

requests which we now respectfully, but earnestly, and we may say confidently, prefer; first, that you should meet together, as the representatives of your several congregations and mission stations, and consider what share of the whole sum required for the College for the current year your several congregations should raise, and how it should be raised; as whether by yourselves personally or by the agency of collectors chosen for this work; secondly, that you give yourselves in the Lord's strength to carry out your own resolutions on this subject, and that without delay; and, thirdly, that you would, for the encouragement of others, report to the *Record* the contributions raised by you.

Not doubting that you will consent to us in these things; and in all that we have now set before you. We are, dear brethren, with Christian regard, yours respectfully, in name and by appointment of the Acting Committee of Knox's College.

WILLIAM RINTOUL, *Chairman*,  
JOHN McMURRICH, *Treasurer*.

### MEETING OF COMMISSION.

The attention of the members of the Commission, whose names will be seen at pages 41 and 42 of the printed Minutes of Synod, is called to the following quotations from the minutes:

"The Commission to have two stated meetings during the year, viz., at Kingston, on the first Wednesday of October, and at Toronto, on the first Wednesday of February, 1848, and not to have any adjournments, excepting such as may be made from day to day, at the stated meetings; and Presbyteries to use their diligence to have one or more of their ministers at these meetings,—even to form a quorum, of whom five shall be ministers."

"The matters referred to the Commission are as follows:

"1st. An overture for promoting the revival of religion throughout the Church.

"2nd. An overture on the subject of Ecclesiastical Registers.

"3rd. An overture respecting arrangements for the preaching of ministers when assembled at Synod.

"4th. An overture for promoting a better attendance of ministers and elders at the meeting of Synod.

"5th. A letter from the Presbytery of New Brunswick."

When it is recollected that these subjects are of great importance—what, indeed, can equal in importance the first of them?—and that the Commission did not meet in October, from the want of a quorum, and that there is to be no other meeting before the meeting of the Synod in June, it is not too much to expect that the members of the Commission should put themselves to some inconvenience to attend the ensuing meeting. Besides the business properly belonging to the Commission, there are many other matters of great importance to which its deliberations might properly be directed. A few weeks ago, it seemed as though there were a call for petitions from all our congregations against the projected division of the endowments of King's College, amongst the Episcopalians, the Presbyterians of the Established Church of Scotland, the Methodists, and Papists; and, though this may have been dispensed with, from the result of the late general election, it is well worth the consideration of the representatives of the Church how far we should endeavour to avail ourselves of King's College for the education of our theological students in literature and philosophy; and what suggestions we should offer in regard to a change of its present constitution and system of management. There are a few, at least, of our legislators who, we are sure, will listen respectfully to any suggestions which we ourselves, or the representatives of other evangelical churches, might make to them on this subject.

### KING'S COLLEGE.

Whereas a Bill was introduced into the Provincial Legislature, at its last Session, for the partition of the endowment of King's College among four religious bodies, to be applied for educational purposes under their ecclesiastical direction, and whereas this scheme is now again brought into general discussion in the Province—each of the four denominations interested to having in one form or other publicly declared their approval of it, or their readiness to acquiesce in its provisions; and whereas there seems to be a call on us in existing circumstances to express our views on a matter of such vital importance to the best interests of the community:

*Resolved 1st.*—That inasmuch as the endowment of King's College as well as its existing constitution, are manifestly designed to secure the full benefits of a University Education for the whole youth of the Province, without distinction or exception, we cannot but regard the proposed measure of partition as involving a violation of public faith, and as inflicting a palpable and grievous injury on the community at large.

*Resolved 2nd.*—That inasmuch as the entire endowment of King's College is by no means more than adequate for the due support of an institution such as it was designed to be; fully equipped for the high and varied purposes of University education, and expanding as the advancement of human knowledge and the growth of the community should require—the partition of its funds among a number of separate and limited seminaries would greatly and permanently damage the interests of education, science, and letters in this land.

*Resolved 3rd.*—That the proposed scheme of partition would necessarily stamp the education of the country with a sectarian character—and needlessly separating the ingenious youth of Canada in their educational character, would destroy one of the most wholesome means of harmonizing the heterogeneous, and in some respects discordant elements of which Canadian society is composed.

*Resolved 4th.*—That the Bill by practically excluding from participation in the existing endowments all but the members of certain religious denominations, is specially unadapted to the circumstances of a partially settled country, in which the relative proportions of the constituent classes of the community may soon be found to be very different from what they are at present; and thus we cannot but anticipate that the injurious and exasperating effects of the measure will increase with the progress of years, as denominations now recognized in the partition of the funds in question, may cease to exist, or decline to a fractional magnitude, and others now excluded from what was intended for all, may advance in numbers and influence.

*Resolved 5th.*—That deeply impressed with the value of religious knowledge as essential to the complete effect of an educational scheme, and anxious as we are that the recognition of God and of his revealed will should be impressed on all our public institutions, so far as this is practicable amidst conflicting religious sentiments—it is plain to us that the proposed measure has not the redeeming merit of securing this great interest; but, on the contrary, subverts the distinctions of truth and error, by recognizing contrary creeds alike, and goes to foster declining and impoverished institutions at the expense of sacrificing a great common foundation which might be so modified in respect of its rules and management, as to be available to all classes, of literary and even religious benefits, without rendering it a channel for diffusing the special religious opinions of any. And as to any unavoidable defect in its provisions for direct Theological training, this we believe may be most safely left to be supplemented by the denominations of Christians, according to their occasions, from their own resources, and in their proper Theological Schools.

*Resolved 6th.*—That as it seems to be a well ascertained fact that the available funds of the Universities are barely sufficient to meet the existing claims upon them, while many important parts of

education are wholly unprovided for, the proposed measure holds out to the community, especially in regard to the support of Grammar Schools, prospects of aid which must prove altogether illusory.

WILLIAM RINTOUL, A. M., *Chairman*, and  
*Professor of Hebrew*.

ROBERT BURNS, D. D., *Minister of Knox's Church, Toronto*.

MICHAEL WILLIS, D. D., *Professor of Theology*.

JAMES HARRIS, *Minister York Township*.

HENRY EMMY, A. M., *Professor of Mental and*

*Moral Philosophy*.

ALEXANDER GALE, A. M., *Principal of Toronto Academy, and Professor of Classical Literature in Knox's College*.

JOHN McMURRICH, *General Treasurer*.

SAMUEL SPREULL, *Treasurer to Bursary Fund*.

ABERDEEN, December 2, 1847.

MY DEAR SIR.—I hope Mr. Bayne and Dr. Willis have arrived in safety. I need not say to you that Mr. Bayne discharged the duty entrusted to him with the utmost fidelity and judgment. His efforts were unremitting. He spared neither labour nor pains. He had personal communication with any one, however distant, who could be of any use to him in the important matter entrusted to his care; and where unsuccessful in his immediate object, he left a deep impression of its importance, and of the judicious choice the Synod had made of a deputy on this occasion. The number of persons he applied to, and the distant places where some of them resided, will bear witness in part to the extent of his labours; but they only who corresponded with him and knew his different applications as they occurred, can have any adequate idea of the labour he underwent, and of the zeal and judgment which he brought to bear on the object of his mission.

In the Committee we had frequently the pleasure of his being with us. All the points which he had been desired to bring before us were deliberately considered, both in Sub-Committee and Committee, and I hope that the report which he will give of our opinion on the various points referred to, will be satisfactory.

We think we can truly congratulate the Synod of Canada on the result of Mr. Bayne's mission. The opinion of the brethren in the Presbytery of Glasgow will show in what estimation Dr. Willis held here by his brethren; but it is impossible for me to convey to you an adequate idea of the love and regard which were expressed to him by the office-bearers of his church, and by the members of his congregation, when they were called to bid him farewell. May the Lord bless him and make him a blessing to you!

I have written Mr. Bayne about a tutor, and I hope a desirable person will soon be obtained.

I remain, with great regard,

Yours most truly,

WM. DONAR, C. C.

Rev. Mr. Rintoul.

### PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

The Presbytery of Hamilton held its ordinary meeting at Hamilton, on the 12th and 13th current.

The Clerk read an extract from the Minutes of Synod, which he had received from the Synod Clerk, sanctioning the reception of the Rev. James Cairncross as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. His name was ordered to be recorded as an ordained minister, labouring within the bounds of the Presbytery.

Various reports were then given in, after which, the call from the congregation at Niagara in favour of Mr. James Fettes, Probationer, was taken up, and letters from Mr. Fettes were read, stating the circumstances in which he was placed; and that while he would have been willing cordially to have closed with the call at once, had he seen his way clear to leave the stations where he is at present labouring, by the prospect of their being immediately supplied, as he found the labours connected with the field more than his strength could long