

one of whom is married to Mr. F. A. Reesor, agent of the bank in Markham. Seven children predeceased him, three of whom, who died in manhood, sleep by his side in Scarborough Churchyard.

The funeral took place on Saturday, the 12th inst. There was a large attendance present at the house including the clergymen of the various denominations. The services at the house were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Smith, of St. Andrew's Church, Markham, the Rev. Mr. McIntosh, Unionville, the Rev. James Carmichael, Norwood, and the Rev. Mr. Totten, of the Methodist Church, Markham. The body was then removed to St. Andrew's Church, Scarborough, being followed by many from here, numerous persons also joining in the funeral procession as it wended its way to the church. At the church, notwithstanding the bad roads, and that many had not heard of the death of their friend and pastor, a large number of people were assembled. Funeral services were also held in the church, in which the Rev. Mr. Tanner, of St. Andrew's Church, Scarborough, the Rev. William Clelland, of Toronto, the Rev. James Carmichael, formerly of Markham, but now of Norwood, and the Rev. Mr. Smith took part. Mr. Clelland and Mr. Carmichael, as the oldest and most intimate acquaintances of the deceased among the clergymen present, addressed the people making reference to the character, work and worth of the deceased and of the love and esteem in which he was held. Many persons were greatly affected during the delivery of these addresses. After all had the opportunity of looking for the last time upon the venerable and venerated features of their deceased friend, the coffin was closed and the remains were solemnly removed to the churchyard where the interment took place, the closing services being performed by the Rev. Mr. Hart, the rector of the Episcopal Church, Markham.

KNOX COLLEGE PROFESSORSHIP.

MR. EDITOR,—From the letter of "Enquirer" in your last issue, it seems that Presbyteries do not interpret in the same manner the decision of last General Assembly. Some think that Presbyteries have merely to nominate, while others hold that the opinion of Presbyteries on the whole question is sought. It is of the following tenor: "That the Board of Management and Senate of Knox College be instructed to define the work of the additional professor, and to announce their decision at the opening of the College in October, so that Presbyteries may have time to consider the matter, and make nominations for next Assembly." Hence it is contended that the consideration is not necessarily confined to the nominations, but extends to the whole subject.

It is held by some that no professor should be nominated till the Committee on the Consolidation of Colleges shall have reported. This is a reflection on the wisdom of the Assembly. The Assembly evidently thought that there was so little prospect of consolidation in Ontario that the appointment of another professor need not on this account be delayed another year. It is understood that the aim of those who seek consolidation in Ontario is to discontinue teaching theology in Queen's College, and to transfer this department to Knox College. Those who understand the sentiments of pastors previously connected with the Church of Scotland, and also who value the honour of the whole Church, know very well that such consolidation will not likely take place during the present generation.

It is said that the appointment of another professor in Knox College would involve too great expenditure. But it should be borne in mind that this is what the faculty and students of Knox College have long desired. It should be considered, too, that Knox College has not received the share out of the Common Fund to which it is justly entitled in view of the extent and wealth of its constituency, or what may be so called. The refusal of the boon offered by the Assembly will displease many of the warmest friends of Knox College and tend at once to reduce contributions more than would be needed to pay the salary of a fourth professor. This opinion is freely expressed by laymen.

It is well known that lecturers are poor substitutes for experienced professors who are specialists in their respective subjects, to which they have devoted ten to twenty years of hard study, not to speak of the skill in teaching which they have acquired. It is known too that students and their wish should, if possible, be respected—do not desire to have the curriculum ex-

tended; they do not wish any more lectures than they now have. In fact, they would gladly have the number of lectures greatly reduced, and text-books in Theology and Exegesis substituted for lectures. Were the professors to indicate a course of reading, and were they to explain the matter read, and examine students on it, and write only occasional lectures of their own, it would be most gratifying to students and also fully exercise the teaching power of professors. But the students do not desire a number of amateur lecturers. Indeed if the lectures are more numerous the students will become fewer. But the truth is, and the great difficulty is, that the Church has a superabundance of prospective professors. They are eager to be appointed even for a few weeks. In the intensity of their desire men overstep the bounds of modesty and even of honour, as one has written a private circular to members of Presbyteries soliciting nomination, and that too with view of superseding one under whom he studied the very branches which he wishes to teach.

It has long been the most earnest desire of students to have more adequate instruction in Homiletics and Pastoral Theology. This has often been expressed. Indeed in the *Knox College Monthly* of the current month this is clearly expressed: "Dr Proudfoot has made his lectures as interesting and instructive as ever. For nineteen years he has been lecturing in this department, and the only regret felt is that his course does not extend over the whole session."

While the decision of the Assembly may be doubtful on one point, it is quite clear in instructing the Board of Management and Senate "to define the work of an additional professor." This has been already done. It is hinted that this might be set aside by the Assembly. It is easy to see what is wanted. Some were anxious to have the "chair" so defined as not to take in the sphere of the present lecturer's labours, as they felt that the Church could not well refuse the chair to one who has so long filled it with acceptance and success. This is the true state of the case. Let honourable men keep their eyes upon it and they will understand the inwardness of it.

It has been said that names should not be mentioned in the newspapers at all, and that Presbyteries should calmly consider the claims of the numerous candidates. But this proceeds on the principle that the chair is not at present filled. Many would ignore the indefatigable labours and skill and success of the present lecturer. As well might we proceed to fill the chair of Dr. Gregg or Dr. McLaren, neither of whom has lectured so long as Dr. Proudfoot.

The matter has thus found its way into the "papers." And indeed it is most desirable that it should do so, that the Church may fully understand the matter, and that the organized and secret labours of a mere clique to do what is flagrantly dishonourable may be fully exposed to view.

STATUS QUESTIONIS.

NO INCONSISTENCY.

MR. EDITOR,—I observed in your issue of the 16th, a reference to a letter received by you from a correspondent, "J. C.," and also an extract from the letter. The writer, after referring to the action recently taken by the Presbytery of Toronto in regard to the supply of vacant congregations, states: "The Presbytery of Toronto, however, was not the first move in this important matter. At the meeting of Synod, held in Belleville in 1884, an overture from the Presbytery of Peterborough, in reference to vacancies, was read, which overture was in the line of the recommendations of the Toronto Presbytery. The chief opposition to that overture came from the venerable father who is now moving so energetically in the right direction, and it was laid under the table. The supporter of the overture said that the day was near when its principle would be accepted by the Church, and now it seems he was correct."

Allow me to make a very few remarks on the sentences just quoted. As to the credit of moving first in this matter, both the Presbytery of Toronto and myself are perfectly indifferent, and "J. C." is quite welcome to all the credit which his overture deserves. It is quite true the overture moved by "J. C." in the Presbytery, and subsequently supported by him before the Synod at Belleville, did not commend itself to my judgment. I did oppose it, and if it should be brought forward again I should still be opposed to it. What did the overture ask? It asked the Assembly "to

frame a deliverance which shall require Presbyteries to proceed to settle a minister in every charge which shall remain vacant for ——— time." The legislation asked for was not merely permissive, but absolute and compulsory. Presbyteries were to be *required to proceed*, etc.; now I opposed the overture, and I am opposed to the principle of it still, because I cannot consent to allow even a Presbytery to appoint absolutely and permanently a minister over a congregation, even if there should be delay in filling up the vacancy. The Presbytery may and ought to counsel and seek to guide and assist the congregation; but the choice of a permanent pastor ought to be left with the congregation. I stated my views on this point before the Presbytery of Toronto when supporting the regulation adopted by them. There is, therefore, no inconsistency in the views I have held and the course I have followed in the matter.

W. REID.

Toronto, 21st Dec., 1885.

NOTES FROM A SCOTT ACT COUNTY.

MR. EDITOR,—When the electors of this county were hearing orators dilate on both sides of the question before the memorable 17th day of March, they were told by those opposed to the Act that the farmers would not be able to get accommodation for themselves and their teams when they came to town; that hotels could not be run without whiskey; that it would not pay. As I have had occasion to put my horse in a stable which is run independently of any other business, I asked the proprietor if it paid, when he answered me decidedly in the affirmative. Parties who are keeping dining-rooms for the farmers also give testimony that they can make both ends meet with a fair margin for profit. For a short time after the Act came in force, it was apparently pretty well observed by hotel-keepers, but for some time past the Scott Act has been pretty generally set at defiance. There is, of course, not the same temptation for young men who have not acquired the habit of indulging in strong drink, but the old toppers seem to get all they want as heretofore. Beer, being a more bulky article and less profitable, has been dispensed with, and whiskey and ginger-ale are said to be the mainstay of the "drouthy chield." We are in a fair way of getting a county police magistrate, ostensibly to try Scott Act cases, but unprejudiced parties say that the "missing link" is between the law-breaker and the magistrate; that if we had an energetic, intelligent, upright official to act in the capacity of a detective and public prosecutor, he would find plenty to do in bringing the vendors of fire-water before the police magistrate and we are very much afraid that unless we get such an officer the Scott Act will never be a success; for what is everybody's business is generally nobody's business.

SCRIBBLER.

A LECTURE was delivered in Montreal last week by Professor R. Bell, M.D., LL.D., Senior Assistant-Director of the Geological Survey, on Canadian Exploration by Forest, Sea and Plain. It was full of information and the perils of the work of exploration were graphically described. The strictly geographical parts of the lecture were illustrated by means of maps and charts placed upon the wall, and these enabled the listener, says the *Witness*, to go with Professor Bell over the ground traversed by him. The rocky region of the Hudson's Bay coast, on which the water has receded at the rate of seven feet during the century, was described, and the difficulties of progress by land between Lake Superior and the Hudson's Bay were also well told. Abandonment by the Indians in one instance nearly cost his party their lives. In other instances there were dangers from sea voyages. In short, the lecture teemed with adventure. He described the locality where it was believed that Hudson, the great navigator, had been turned adrift with his son on Hudson's Bay, and said that there was no reason to suppose that the crews perished. They were not far from an Esquimaux settlement, and they might have married and lived and died there among the Esquimaux. Their descendants might have been among some of the friendly Esquimaux that he had met. Mr. R. A. Ramsay, who occupied the chair, moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was seconded by Rev. Mr. Barclay, and cordially tendered.

GIRTON College has been left a legacy of \$10,000 by an enthusiastic supporter.