

trustees, and nearly all the congregation, joined the Free Church, and held the property until the Presbytery of Edinburgh brought the action for its recovery last year, and their plea was, that the buildings were never intended to be attached to a particular denomination, but were left in the power of the trustees and congregation, to be shifted at pleasure from one to another. But the judges, including Lord Ardmillan, himself a Free Churchman, repelled the plea, and decided that the property belonged to the Established Church, and must be handed over to it, and that the expenses as usual, must be borne by the losing party. No doubt this is very hard on the congregation, which has had to struggle with difficulties ever since 1843. But for the *Edinburgh Daily Review* to condemn the conduct of the Presbytery of Edinburgh as "re-enacting the oppression, the extreme legal exaction" of a quarter of a century ago, is very absurd. If the Presbytery wishes to open another Church in Leith now, as it does wish, and if there is a building there belonging to them though in possession of another body, who can blame them for asking for it?

2. At a meeting of the Society for the benefit of sons and daughters of Free Church Ministers, held last month in Edinburgh, Dr. Guthrie delivered a speech containing a great number of interesting facts.—Here are a few of them. First,—“Ministers’ sons are a great deal better than they get credit for. If they are bad boys, they are like a light set on a hill, and the news about them goes over the whole country. But, I am prepared by statistics to prove, that with God’s blessing, the training and education of the manse is the very best that any boy can get.”

Again:—“The Wesleyan body in their wisdom—and they are the wisest body I know, excepting the Papists, who are still more wise, have arranged in cases of Ministers with large families to provide for their maintenance and education. With no Malthusian wish to keep down the population, they pay a man according to the number of children he has. The Established Church has an institution for the daughters of their Ministers, which gives an excellent education at a much cheaper rate than they could possibly get at any of the boarding schools in Edinburgh. I commend the Church of Scotland highly for that.”

Again:—“In the first year of the Free Church, the Sustentation Fund equal dividend, was £105 stg.; in the five years from 1849 to 1854, the equal dividend was £122; in the next five years it was £133; in the next five years £137; in the next five years £143; and last year £150.” Within this period, too, the number of Ministers and congregations increased from 400 or 500 to 864. And besides, the average supplement has risen from £53 in 1849 to £74 in 1868.

### **ACTION OF THE CHURCH IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC ON KINGSTON COLLEGE.**

We see by the January *Presbyterian* that a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Queen’s College was held on the 15th and 16th of last month; and that unwilling to accept the responsibility of giving up the Faculty of Arts, or of appealing to the Church for \$100,000, they resolved to call a *pro re nata* meeting of Synod, to be held at Kingston on January 6th. They also gave an invitation to all the members of the Church who were so disposed, to meet the Synod, on the understanding that the Synod would ask them to join in Conference as to the best course to be adopted by the Trustees. This was a wise step to take. When the Church is in difficulties let her appeal to the people and submit the whole case to them, and the result need never be feared. We hear that the meeting has been held, and that it was resolved to raise the money. They have undertaken a great task, and even to resolve to try it needed some courage. But it can be done if the members of the Church have energy and enthusiasm sufficient,—and if it is done, the College and the Church will be stronger than ever they were before in all that constitutes real strength. We wish them every success, for we believe that they have been shamefully treated by the Ontario Government, and we do not believe that one College is enough for the vast and populous Province of Ontario.