

is progressing vigorously, and the audiences are increasing. The collections, which averaged \$8 or \$10 during the winter, have risen to \$22 and \$27, and on the 7th April, the sum of \$51 was collected for the Foreign Missions of the church,—the first missionary collection taken up by the congregation. This is equal to more than 60 cents a member. If other congregations gave in like proportion, our Foreign Mission fund would be increased sixfold.

The new church will be commenced forthwith, under encouraging auspices. The people are enthusiastic, and are resolved, by God's blessing, to push the work through without delay.

THE MEETING OF SYNOD.—Arrangements are being made, as in former years, for obtaining return tickets for members of Synod, going by the various railways and steamboat routes.

AYR, STANLEY STREET.—We briefly referred, in our last number, to the induction of the Rev. S. Balmer. A member of the Presbytery of Paris sends an interesting account of a social meeting of the congregation which took place on the evening of the day of induction, at which Rev. J. Dunbar of Glenmorris presided, and most of the members of the Presbytery were present. The amount realized by the sale of tickets, although only 25 cents each, was \$130.

On the afternoon of the next day about 300 children from the village and neighborhood assembled together, when, after a liberal supply of cakes and fruit had been distributed, short addresses were delivered by the Rev. J. Dunbar, Rev. J. James, and Rev. S. Balmer, while the children sang some of their Sabbath-school hymns, and all enjoyed themselves to the utmost.

Mr. Balmer enters upon a wide and very important field of labour: He enters upon this pastorate of a congregation that has had not a little to contend with. During not a few of the latter years of their first pastor, Mr. Ritchie, his bodily infirmities were such as rendered him often ill able to overtake as he wished all the duties of his large congregation, while their last pastor, Mr. Irving, had but little more than begun his duties when death set his seal on him also. During their vacancy, they had called once, and again, and yet again, ere they were successful. Much to their credit, however, all passed over them, and passed away, without shaking in any sense the stability, or even disturbing the harmony of the congregation. From the auspicious circumstances under which Mr. Balmer enters upon his pastorate, and from his varied experience, acknowledged ability, and past success, we anticipate a lengthened course of much comfort to himself, and much prosperity to the congregation.

CLOSING OF KNOX COLLEGE.—The session of 1866-7 closed at the usual time,—the first Wednesday of April. The closing lecture was delivered by Principal Willis. In the course of his eloquent address which was listened to with marked attention, and repeatedly called forth expressions of approval, the Principal gave a sketch of the progress of the College during the twenty years with which he had been connected with it, and referred to the very considerable number of ministers, trained in the College, who were now occupying positions of influence and usefulness throughout the Province.

Many ministers and others were present. The Rev. D. Inglis moderator of Synod, and chairman of the College Board, closed the proceedings with prayer.

Previous to the closing, Dr. Willis received an address from the students expressive of their sense of his attention to them and of their appreciation of his Theological instructions.