

eration to God,—the beginning of what alone really deserves to be called life.

KNOX'S COLLEGE FUND.

We beg to remind all the Congregations of the Church that, according to the instructions of Synod, the contributions for the ordinary College Fund should be made and remitted in the course of the months of January and February. It is of very great importance that this should be attended to. In previous years the contributions have been made at no particular time, and in consequence of this want of definite arrangement, the important object has, in many quarters, not had justice done it. It is scarcely necessary to remark, that we now referring to the ordinary College Fund, and not to the Building Fund, for which a separate and most vigorous effort will have to be made in every congregation.

There is no object presented to our congregations that can be at all compared in importance to our College. It is, humanly speaking, the mainstay of our Church. It is to it that we must mainly look for ministers to fill the places of those who have borne the heat and burden of the day, and to break the bread of life to the numerous congregations that are at present like sheep without a shepherd. It is to it that our people must look, as the Institution in which their sons, whose hearts the Lord may have touched, can obtain the necessary training, to fit them for the arduous but honorable office of the Christian ministry. We have reason to believe that our people are becoming more and more interested in the College; and we most sincerely hope that this interest will be practically evidenced by liberal and generous contributions. In consequence of the removal to new premises, the expenditure will be somewhat larger this year than formerly. But we trust that the free-will offerings of our people will enable us, without difficulty or inconvenience, to meet all necessary expenses.

It will be borne in mind that the Students of Divinity pay nothing for their more tuition. It is of great importance that it should be so in the case of candidates for the ministry, many of the very best of whom are not at all in circumstances to enable them to obtain an expensive education. Besides, it is for the good of the Church at large, that candidates for the ministry should be well and thoroughly trained. It is but right, then, that the means and opportunities should be put in their power, and that no barriers in the shape of fees for tuition should be put in their way.

We have cause of gratitude in the fact that, during the present session, we have such a full attendance at College. Some of the Students are from places where comparatively little is done for its support. We hope that these Students will form a bond of connexion between the College and such congregations, and that, on this account, more may be done than in former years.

Presbyteries, we trust, will see that the instructions of Synod are regarded in the matter of their College collections, so that every congregation

may do justice to the object, by giving according to its ability.

If ever there was a year when we should receive large and liberal contributions from our friends in the country, it is the present one, marked as it has been with such abundance and prosperity. May the hearts and the hands of our people be opened, that having freely received they may freely give.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The annual collection for the support of Foreign Missions is appointed to be made on the third Sabbath of January. In this appointment, the Synod has used the indefinite term "Foreign Missions," in order that the amount received may be expended in the service of the Free Church of Scotland, as hitherto, or in the support of a direct mission from Canada, as may seem fit. It is the all but unanimous opinion of the Foreign Mission Committee, that the latter alternative should be preferred, and that the collection of 1856 should form a fund to defray the initiatory expenses of a Mission to Foreign parts from the Presbyterial Church of Canada. The final determination of this point will be reserved for the Synod.

There is good reason to hope, that, in course of next summer, our Church may be privileged to send abroad at least two missionaries to the heathen, carrying the message of salvation. The names of those to be proposed to the Synod by the committee are not to be prematurely published. It is right, however, to intimate the fact that such a prospect exists, in order that those amongst us who love the cause of Missions may be encouraged to continue in prayer—and in order that the liberality of our people may be more cheerfully and copiously exercised in providing for the institution and support of a Canada Foreign Mission.

It has been already made known that the views of the committee are directed to the Bengal Presidency of British India. The missionaries would there labor among a dense population—under protection of British laws—and in the vicinity of the Free Church Missionaries at Calcutta. To show the need of additional heralds of the gospel in Bengal, we extract the following sentences from an interesting letter of the Calcutta correspondent of the *News of the Churches*:—"The great mass of the population are still unreached, untouched. Millions upon millions, living at a distance from the river-side, our chief and almost only highway, have never seen a missionary, unless when in some hurried itinerancy he has stopped for a little, spoken a few words, and distributed a few tracts and books. The valley of the Ganges is still a valley of dry bones, with only here and there a solitary voice calling to the breath to come from the four winds."

Ministers and preachers are respectfully requested, not merely to announce the collection, but to advocate and impress the claims of the Foreign Mission.

D. FRASER,
Gen. F. M. Com.

Montreal, Dec. 17, 1855.

OUR MISSIONARY MEETINGS.

The season for holding the Annual Congregational Missionary Meetings is now approaching, and we are glad to observe, that several Presbyteries are already making arrangements for holding them. The subject deserves the serious attention of our Presbyteries. It is of the very utmost importance, that the great duty of missions,—the duty of seeking to extend the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,—the duty of carrying out the mind of Christ, especially as expressed in his last command to his disciples, should be clearly set before our people. This can be most successfully done by means of Missionary Meetings. At the same time, Missionary Meetings will assuredly fail, unless those connected with them make it their study to render them really interesting and effective, by considering the subject beforehand and preparing something calculated to arrest the attention, and impress the mind and heart.

We earnestly trust, that the Missionary meetings may be increasingly successful, and that a spirit of liberality may be poured out on all our people. Were it as easy to obtain funds for carrying on the holy enterprises, connected with the kingdom of Christ, as it is for carrying into execution merely secular plans and projects, or even for some festive celebration, what glorious issues might we hope by the blessing of God soon to see. But, alas! it is one thing to collect money for missionary purposes, and another thing to collect it for the mere purpose of worldly gratification. But the silver and the gold are the Lord's, and he can turn the hearts of men even as the rivers of water. May He open the hearts and hands of all who call themselves by his name, and teach them to regard it as a most precious privilege to give as God hath prospered them, for the advancement of the cause of Christ both at home and abroad.

A DAY OF THANKSGIVING.—As the Government did not see fit to appoint or recommend a day of public thanksgiving, several of the Presbyteries of the Church appointed a day, which we have reason to believe was very generally observed. Our mercies are unquestionably great and ought to awaken feelings of deepest gratitude in every breast. Our Province has been blessed with peace and plenty, and with the absence of devastating disease,—our agricultural and commercial interests have made rapid and marked progress;—the arms of our Empire, which have been taken up in defence of right, and in opposition to tyranny and despotism, have been successful; as a Church, we have, amidst great unworthiness, been advancing,—our cords have been lengthened, and we trust our stakes have been strengthened too. These, apart from all mercies of a domestic and private nature, should awaken our feelings of gratitude and thanksgiving. May our gratitude not be transient as the morning cloud and the early dew, but may it be deep and permanent, and be evidenced by our growing humility and devotedness, and our growing desire to glorify God in our bodies and spirits which are His.