Ordination
4. No. of Families connected with Congregation
5. No. of Communicants.....
6. Addition by Examination and Certificate
7. Diminution by death, removal, &c.
8. Number of Elders
9. Number of Deacons, Trustees or Managers
10. Pastoral Visitation of Congregation,
11. Number of Baptisms.....
12. Number of Week-day Meetings...
13. Average Attendance

FINANCES.

1. Stipend promised, with or without Manse
2. Stipend really paid
3. Arrears actually } For former years.
due } For 1860-1.....
4. Presbytery's Home Mission Fund...
4. Contributions not otherwise reported
6. Total Congregational Contributions

THE CONSUMMATION OF THE UNION

CIRCULAR OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS.

The following circular has been addressed to the Ministers of both Church. We give it a place in our columns, earnestly recommending the subject to the liberality of the Congregations:

The Committees appointed by the Synods to make arrangements for the consummation of the Union, having met, and considered the business assigned to them, found that this much desired event, will be attended with unusual expense, and resolved unanimously to recommend that a special collection for this object be made, in all the congregations in both Bodies. There will be some expenses of an extraordinary nature, (such, for example, as procuring an Act of the Legislature,) which may never occur