

No doubt we have had drawbacks. We have had to mourn over the death of a most faithful and devoted Missionary, the Rev. James Nisbet, with his loved partner in life. Our Saskatchewan mission has been sorely tried. But it may be that these trials have been sent to lead us, in a higher degree than before, to cast it upon the care of God, and to seek his guidance and blessing in connection with it. We trust that we shall soon hear of the work being prosecuted there with increased energy and with still greater success.

We have referred to the death of Mr. Nisbet, our pioneer Missionary to the North-West. We have had to note the death and mourn over the loss of at least two other loved brethren, Rev. C. C. Stewart, M. A., of Owen Sound, and Rev. John Baird, of Port Stanley. The former was cut down in the very morning of life, although he had not lived or laboured in vain. He was a native of Nova Scotia, and a distinguished graduate of McGill College, Montreal, and alumnus of the Presbyterian College there. He was a young man of good mind, accurate scholarship, extensive reading, and thorough devotedness to the work of his Master. Much might have been expected from the labours of a young minister of his talents and piety. But in the providence of God he had an early call to his rest and reward. The other minister mentioned—Rev. John Baird—had been spared for a much longer period of service, and in various parts of the vineyard, in his native land as well as in Canada, had been privileged to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. The call to him was one of startling suddenness. May it teach us anew the lesson that at such an hour as we think not the Lord may call us.

In other parts of the world God has been removing prominent men, to teach His Church and people that they are not to trust in Princes, nor in the sons of men. One of the most prominent standard-bearers removed during the past year was the Rev. Principal Fairbairn, of the Free Church College, Glasgow, a man whose extensive scholarship, and sound judgment, and elevated piety, made him loved and admired throughout all churches.

In our own more narrow and private circles, we have had our varying dispensations of mercy and judgment, our times of joy and of sorrow, of prosperity and adversity. The voice of joy and gladness has been heard in our dwellings, and it may be, the voice of Rachel weeping for her children. Happy is it for us, if, amidst all these varying dispensations, we have been enabled to recognize the love and wisdom, and faithfulness of our covenant God, and have been enabled to say, "I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall be continually in my mouth." Assuredly he doeth all things well, and causeth all things to work together for good to them that love Him.

### KNOX COLLEGE ORDINARY FUND.

DEAR SIR,—I am instructed by the Board and management of Knox College, to set before the Church the claims of the College, and also the demands which will be made on the Ordinary Fund for the year 1874-5.

It is gratifying to state that there is a good attendance of students during the present session,—(there being twelve of the First year, twelve of the Second, and eight of the Third. The work of the first half of the session