

The retiring committee, therefore, bespeak for the incoming committee the co-operation of graduates, who, although nobly occupied with the duties of a pastorate, ought not to be altogether silent on questions which may vitally affect their Alma Mater.

There is another defect of which we are aware: the department of Missionary intelligence has been filled very largely by the talent of the students; their fields have been graphically described. But there are graduates of our College who figure in the Foreign Missions. They mourn—and too rightly—that their efforts are obscure and that the Church at home is slow to back them, loyally. What is the remedy? It is information; not wearisome statistics, not general statements, not indulging outlooks into the future, but ample and concrete accounts of what actually occurs in the foreign fields. It is the lamentable absence of this interesting element which is the cause of the drowsiness of the Church on missionary matters. Now we welcome our graduates in the foreign field to our organ. They may detail their doings, and they will by this mode awaken the Church to larger action in missions.

Contributed Articles.

PASTORAL VISITATION.

WHAT is Pastoral Visitation? It is surely a very important part of a minister's duty, since it requires so much of his time and energy. Many days each year are spent in visiting the families of the flock; many miles are travelled, sometimes over bad roads; and a great deal of mental energy as well as physical force is exhausted in this work.

Moreover, it is claimed by the people in such a way that one cannot avoid the conclusion that they regard it as an important matter. Indeed, it is, in the judgment of many, a serious charge against a minister if he does not visit his people regularly and often.

It may seem very stupid to ask the question with which we start, but there are so many opinions on this subject that no great apology is needed after all. And these differences of opinion are to be found not only among the vulgar and ignorant, but among the cultured laity and even in the ministry. In a certain congregation the pastor does not visit each family, but holds prayer-meetings in the outlying districts, and so meets with the families in groups, but does not do any house-to-house visitation. In another the pastor is visiting a great part of his time. Yet another on the Monday starts out with his wife and family for a week's visitation, spending a day here and a night there, till the close of the week hurries him home to prepare for Sabbath services. These different modes of carrying on this work might not be inconsistent with the one object, provided the circumstances of the different congregations demanded such variations; but in congregations very similarly circumstanced, such marked variations in mode indicate different views taken of the work itself by these several pastors.

Without doubt, the minister, as a gentleman, has the right to pay a friendly visit to his neighbours, or make the customary society call, when opportunity