

committed to them by the highest authority, they feel that neither individually nor as a Church can its interests be overlooked without the greatest possible risk of relapsing into that state in which the exclamation was so often heard, that all refuge seemed to have failed.

That there is propriety in limiting exertion or anticipating, under any circumstances, the abandonment of the Synod's plans, your Board cannot believe, nay, from enlarged views of the past and the prospects of the future, they are constrained to urge their conviction that the Church has adopted the only feasible plan and that *onward* should be her watchword till it can be safely said—what could be done has been done.

In order to maintain existing efficiency, the sum at the disposal of the Board, together with a contribution from each congregation, will suffice. But by carrying out the views suggested and enlarging the plan of operation, the Institution will ere long, take a position second to none in the country; apart from the fact which will give it a stronghold upon the affections of the Church, that being under Synodical inspection and control, it will give the amount and character of instruction on which dependence can be placed.

The Board would therefore beg respectfully to submit to the Synod, the state and claims of the Institution, hoping that unanimity and energy will characterize action thereon, and enable us to say, the Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad.

During the year the Board issued a circular, appealing to the Church at large, and they would recommend that each session be again requested to give to those under their charge an opportunity of contributing to the support of the Institution.

The Board as directed, have prepared a series of Bye Laws which they beg to submit to Synod, praying their adoption.

Since the return of your Delegate, the sum of £30,8 currency, has been received by him either from places where he labored in his mission, or as the result of pledges given. This the Board would mention as a subject of gratitude and as stimulating to activity among ourselves.

EXAMINATION OF THE SEMINARY AT WEST RIVER, AT THE CLOSE OF THE SESSION. 1851.

The Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia was exam-

ined by the Synodical Board of Superintendence on the 3d inst., which was the last day of the term. The Philosophical Classes were first brought under review. Notwithstanding the absence of several individuals from loss of health and other unavoidable causes, the attendance was very respectable, including three in the Logic and seven in the Moral Philosophy class. A careful inspection of the several Essays which had been prepared during the session, and a rigid course of interrogation on select portions of study, afforded abundant evidence of the skilful and efficient training which had been prosecuted. Each student had prepared on an average half a dozen essays, all of which were obviously the fruit of careful and well directed application. Only one of each series, however, was publicly read by its author, and that such as the examiners selected. In Logic Mr. John McKinnon read an essay on "the modern systems of philosophy"—Mr. William Fraser on "the different modes of reasoning," and Mr. Daniel McDonald on "sophisms." In Moral Philosophy, Mr. Alex. Cameron read an essay on "the immortality of the soul"—Mr. Allan Fraser on "the freedom of the will"—Mr. David Terhune on "the advantages of a liberal education"—Mr. George Roddick on "Political Economy"—Mr. John Currie on "the various theories of conscience"—Mr. John Hardie on "Autumn," and Mr. John Matheson on "the existence of Deity." The greater part of the day was thus occupied, and although the entire audience manifested unabated interest, it was deemed prudent to adjourn for an hour. In the meantime, however, all the members of the Board, and others present, took advantage of the opportunity afforded by the Convener, to express their sentiments on what they had already witnessed. This resulted in a unanimous and cordial testimony to the marked progress of the young men, and the high state of efficiency in which the Institution appeared. Appropriate and impressive addresses were also delivered to the students in prospect of their vacation, enjoining upon them the continuance of study, with a due regard to such relaxation as bodily health and mental vigour might require.

After the interval, the classes in the Languages and Mathematics were severally examined, and gave token of the same unwearied diligence on the part of the Professor, and the same successful appli-