

The increase of the Church during the last ten years is somewhat satisfactory, though not what we would like to see it. In 1851 the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia numbered 28,767 and the Free Church, 25,280, making a total of 54,047. In 1861 the united Church numbered 69,456—thus showing an increase of 15,409, or about thirty per cent in ten years. Though the Established Church of Scotland increased only a fraction over one per cent in ten years, yet other bodies, the Wesleyans and Baptists for example, have increased at the rate of *forty* per cent or upwards! Let us be truly thankful for the progress we have made, but let us be stirred up to renewed exertion by the diligence of other Churches and by a sense of the great work lying before us.

It will be seen that in two or three Counties we have scarcely a foothold. Still, the nucleus of a congregation exists even in Queen's. *Eighty* souls are not to be neglected. Other denominations plant a Church where they have but three or four adherents, and thus manage to strengthen themselves and do much good. When will our Home Mission Treasury be sufficiently replenished to enable us to do likewise?

There are now besides our own Church, two other Presbyterian denominations in the Province—one numbering 19,063 and professing adherence to the Scottish Establishment; the other, connected with the Scottish and Irish "Reformed Presbyterian Churches" and numbering 263.

The number of our adherents in Prince Edward Island is 15,591. In the other Provinces we have probably three thousand more. This will make the total number of adherents a little short of ninety thousand. Such being our strength as a denomination, surely a heavy responsibility rests upon us to do much for the glory of our Redeemer, by proclaiming his Gospel at home and abroad.

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## MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

### OPENING OF THE SESSION 1861-62: INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR M'KNIGHT.

THE Session of the Theological Hall at Halifax was inaugurated on the evening of the 5th November. The number of Students attending the Classes is *fifteen*. Professor McKnight delivered the Inaugural Address, his subject being the *Importance of the Study of Hebrew and other Languages akin to it as part of a course of preparation for the Ministry*. The Lecture was excellent and very appropriate. We give a few extracts:

"Fitness to teach implies two things—the possession of knowledge, and ability to communicate it. Either of these may exist apart from the other. A man whose mind is well stored with knowledge may be so deficient in the faculty of lucid and effective utterance that no one can be induced to listen to him. And on the other hand there may be an unflagging volubility of tongue when there is no substratum of sound and solid information on which to base its utterances. The learning of the one is profitable, but only to himself. The fluency of the other fills the ear but not the understanding. The light of the one is good and beautiful; but it is hid under a bushel. The light of the other is an *ignis fatuus*; and those who attempt to follow it are drawn into the mire. It is only the man who is possessed, in moderate degree at least, of both endowments—the man who *knows* the truth, and *can express* it, that is an 'apt instructor.'"