

### Montreal Presbyterian College.

We notice with much satisfaction the progress and prosperity of the Montreal Theological Classes. As many as fifteen Scholarships or Bursaries were awarded to students as rewards of excellence and diligence. The following notice from *The Witness* will show the state of the funds and the prevalence of the missionary spirit among the students:—

The closing public lecture of the Session 1870-71 of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, was delivered in Erskine church by Rev. W. B. Clarke, of Quebec. He took for his subject, "The influence of the Bible in forming the character and institutions, and promoting the prosperity of the British Empire." At the close of the lecture, the Rev. Prof. D. H. Macvicar, LL. D., made the following statement respecting the work, progress, and prospects of the College:—

*Scholarships.*—At the beginning of the session 16 scholarships of from \$50 to \$60 each were offered for competition. These scholarships, with the exception of two, are all given by citizens of Montreal, and may be regarded as one form of expression of the warm and generous interest here felt in the work and progress of the college. Their influence is most beneficial in securing a high standard of proficiency and in stimulating students to special and praiseworthy exertions. They have led during the past session to written examinations in a wide range of subjects, besides the preparation of essays of different degrees of merit, extending in all to 563 pages of foolscap. I trust, therefore, that with the steadily increasing number of students, the number and value of scholarships may be increased; and I shall not rest satisfied until we have Fellowships established which will enable eminent students to continue their theological studies beyond the term of three sessions, as now required by the General Assembly.

*Increase of Students.*—According to the report presented by the College Board last June to the General Assembly 27 students were enrolled during the present session: 13 were added, making a total of 40 students.

*Endowment Fund.*—Of the original subscription list for this purpose over \$22,000 is now paid and invested. At a recent meeting of the Board it was unanimously resolved that in view of the success of the College, steps be taken at once to increase the endowment to at least \$60,000; and I am happy to state that at the same meeting \$6,000 of this amount was subscribed. This matter will soon be formally presented to the congregations of the three Presbyteries from which the College derives its

name; and it is hoped that the amount may be realized.

*Missionary Work.*—During the summer 26 of our students enter our Home mission field. I am glad to state that a spirit of missionary zeal is not lacking among our students. One of their number has consecrated himself to Foreign mission work, and desires, so soon as his theological studies have been completed, to be sent to China, should the General Assembly resolve to take up that field. And it gives me special pleasure to announce that the Students' Missionary Society have with a commendable faith and courage resolved to initiate admission to the long-neglected Gaelic-speaking Roman Catholics of Ontario. It is estimated that there are over 5,000 such in one or two counties; and Mr. John MacIntyre is appointed to labour among them.

The students have also resolved to send out and support Mr. T. Brouillette, as a missionary to the French Roman Catholics intermingled with the people of one of the stations of the Presbytery of Montreal. In these two distinctive missionary undertakings he felt sure that the students may rely upon the prayers and practical sympathy of the Protestant Church. It is proper to state in this connection, that ten of the French students of the Presbyterian College, devote themselves during College recess to the spiritual instruction of their Roman Catholic countrymen. Let us hope and pray that their efforts may be blessed to the conversion of many souls. And inasmuch as their services are distributed most widely throughout the Dominion, he may surely count upon aid from the entire Church in this peculiarly Protestant enterprise.

In his concluding remarks Prof. Macvicar said: From the facts now stated, it must be obvious to all that God has been pleased to bless and prosper our efforts. The number of missionaries entering the mission field at the end of this our third session, surely more than rewards and justifies all our expenditure of toil and money. But let us not forget that we are only beginning our work: much remains to be done, and one thing without delay, viz.:—An addition to the professional staff; and from the energy of our Board and your generous liberality, I am hopeful that next session may be opened under improved circumstances in this respect. In conclusion he said: Special words of counsel have already been addressed to the students in the classroom, and I add nothing in this assembly, as I do not believe in parading such words of counsel to the students before a large public audience.

M. Presense, the illustrious French Protestant preacher and author, is dead.