

Additional expense, unexpected but indispensable, has arisen from the foundation and chimnies of the Seminary building, which from the use of material imperfectly prepared, were found insufficient and unsafe. The chimnies it was seen necessary to take down, and they are now in process of re-building. A considerable outlay must thus be incurred.

The Board have further to report, that during the past winter correspondence was submitted to them of a semi-official character, from which it appeared that the allowance for Professor Lyall's salary, also that of Professor McKnight, of the Theological Hall, which had hitherto been granted by the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, was to be immediately withdrawn. In these circumstances the Convener was authorised to draw from the funds of the Treasury such sums as might be found necessary to preserve these brethren from loss and difficulty, until this meeting of Synod. At the same time representation was made to the Colonial Committee, that the withholding of the allowance referred to, with little or no warning, could not but place the Church here at serious disadvantage. The result has been that up to the 1st of March, there has been drawn from the funds of the Seminary, for the payment of Professor Lyall's salary, the sum of seventy-three pounds ten shillings, and that of Professor McKnight thirty-one pounds five shillings.

For both these salaries the Church here must hereafter make provision. And the Board need hardly remind the Synod, that in order to do so, united and energetic effort is indispensably necessary.

Turning to the Theological Hall, the Board ought perhaps to acknowledge remissness and short coming, partly owing to distance and consequent expense of travelling, partly from the want of a right understanding of the relation in which the College Board stood to the Church, and partly it may be as arising out of this from a feeling that they were hardly expected to interfere with the management of the Institution in Halifax. They have not exercised the same diligent supervision over it as over the institution in Truro. They were not present either at the opening, or at the close of the Classes in Divinity. They can report therefore only from reports of the Professors. From these, however, it appears that the School of the prophets gives good evidence of efficiency and advancement. Professor King reports that sixteen Students were engaged under his charge in the study of Theology, the larger portion of whom, he says, give high promise. He notes, however, that some were palpably deficient in the attainments with which they entered the Hall. The Board desire to call special attention to this statement. They believe that it cannot be questioned; they believe too, that its importance is very great. The Board believe at the same time that the confidence of the Church in the efficiency of the Preparatory Department is general and well founded. When then young men seek admission to the Theological Classes, without the necessary acquirements, it must be either from incapacity, or indolence, or from that undue haste in pressing forward, which is frequently as fatal as either want of ability, or lack of application. The remedy, the Board humbly submit, is in the hands of the Presbyteries. Let these courts do their duty, and let it be distinctly understood, that the Student who has not attained the required standard, will not be certified. An example or two of faithful earnest dealing will cure the evil, and will do more, than perhaps any other one thing that now requires to be done to elevate the character of the Ministry in our Church.

In presenting this summary of their more important transactions for the past year, the Board would respectfully submit that the time has now come