

giving them the advantages of a home university; an idea which has been the starting point of our success. This scheme has been the means of accomplishing a great deal, and it is hoped that in one shape or other it will never be allowed to die. We may have a university in this country, but every church and every country requires bursaries for the assistance of those who, in pursuing their studies, have much to spend and are not in a position to earn means of support. If Christian parents, who give their children to a non-lucrative work, make sacrifices, the people of the church should share them. While by this scheme about fourteen young men have been assisted in their education, upwards of £1000 have from first to last been collected. The Synod of New Brunswick imitating our example, instituted a similar plan, and have educated six or seven. Upon the whole then, the projectors of this scheme have no reason to be disappointed, but valuable results have been obtained.

Another sign of advancement has been the maintenance since Jan. 1855 of a periodical, which has rendered valuable aid to religion and church order during thirteen eventful years. The *Record* was projected by the late Mr. Martin and Geo. Spiott, now minister of the Chapel of Garioch, Scotland its first editors; and the first No. was issued with Mr. Harper's and my own assistance in the winter of 1855 in Halifax. The venture was considerable as our numbers being small, a very large subscription list was not to be looked for. Such a paper is quite indispensable for reports, accounts and statements affecting the whole Church. The Church machinery could not have been maintained without such an advertising medium. But this is the lowest view; for it is even more necessary that a friendly advocate should appear before the public and the Church and advocate our cause in the open court of public opinion.

Another evidence of improvement is the continued support of home mission schemes, such as the Synod Fund the Home Mission proper, the Lay Association and the Home Missionary Association in the Presbytery of Halifax. By these, exclusive of efforts of a similar nature in the Synod of New Brunswick, it is estimated that during the period in question, a sum of about £3,000 exclusive of the enormous grants of the Colonial Committee, has been raised and expended upon our Home Missions. The Church has thereby shown a proper spirit and given evidence of genuine piety in her members by the strong coming forward to support the \*weak.

Another triumphant proof of Church energy has been the success of the Dalhousie College Scheme. Five years ago it was resolved to endow one professorship in Dalhousie College and give our people a share in the higher education of the country. Six thousand

pounds were required as the professor had to be paid, during the three or four years required for the realization of such a sum. And there was not a member of our Church who did not feel afraid of the attempt and by far the majority predicted failure. Not more than half of our people have entered with any degree of vigor into the measure. But what is the result? We have had our professor for four years, one of the most efficient in the province. We have a share in one of the most respectable universities in British North America, established on a most liberal basis, and the endowment wants only one hundred pounds of completion, to contribute which you will be invited in a few weeks in a public collection, which must be easy over the whole Church. Practically, we may consider the end gained. There seldom has been for the number contributing such a display of liberality in any denomination in this province nor a clearer proof of the vitality and zeal of our people in a good cause. It deserves honorable mention in the future history of the country. The end sought has been attained in the erection of a provincial university, and if all religious bodies have not as yet entered into the scheme, there is little doubt that in course of time some of them will. And if we have not reached the possession of a Divinity Hall so earnestly desired, there is no question that with patience this point also will be gained. The church will never be in its true position till it has within itself the means of equipment for its work.

In estimating our progress, we cannot omit mentioning what has been attempted in Foreign Mission work, to which every Church of Christ is solemnly called by the very terms of her commission: "Go teach all nations." An overture was introduced into the Synod assembled in Halifax during the summer of 1861, requesting the Church to take up this very important matter. The movement was prompted no doubt by the zeal and success of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia in maintaining a mission in the New Hebrides, which has been the most important of any mission maintained by any church in this dominion. Some were opposed to the undertaking of a Foreign Mission, because we were not a self-sustaining church and many doubted our ability. However an appeal was made to the congregations to ascertain what support would be given if such a mission were established and the result dissipated every fear. It was found that we might rely upon receiving three or four hundred pounds a year—a sum which may be augmented to five hundred at least since our union with New Brunswick. Our Church was quickened a good deal in this important matter by Dr. Geddie during his visit in 1865; and with his advice the New Hebrides was selected as the future field of

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