

privileged to fulfil successfully and well its high vocation towards the British Colonies on this Continent generally, but more especially towards the youthful aspirants to the Christian Ministry in that Church with which the Institution is more immediately connected. We shall therefore be greatly disappointed if the appeal of the Trustees for funds towards liquidating liabilities which have been recently incurred should fail to meet with an adequate response. We have much pleasure in inserting in the present number the subjoined communication on this subject from an esteemed correspondent. We earnestly recommend it to the attentive consideration of our readers, trusting that its perusal may secure their cordial and practical co-operation in so laudable an enterprise.

There are many reasons why the Ministers, Members, adherents, and friends generally, of our Presbyterian Church in Canada and in the Lower Provinces should cordially and cheerfully do all that in them lies to sustain, invigorate, and extend the interests and influence of Queen's College. It were uncalled-for to occupy great space in addressing Christian and enlightened people to prove that Academical education is most imperatively demanded for those who are to discharge the functions of the holy ministry. It is universally admitted, at least among the class of persons with whom we have to deal on this subject. Apart from all other authority and reasons that could be urged, we have the example of our Lord in His three years' training and instruction of those whom He designed as Apostles and Ministers of His Word. All this was in addition to that pious character and scriptural knowledge which they possessed when they became the personal attendants of the Great Teacher. Were any of those, who have been called to the Gospel ministry, ever so well educated for their sacred calling as were those honoured followers of the Lamb? And is not the inference most obvious that they, who enter into their labours as the servants of Jesus Christ, should attain the very best mastery possible of inspired and human learning? The Divine Master is King of Zion, God of Providence, and Fountain of Wisdom. Whatever, therefore, He is pleased to place within our reach for His honour, in realizing suitable qualifications for the highest and most responsible of all vocations, we are bound, as we would be found faithful and adequate stewards, to secure for those who are to be sent as the heralds of the Cross. How requisite are matured habits of thought and well digested knowledge? We have only to study the Epistles of the greatest of Apostles to his "beloved son Timothy," in order to perceive forcibly how impressed was that noble master-spirit with the paramount obligation of the man of God evincing them.

If then we come to our own field of operations, how are the watchmen upon the

walls of Zion to proceed in order that there may be supplied to our Colonial Church an order of men who shall be "apt to teach," able preachers and wise pastors? Undoubtedly they are loudly called upon to employ the most energetic measures, in the spirit of faith, hope and love, in devout reliance upon the blessing from on High, that our Congregations, present and future, entrusted to our oversight, may have the benefit of a native ministry. While we rejoice with gratitude to receive pious and efficient preachers and workmen from the Mother Church, it were almost offensive at this time of day to labour to show that alike the insufficiency of the number to be supplied thence, and the circumstances of the country for which our labours are required, demand that we foster the gifts, graces and attainments of our native youth. They form pre-eminently the stock from which our Church, both in her Home and in her Foreign efforts must derive her labourers, who shall "sow beside all waters" the blessed seed that will bring forth fruit unto life eternal. Now, while the Christian families of our Church—those distinguished for moral excellence, and especially those that also have been favoured with abundant means, should solemnly and prayerfully strive to set apart the first-born or the best to be consecrated to God in this holy avocation of seeking to win souls and to edify the body of Christ, it is also incumbent upon the office-bearers and membership of our Zion to afford such dedicated offerings every encouragement and facility in order that they may become workmen that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

When it is borne in mind that Queen's College is not only our own but that it is, moreover, the only Academical Institution in the Colonial Empire of Britain, connected with the Church of Scotland, (if we except the Missionary establishments of our India Scheme) where a thorough course of preparation for the Pastorate and ministerial duties can be secured, surely every affectionate, willing-hearted, right-minded friend and member of our Church will rejoice that we are astir in this great business, and that an opportunity is now presented for liberal donations and prayerful sympathy from each one that loves the Lord Jesus Christ. The persuasion is not groundless that there are those connected with us who have desiderated such an occasion as the appeal from Queen's College now affords. Such persons desire earnestly to see an increased infusion of active vigour, of suitable organization, and of operative hope into the Church. Most fervently is the trust entertained that neither they nor we will be disappointed. Let but our Christian people give "as the Lord hath prospered them," and more will be received than is asked for. The Trustees of the College, confiding in the heart of the Church as the

fruit of the Spirit of Christ, have purchased suitable buildings and incurred liabilities to the amount of £6,000. Our hopes are sanguine and confident that they will never have occasion to regret having done so. Were it otherwise, oh, how sad and gloomy would be our thoughts! We would fear that the Lord had forsaken us, and that the foul calumnies, with which our enemies have reproached us, were after all, peradventure, true. But we *cannot* believe that such will be the result. On the contrary strong is our expectation that, with proper arrangements and efforts on the part of those who direct this movement, we shall have great cause for thanksgiving when we see the goodness of the Lord to us, and that our timidity and backwardness will effectually be rebuked and removed.

It is the purpose of the Trustees to appeal not only to the Church in Canada but also to the Church in the Lower Colonies. They do this all the more readily as Queen's College is the only chartered Institution capable of granting degrees, and having a Theological School, in British North America in connection with the Church of Scotland. And, as young men from the Sister Provinces are beginning to avail themselves of the advantages which Queen's College affords, and as it is believed that many more may yet do so, the Trustees cannot but hope that their Brethren of the Church of Scotland, lay as well as clerical, in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island may be inclined to aid them in their present emergency by contributing to an Institution so much needed, and which has already done considerable for the advancement of Learning and Religion."

## SELECTIONS.

### FREE CHURCH SUSTENTATION FUND.

The substance of the following speech by the Rev. Mr. Purves of Jedburgh was spoken when the resolutions on that subject were passed in the Free Assembly on Monday, 29th of May:—

"It may not be without some good effect to fix attention on the fact that there is this year, for the first time for several years, a decrease on the equal dividend. It is small, indeed, and there are circumstances, some of which have been mentioned by our Conventer, to explain it and make it less discouraging than it might otherwise have been. Still, though little in itself—not quite £2—it is to be regretted. It is to be regretted as happening *this year*, for the change on the Scheme and the efforts throughout the year to raise the Fund awakened the general expectation of a rise; and, of course, with a smaller dividend in their pockets the ministers return from this Assembly with a feeling of disappointment in their heart. This year, also, the diminution is peculiarly unfortunate, considering the additional cost of everything, everything having risen, as was said the other night, but the dividend. We have thus a falling exchequer with a