

CHAPTER IV.

FINANCE—APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR MACVICAR—INCREASE OF STUDENTS—LIBRARY—SCHOLARSHIPS, ETC.

The financial operations of 1867 were not large compared with what has since been accomplished. The amount received for the Endowment Fund was \$8776.85; and for ordinary revenue \$1215.14. The disbursements amounted to \$1338.95, leaving a balance due the Treasurer of \$123.81. It was thus the day of small things in all respects; and the outlook such as demanded the exercise of faith and courage. The disappointment caused by the declinature of Professor Young was disheartening, and it was felt that to continue temporary arrangements would speedily prove fatal. The Board, therefore, exerted itself to overcome these difficulties. The great problem was to secure the right man to undertake the work. A false step at this stage would be most serious. He must be one both willing and able to perform all sorts of duties, to face personal risks, to finance, to teach, to attract students, secure buildings, library, and endowments, meet the expectations of the people, and satisfy the General Synod. The task seemed large and arduous; and it is not surprising that, in order to its right performance, the thoughts of some turned naturally to other lands as likely to furnish "the coming man." Accordingly overtures were made to the Revs. Dr. Marcus Dods, Glasgow; Dr. Bruce, then of Broughty Ferry; Dr. McCosh, of Princeton; and Dr. Ormiston, of New York. These well-meant efforts, however, proved fruitless. The distinguished gentlemen named preferred to continue the work in which they were engaged, and, therefore, Canada could secure the services of none of them, at any rate for such a very general, initial and uncomfortable collegiate work as that contemplated. Providence seemed to have something else in store for us, and, as the event has shown, the enterprise was to be developed by Canadian rather than foreign talent; and perhaps our history, so far as already made, warrants honest hard-workers in departments of intellectual toil all over our broad country to learn from it a lesson of modest humble self-reliance.

When the Synod met in Erskine Church, Montreal, in June, 1868, the condition of things being such as we have described, only six of all the ministers and elders assembled favored looking abroad for a man, and the Rev. D. H. MacVicar, Pastor of Côté St. Church, Montreal, was appointed "Professor of Divinity,"—a title far too narrow and which included only a part, doubtless the most congenial part, of his many duties. He had then been eight years the Minister of a large and influential congregation, whose appreciation of him had been shown during his entire pastorate, and has since been mani-