

The Presbyterian Review

Issued EVERY THURSDAY, from the office of the Publishers, Rooms No. 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, Berdeen Block, South-East corner Adelaide and Victoria Streets, Toronto.

TERMS, \$1.50 per annum.

All communications for either Business or Editorial Departments should be addressed PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2464, Toronto, Ont.

ADVERTISING RATES.—Under 3 months, 15 cents per line per insertion; 3 months, \$1.00 per line; 6 months, \$1.75 per line 1 year, \$3.00. No advertisement charged at less than five lines. None others than unobjectionable advertisements taken.

Toronto, Dec. 10, 1896.

FOREIGN MISSION FUND.

WE learn from Dr. Warden that this fund is about \$50,000 in debt at the present time, and that but for an advance made by the W. F. M. S. on this year's account the present indebtedness would amount to about \$70,000. It is time that about this time of the year there is annually a considerable amount loaned from the banks but not in any former year so much as at present. There is the additionally discouraging fact that less has been received than at the corresponding date last year by several thousand dollars the difference being chiefly owing to the smaller amount received from legacies. It seems clear that there is a financial crisis in this department of the church's work and that nothing less than a heroic effort will save the Committee from a very large deficit at the end of the year. Already it appears from statements issued by Mr MacKay, the Secretary, that the work has seriously suffered. We do not believe as we have already said that it is the will of the Church that our Foreign Missions should suffer. The Church has not yet realized the situation, when she does the response will be ample to provide for present needs and for reasonable enlargement as well. Let every pulpit publish the condition of affairs and we feel assured that the results will be satisfactory and the Church protected from reproach.

BAPTIST WORK AMONG FRENCH CANADIAN ROMAN CATHOLICS.

Though of course we naturally count on Presbyterians contributing to the evangelization work that is being conducted by their own Church rather than to any other, it is well for them to know what others are doing in the same direction. To our thinking the Baptist Church has always been a little too exclusive and sectarian in its attitude to other churches, though perhaps not more so than some others, but it is undoubtedly evangelical in its teaching, and therefore we have every reason to rejoice in the success of its efforts among Roman Catholics who are very largely in ignorance of the Gospel. In one sense they were the pioneers in this work, and have continued steadily at it for sixty years. In that time they claim to have had 6,000 conversions and to have trained sixty missionaries from among that number, a large proportion of whom are still at work among their fellow-countrymen. Their last report, which came to hand a few days ago, shows that the Feller Institute at Grande Ligne, which corresponds to our own schools at Pointe-aux-Trembles, had 123 pupils during the session of 1895-6. They have also a school at Coaticook with an attendance of 36. They have nine organized French congregations in the Province of Quebec, with resident pastors, and twelve evangelists breaking fresh ground. Only twenty-five baptisms are reported for the year, but this seems to be considerably below the average. The expenditure of the mission for the year was \$19,282. The ordinary revenue was about a thousand dollars less, and as there

was a debt of \$1,000 carried over from the previous year they had decided to reduce the appropriations for the ensuing year by a corresponding amount. Of their revenue \$2,820 comes from the United States, \$1,655 from Britain, and the Feller Institute has an endowment of \$27,850, yielding \$1,046. The balance, nearly \$13,000, was contributed by their churches in Canada. We note with pleasure that, except in the large cities of Montreal and Quebec, their missions are all at different points than our own, so that there is no clashing of work; and for several years past there has been a definite understanding between our Board and theirs that each would avoid entering on any field occupied by the other, in order that all unseemly rivalry might be avoided. The field is wide enough for all under present circumstances. Except at one point in the Ottawa Valley, they have no field outside the Province of Quebec, but as soon as funds permit will endeavor to open stations in New Brunswick and Manitoba. One of the special difficulties with their missions, as with our own, is the enforced emigration of their converts from the country through social persecution. But, nevertheless, they consider that the present time is one especially favorable for their work, owing to the growing spirit of independence among the people in matters of a political character. As the report puts it: Resistance to ecclesiastical power on political ground is a footing for further resistance on religious ground some day. It is the assertion of personal sense of right of conscience which may give its full measure when undue clerical influence has become unbearable.

KNOX COLLEGE.

The present financial condition of the College necessitates an urgent appeal for immediate assistance. While the Board has done everything possible to keep down the expenditure and at the same time to maintain the efficiency of the College, the long continued depression in business, the diminution in the rate of interest, and the decrease, in the rural districts especially, of the Congregational collections for the College Fund, have resulted in a deficit which must be immediately provided for. The deficit at the close of the financial year was \$6576.00.

The appointment by the General Assembly of two new Professors, involves an increased yearly expenditure, which demands earnest attention. To meet the deficit, with the increased liability, will require this year \$18,500.00.

No one acquainted with its past history and the work done by the College can be unaware of the vast benefit it has proved to the country, and especially to the cause of Presbyterianism throughout Canada. In view of this fact the Board appeals with confidence to Presbyterians for help, and trusts that a generous response will be made. There is no doubt about the reasonable character of this appeal.—Knox College deserves well from the Church and the time is no doubt coming when, like Princeton Seminary in New Jersey, her days of struggle will have ended, but meantime the struggle is on. Help now means every thing for the College. With an earnest desire for its success, the Board has made every effort to put the College staff on a good footing.

Success seems assured in this direction and the least that the Presbyterian Public can do is to wipe off the deficit, and, with a moderate increase in the congregational collection, put this valuable institution on a more comfortable footing.

Increase of the endowment will come a little later.

THE VENEZUELAN SETTLEMENT.

Though the terms have not yet been officially published, Lord Salisbury's speech at the Lord Mayor's dinner makes it certain that some solution of the