

afford opportunities of cultivating acquaintanceship and friendship, and of fostering generous emulation among the future ministers of the Church.

But the principal design of this circular is to set forth the need of liberal contributions to the ordinary fund. For several years the revenue has not been sufficient to meet the necessary expenditure. At the close of the last financial year, there was a deficiency of \$8770.00. It is discouraging to find arrears thus accumulating, either to depress the College, or to necessitate, in course of time and periodically, a great effort to clear them off. There has, however, been no diminution in the contributions, but they have been nearly always less than the expenditure; and the expenditure has been gradually and unavoidably increasing. The contributions for the financial year ending 1st April, 1872, were \$8394.00; for the year 1873, \$8226.00; for the year 1874, \$7800.00; and for the year ending 1st April, 1875, \$8123.00. Now the College cannot be efficiently maintained, even with its present equipment, on so small a sum. The sooner this is realized, the better. It is estimated that not less than 11,000.00 will be required to meet the expenditure of the current year. Thus the contributions from the congregations would require this year to be nearly one-third larger than they were last year. No prudence or skill in management can reduce the expenditure below the amount stated; and the thought of retrenchment cannot be entertained, if engagements already entered into have to be met, and if the efficiency of the College is to be maintained. It is true, when the \$40,000.00 left by Mr. Hall is added to the small endowment which we now have, it will amount to \$46,292; but no revenue from this will be derived during the present financial year. It will be a matter of regret and humiliation if a special effort has to be made at next meeting of Assembly to clear off arrears, in order to prepare for any new arrangement for College support which the Assembly may adopt, or the recent auspicious union may render necessary.

Should the College be crippled in its resources at this interesting juncture, it will diminish the stimulus imparted by the erection of the new building, and tend to discourage students, who, if they get fair treatment, will naturally give Knox College a preference to any foreign institution.

While God, we trust, is leading so many to devote themselves to the ministry, it will be sad if the Church fails to give them all needed encouragement to prosecute studies which are especially necessary at the present day. If we cannot furnish an educated ministry to do efficiently the work which God is plainly assigning to us, an inferior one will have to be employed, or the work will be done by other and less scriptural instrumentalities, while the Church will be deprived of the blessing attached to rightly directed effort to promote the edification and extension of the Church of Christ.

Commending the claims of the College to the discriminating liberality of the Church,

I am yours very truly,

JOHN J. A. PRUDFOOT,

*Chairman of the Board of Management.*

TORONTO, KNOX COLLEGE, 23rd November, 1875.