

THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD,

For the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

Volume II—No 3.

HAMILTON, OCTOBER, 1915.

Price 2s. 6d. per Annum.

The Record.

THE Publisher of the Record earnestly requests that all arrears for the year which closed with July last, be immediately remitted to him. From not a few places to which the Record has been regularly sent since its commencement, no remittance has yet been received, and thus the final adjustment of the accounts for the past year is inconveniently delayed, although there would be ample funds to meet all charges, if these arrears were paid up. He also requests that the subscription money for the current year, be paid in, and that lists of all subscribers' names be forwarded to him.

He regrets to learn that in several cases, the Nos. of the Record do not regularly reach subscribers, but he can say with confidence, that the disappointment does not originate here, and he should suggest to parties strict enquiry of their Agents or at the Post Office, in case of disappointment in this respect.

We call the attention of the Church to the appointment by the Commission of Synod, of 30th October, to be observed as a season of thanksgiving for the abundant harvest, &c. (See report of proceedings of Commission in this No.)

We would also direct the special attention of the Church to the Report of the College Committee, and the other notices contained in this No. respecting the Institution at Toronto. It will thence be seen that the Committee are using their best endeavours to secure an efficient course of instruction for the young men who place themselves under their care during the ensuing Session, with a view to preparation for the work of the sacred Ministry. Before the commencement of another Session; we hope to see at least one additional Professor permanently established in our College—devoting himself exclusively to the work of instruction. In the meantime we have good reason to know that those on whom the Synod has more immediately devolved this important work, and those who have been called upon by the Committee for temporary service in it, will exert themselves to the utmost of their ability for its successful prosecution. The arrangements to which we refer for the ensuing Session, involve some sacrifices on the part not only of Ministers, but also on the part of congregations; but we doubt not that this will be cheerfully submitted to by all parties for the promotion of an object so vitally important to the welfare of the Church and of the country. The urgent and extensive demands for Missionary labour in our numerous destitute congregations have, we are well aware, materially interfered with the proper pastoral duties of most of our Ministers; but their congregations, we trust, will not only give due weight to the exigencies of the time, but rejoice that their less favoured brethren should to some extent be made partakers of their privileges; and that through their self-denial

the Gospel should be preached more extensively.

As to the College it is manifestly under God, the great hope of our Church, and ought to be a chief object of our prayers and efforts—for it is abundantly clear that no adequate supply of labourers for the harvest of this land is likely to be obtained but from among the youth of the country. Nor are we without encouraging tokens of the Divine blessing on this department of our work—a cheerful ardour and devotedness in study, and a most satisfactory progress in learning, characterising the students already connected with the Institution, and a great number of additional candidates having intimated their desire to enter it, at the commencement of the ensuing session.

We regret that we cannot find room in this No. for various interesting pieces of intelligence, respecting the progress of the church in Scotland and other countries, especially the proceedings of the late meeting of the General Assembly of the Free Church at Inverness. We shall endeavour to give a summary of them in our next.

THE Rev. McLeod of Logie Easter, Ross-shire, one of the deputies of the Free Church, who has spent several months in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, is to spend Sabbath, the 12th inst, at London, C.W. He proceeds immediately to Canada East, intending to visit some of the destitute Gaelic settlements there, previously to his return to Scotland, in the middle of November.

NOTICES of various contributions to the Schemes of the church have reached us, and will be inserted in our next No.

SYNOD OF CANADA.

REPORT ON THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

Toronto, June 5, 1915.

According to the injunctions of last Synod, the Seminary was opened in November 1914, under the inspection of Mr. Esson as Professor of Science and Literature, and of the Rev. Andrew King, of Glasgow, one of the deputies of the Free Church of Scotland, as Professor of Theology. The number of Students at the opening of the institute and admitted afterwards was 14; of whom one half were students in Theology of the first, second, and third years; the rest belonged to the preparatory course. Of the whole number, twelve gave throughout regular and full attendance; the other two had it in their power to attend only partially during the season. Several others may be considered as students although not yet actually entered in the Seminary. Prior to admission to either branch of the Institute, the Committee on Education examined each student regarding his views to the Ministry and his attainments in learning, and the members of Committee were led to entertain a very favourable impression of the talents and piety of these young men.

Mr. King lectured on Systematic Theology, and employed as his text book the Westminster Confession of Faith, from the beginning to the twenty-first chapter. He also taught the advanced class of Hebrew. He examined the students regularly on their progress, and prescribed Essays and discourses which were read in the Hall and criticised by him.

Mr. Esson taught in the Preparatory Class, Latin and Greek, and a junior class of Hebrew; together with the elements of History and Philosophy. He also gave some lectures on the Philosophy of the Mind; and a sketch of Ecclesiastical History.

At the close of the session the students were examined by the Committee on the subject of their studies; and the result of this examination was, on the whole, satisfactory. Three of the advanced students in Theology (Messrs. Wallace, McKinnon, and McColl,) were certified as admissible to trials for license, and ate at present before their respective Presbyteries. Messrs. Hulton and Ross were certified as having attended the Theological course, in addition to the Preparatory; and the Committee leave it for future consideration whether they shall be reckoned to them as one Session in Theology. Their position, as well as that of the others in the Preparatory Course, will be determined by the appearance they may make at the examination, previous to the commencement of next session.

The Committee exacted no fees for either of the courses, though they have, by no means, decided that the Preparatory Course shall always be gratuitous.

It had been proposed to have a boarding-house for the students, in which they might have been accommodated with lodgings at the expense of the funds of the Institution,—but chiefly from the difficulty of obtaining suitable premises, this part of the plan was abandoned. To compensate for the aid which would thus have been afforded to the Students, gratuities in the way of donations or loans were afforded to several students amounting in all to £31.

The three most advanced Students had been employed for several Sabbaths, in the course of the session, as Catechists in the Presbytery of Toronto and their expenses were defrayed out of the Mission Fund of that Presbytery.

The Committee at the close of the session entered on their Minutes the following expression of their sentiments regarding the services rendered the Church by the Rev. Mr. King, in conducting the Theological Department:—

“The Committee in view of the vigor with which the education of the Theological Students has been conducted during the past session, agree to record their sense of the obligations under which the Church is placed to the Rev. Andrew King, the Deputy from the Free Church of Scotland, for the promptness with which he gave himself to the work of teaching, and the zeal with which he has pursued it, notwithstanding the numerous and pressing engagements of the pastoral work in Knox's Church, and the Committee desire to see in Mr. King's services and in the prosperity of the Seminary, a token for good to our Church from her adorable Head, and a special call to renewed gratitude to him and confidence in his grace and all sufficiency.

Mr. Esson out of zeal for the cause of education and a sense of the importance of a right moral and intellectual training of the young, prior to their entrance on an academic course, opened a school for boys soon after the commencement of our Institution. This school he still continues, and he is assisted in conducting it by some of the Students. He has with much disinterestedness given up the pecuniary proceeds of it wholly to the Committee; and your Committee in respect to one of the most important of having such a means of moulding the minds of the youth who may attend it, and of having the command even of the limited amount of employment called for from teachers or others in such a seminary, for the sake of our theological students, recommend that the school should be continued.

A considerable number of the students having