

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your Committee in preparing a Report on Education are impressed with the conviction that at no former time in the history of our people has more weighty importance attached to the subject than at present. The general advancement in intelligence and the growing interest in the public schools, admonish us that we should continue to put forth strenuous efforts to improve the character of our institutions for training the young. The discussion of the various University schemes which have been presented to the public, shows that the people will not be satisfied with a blind adhesion to some established system; but they demand an intelligent exhibition of the reasons for the existence of our educational institutions. The fact that we have been entrusted with the plans, and endowments, and the fruits of the earnest labors of men of a former generation, should awaken in us a lively sense of the sacred obligations binding us to carry out faithfully the purposes and pledges of the revered men into whose labors we have entered.

Your Committee learn that the plan proposed last year for providing better accommodations for academical education has not been carried out. This is an occasion of regret. But we are pleased to know that the Executive Committee have been instructed to open the Academy, as it now exists, to young ladies, if this is practicable. It is to be hoped that they will be able to make some suitable provision for the higher education of a class whose claims have been too long neglected.

We would call the attention of pastors and laymen interested in education, to the duty resting on them to seek out young persons of promise and encourage them to enter the Academy. Scores of students could be gathered in this way, who would otherwise go from the public schools into business. The sources of the supply of educated men are chiefly in the churches of the rural population. The men of influence in such places largely control the supply, and hence it is important that they should conscientiously meet the duties resting on them in regard to academical education.

From facts which have come to the knowledge of your committee, it is our impression that sufficient attention is not given to training of candidates for the Ministry, who are not able to take the College course. We believe the time has come when all who seek ordination in our churches should at least have a thorough English education; and we regard it to be the duty of the authorities of the institutions at Horton to make provision for giving such young men a full English course, and the churches should be unwilling to call men to ordination before they have had the advantages of such a course of education.

It appears from published reports that the plans of the Governors for improving the College have outrun their income. It is evident that they cannot now recede from the advanced position which they