

ye this day whom ye will serve, but as for us, we will serve the Lord.

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Montreal, August 20, 1873.

### COLLEGE OPENING.

MY DEAR SIR.—In accordance with my custom at the opening of the session, and at your own request, I proceed to lay before your readers a short account of College matters.

The opening service of this the thirty-fifth session was held on the evening of Wednesday, the 17th, in Zion Church. The Chairman of the Board presided, the Rev. John Fraser took part in the devotional service, and the Principal delivered a short address, in which he touched upon the Endowment Fund and other matters appertaining to the work of the session. But what will cause this opening service to be held in grateful and pleasant remembrance was the presence of the Revds. Dr. Stoughton, J. C. Harrison, A. McMillan, and J. F. Stevenson, who were on their way to attend the meetings of the Evangelical Alliance at New York. There were also present Chas. Reed, Esq., M. P. for Hackney, and John Carvell Williams, Esq., Secretary of the Liberation of Religion Society. All these gentlemen cheerfully acceded to the request to be present and take part in the proceedings; and, as might have been expected, the addresses they delivered were of varied character, but all in a high degree stimulating and refreshing. It is to be regretted that the crowded state of the columns of the newspapers with certain topics I care not to refer to here, prevented anything like an adequate report of what these gentlemen severally said from appearing. The audience was large and greatly interested. Mr. Powis, who by request of the Board was present in readiness to deliver the opening address, on finding that so many honoured brethren from the mother country were on hand, proposed that his part of the programme should be cancelled; to which proposal the Board acceded only on the condition that the address should be held over for delivery at the close of the Session, should Mr. Powis see fit then to deliver it.

The session opens under cheering auspices. The Revds. K. M. Fenwick and Chas. Chapman, M.A., have cheerfully consented to continue their special courses of lectures. The students have returned from their preaching engagements of the vacation in good health and spirits. Five candidates for admission have been received on probation: three to the full course and two to the theological course. Thus the number in attendance will be ten, of whom six have the status of undergraduates of the University—an encouraging fact to those who, like myself, attach great importance to our students taking the full course.

By the time this reaches the hands of your readers the Annual Report for 1872-73 will be ready for distribution. I have obtained from the publishers of the Canada Congregational Year Book a list of the churches on whose behalf copies of that work have been ordered, and it is my purpose not to send copies of the single Report to any of these churches, unless their ministers or office-bearers inform me that they are specially needed. To churches and subscribers not on the said list the Report will be mailed as usual. A few copies have been stitched up with the examination papers in the Department of Theology for the past session: these will be sent to as many ministers as we can supply, for their special information as to this part of the work of the College.

Though the usual resolution touching the offering of special prayer on behalf of the College was not formally passed at the last annual meeting, yet doubtless the second Sunday of October will be observed, as heretofore, as a day on which the churches will specially bear in mind its interests and necessities.

In this connection, I would again respectfully urge upon the attention of the ministers and office-bearers of our churches the importance of promptitude and system in taking up their annual subscriptions. The College has claims upon them which should not be postponed to those of any other organization we maintain; yet it is to be feared that, through neglect of doing the business at the right time, and in the right way, many churches fail to send remittances.