

The Theological Hall.

BY REV. A. MCL. SINCLAIR.

The sum of \$105,000 has been signed for the endowment of the Theological Hall. Of this sum \$58,000 have been paid. Thus \$47,000 remain unpaid. The sum due, it is hoped, will be paid without much delay.

1. Every farthing of what has been subscribed is needed. Before the new effort, the effort to raise the \$100,000, was begun, we had \$80,000 invested. This sum yields us \$5000 a year. It is invested at about $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. We support three of the professors in Dalhousie College, Professors Ross, Lyall, and McDonald. We pay each \$1500 a year. We pay them in all \$4500. Of Dr. McGregor's salary as the agent of the Church in the Maritime Provinces, \$2000 a year, the sum of \$500 is paid out of our college funds. So when we pay the Professors in Dalhousie College, and the proportion of the agent's salary, we have nothing left for the support of the Hall.

We have three professors in the Hall, Principal McKnight, Dr. Pollock, and Prof. Currie. We give each a salary of \$1750 a year. Thus it costs us \$5250 a year to support them. If we estimate other expenses in connection with the Hall at \$750, we see that we actually need for its support \$6000 a year. But to yield us this amount we require an invested capital of \$100,000. Supposing then that of the \$105,000 signed we should receive \$100,000, we would still be without enough to support the Hall. The building as it now stands has cost us about \$30,000. Deducting this sum from the \$100,000, we would have only \$70,000 for the payment of the professors, and the running expenses. To put the Hall then in a thoroughly satisfactory position, to make it wholly independent of annual congregational collections, we require a sum of \$130,000.

2. The Hall deserves our support. It is doing a good work. The professors in

it are thoroughly qualified for the positions they hold. With respect to the number of professors in it, it is equal to the other halls of our church. It is indeed superior to some of them. Montreal college has only two professors, and Queen's college only two. In the Divinity Hall of the Established Church of Scotland in Edinburgh there are only four professors. If then we have three, when the University of Edinburgh has only four, we have no reason to be ashamed. There are not as many students in the Hall as we would like to see; still we have no great cause to complain. There are seventeen students in it this winter. Of these four or five will be ready for license in the spring.

3. We need a Hall in the Maritime Provinces. When we are able to educate our young men at home why should we send them abroad? The Synod of the Church of Scotland sent quite a number of young men to Scotland to be educated, but it found by experience that it was educating many of these young men, not for itself, but for other churches. If we send men away to be educated, they are likely to stay away.

It may be said we have too many Theological Halls. We have one in Halifax, one in Quebec, one in Montreal, one in Kingston, one in Toronto, and the beginning of one in Winnipeg. It may be that there are too many halls in the Upper Provinces; but we have nothing to do with that. In these Lower Provinces we have only one, and surely we need one. It would not be either reasonable, patriotic, or wise to destroy it, and send our young men to Montreal, Kingston, or Toronto. Our best plan is to train them at home. Seeing they can get as good a training in Halifax, as they can in any place in the Dominion, let us send them to Halifax.

4. We cannot depend upon annual collections for the support of the Hall. If all our congregations were like some of them, and all our people like some of them, we could safely depend upon yearly contributions. But it is well-known