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COLLEGE TRUSTEES.

A CORRESPONDENT in the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN of the 13th inst. puts the following question: "Have the trustees of all our Colleges, or only of this one (Queen's), unlimited power in making such appointments, and can ministers leave their own fields of labor to reinforce the staff of our numerous Colleges without the Church having any say in the matter?" We will answer the second question first, as the proper reply is self evident. A minister, who is invited to deliver a course of lectures in one of our Colleges, will, from the very fact of such invitation, be regarded a master in his special department, and will either have his subject at his finger-ends, or will have sufficient matter ready for his term. Supposing it takes three or four weeks to complete his course, he can be at home on Sabbaths, attend to pressing duties on Mondays, and be ready to lecture on Tuesdays. Or, if at a distance, he might supply his pulpit one of the Sabbaths, and thus secure two weeks of uninterrupted work. This would not require any special leave of absence from the Presbytery, and we are positive that in no instance would a congregation be unwilling to let its pastor go on such a errand. As a rule, the people of a church would regard the invitation of their pastor to a special duty of this kind as a compliment to themselves.

In regard to the first question, it is evident that the professors and trustees of a college may, from one or more of a variety of causes, be suddenly deprived of the services of one or several of their teaching staff. In such a case there is no opportunity for the General Assembly to act in the matter. It would be a very awkward thing, indeed, to have a professorship becoming either really or virtually vacant, without any authority to appoint a professor *pro tem*. In the case of a permanent lectureship like that of Dr. Proudfoot in Knox College, the General Assembly would be required to appoint some minister in due and regular form. But with special lectureships, like that of Dr. Robb in the same institution, in which valuable instruction is given upon reading and elocution, or like those of Queen's to which our correspondent refers, it is not only competent, but highly necessary, that the local governing body of all the Colleges have such appointments in their hands.

In the case of Queen's, it is generally understood that the constitution of this college required it to continue after the union the same as before. It is therefore exceptional in its method of appointing professors. The Board of Trustees is possessed of full power in the premises. And whatever may be said in the abstract about the General Assembly having under its full control all matters per-

taining to colleges—a subject upon which we may say the entire Church is agreed—we are sure that the Trustees of Queen's will always make their appointments with a due regard to the highest interests of learning and religion. Their election of Principal Grant was warmly endorsed by the whole country. Since the Principal's entrance upon office, a wise discrimination has been made in the choice of candidates for academic honors, and we are certain, from the spirit of the entire institution, which has been shown since the union, that every appointment to a vacant professorship will be made with a view to the best interests of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. From what Principal Grant has said in public, we should gather that, were the way made clear at any time to place the Theological department of his College in the same relation to the General Assembly as the other Colleges, he would be only too glad to see this done.

In the special circumstances of the Queen's Endowment scheme, we are sure that every one will feel with our correspondent that Principal Grant is to be congratulated on the wonderful success which has attended his labors during the past few months, and also on the spirit shown by him and the governing body of his College in reference to the appointment of special lecturers for this session. We trust the Principal will soon be able to hoist the flag of victory, and after having reached this satisfactory point he will sit down in peace and comfort to his important work as a teacher of our future ministry.

WELL DESERVED.

THE subject of Homiletics seems to have securely established itself as a department in the Theological Seminaries both of the Old World and the New. This is as it should be; for no good reason can be given why candidates for the ministry should not be expressly taught to put into the best form the instructions and exhortations which they will deliver from the pulpit. Their studies should certainly omit nothing formerly included in the Theological curriculum, but they cannot afford to have only a general acquaintance with the rules and principles of sermonizing. The first thing, no doubt, is to have plenty of good material, but the next and hardly less indispensable thing is to know how to use it to greatest advantage.

The large number of books on Sacred Rhetoric recently issued from the press also testifies to the growing interest in homiletical study. These books, as might be expected, are of various merit, but some of them are real additions to a literature which has not been too abundant.

It gives us sincere pleasure to notice that the students of Knox College conveyed to the Rev. Dr. Proudfoot, at the close of his lectures for the session, their high appreciation of the instruction given by him in the department above referred to, as well as their estimate of the importance of that department itself. It must be gratifying to the Doctor to know that his zealous and able labors in a field which our Canadian Church has preceded some older churches in cultivating, are, by the Divine blessing, giving promise of bearing good fruit.

COOKE'S CHURCH.

BY the action of the Presbytery of Toronto taken on Thursday, 19th inst., Cooke's Church is about to lose the valuable services of its distinguished pastor. In our last issue we expressed strongly the hope that steps would be taken to retain the Rev. Dr. Robb amongst us. From what we have since learned, we are glad to find that our view is heartily endorsed by all who have at heart the interests of Presbyterianism in this city and this country. But we are sorry to say that Dr. Robb sees it to be his duty to leave his present charge and return to his native country.

The Presbytery, with evident reluctance, agreed to the only motion that could well be entertained in the circumstances, namely, to translate the Rev. Dr. Robb from Cooke's Church to the Presbytery of Athlone in Ireland. The pain arising from the thought of parting with one of its number was all the more felt by the Presbytery, that Dr. Robb has won for himself a peculiar position of influence and honor in the Church; that it was confidently believed that he had come across the sea to take up his permanent abode amongst us; and that the earnest he had given of future usefulness would be amply fulfilled in the course of a long and honorable career. Dr. Robb, from his landing on these shores, has sustained his reputation as an eloquent preacher, a faithful pastor, a patriotic citizen, a sound divine, an able and effective debater, and a reliable authority in the law and practice of Church Courts. If his conscientious convictions upon questions of music and psalmody have confined him to a narrower sphere than he would otherwise have occupied, these have brought into greater prominence the sterling qualities of the man. It is seldom we find in one and the same character such determined convictions as those which give Dr. Robb his marked individuality, and that liberal, manly spirit which leads him to take a prominent position amongst the brethren of the broom, and amongst the Free mason fraternity. It is because of this combination of qualities that Dr. Robb has reached his proud eminence in this community.

There is one thing certain that the good-wishes of the congregation of Cooke's Church, as well as those of the Presbyterian community in this country, will follow Dr. Robb to his new sphere of labour in his mother-land. In reviewing warm welcomes on his return, we are confident that his brethren in the Irish Church will recognize the improvements that have been made upon Dr. Robb by his residence in the New World. It is our prayer that he will be long spared to serve the Master in his own land, and we cannot but give emphasis to the wish expressed in Presbytery that should the Doctor see his way to return to Canada, an opening will be made for him in every way worthy of his valuable gifts and qualities as a minister of Christ.

SABBATH SCHOOL INSTITUTE.

IT is evidence of the hold which the Sabbath School cause is taking in this country, that the Institute is now recognized amongst us as a valuable factor in our Christian work. During last week it held its