

## KNOX'S COLLEGE—OPENING OF SESSION.

According to previous announcement, Knox's College opened for Session 1856-7, on Wednesday, 1st ult. The large hall of the College was filled with the students and with the friends of the College, both from Toronto and other parts of the country. Among these were the Rev. G. Cheyne, Moderator of Synod, and many of the Ministers, especially from the Presbyteries of Toronto, London and Hamilton. Several ministers of other denominations were also present. Much interest was manifested by those present in the new buildings, which were just completed. Many of the Ministers and Elders inspected the premises, and declared themselves highly satisfied with the internal arrangements, which are indeed very complete. Instead of the intricate passages and winding stairs, which were so graphically described by our friend Mr. McKenzie of Baltimore, we have now wide and spacious corridors with the students' rooms on either side.

The opening Lecture was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Burns, the newly appointed Professor of Church History and Christian Evidences, prayer having been previously offered up, and a few introductory remarks made, by the Rev. Dr. Willis, Professor of Systematic Theology, and Convener of the College Committee. The lecture was marked by the author's usual vigour of thought and clearness of expression, and was listened to with interest and attention by the large audience present on the occasion.

The subject of the Lecture was "The Literature of the Christian Ministry." The introduction embraced the subject of personal piety as essential to the ministerial character, and as even closely connected with the right prosecution of even literary studies. The mutual influence of piety and literature was exhibited in connection with the happy effects which may be expected to flow from an enlightened zeal for the glory of God, in giving a right direction to all studies. The departments of classical learning, logic, metaphysics, mental and moral science, natural philosophy, geology, history and political economy and jurisprudence, were touched on more or less fully; and the necessity of a well-informed ministry was illustrated by reference to facts in the history of the Church, as for instance, the attempt of Julian the apostate, to deprive the early Christians of the advantages of classical academies; the foolish scheme of the Lutheran reformer, Carlstadt, to build up the Church of the Reformation, without the aid of a well-informed ministry. It was not the design of the Doctor to enter at all on the literature peculiarly devoted to the sacred office, such as Biblical criticism, hermeneutics, and systematic theology, seeing the necessity of these departments is not disputed. His object was to vindicate the importance of a literature substantially secular in itself, but acquiring a character in harmony with sacredness, by its beneficial subserviency to the ends of the Christian Ministry.

Accidentally a paragraph of the lecture had dropped out of the manuscript. Dr. B. has permitted its insertion here, and it may serve the purpose of exhibiting a small portion of the address, as a specimen of its style and bearing:—

"Need I notice, in connexion with these remarks, the mighty confirmations of Scripture History from the existing remains of ages that are past—as developed by the researches of a Belzoni, a Young, a Botta, a Rawlinson, a Champollion, and a Hincks, in the field of Egyptian and Babylonish hieroglyphics, and the splendid illustrations of inspired narrative in the discoveries of a Rich, a Porter, a Wilkinson, and a Layard, amid the ruins of Babylon and Nineveh; or need I allude to the visible traces of the events of other times, amid the recently discovered ruins of Petra, and in those remarkable sculptures on the rocks of Midian, which, with the help of such monuments as the far famed recently disinterred stone of Rosetta, we may yet be permitted to interpret. Historical investigations of this kind are, on the whole, more satisfactory than those strictly geological; but with the elements of both studies and something more, the minds of our young aspirants ought to be made familiar."

We shall only add, that the number of students keeps well up, a large number having entered for the first time. We shall publish, in an early number lists of the various classes.

We would urge the friends of the Church to earnest and habitual prayer for the divine blessing on our interesting institution. This is essential to its real prosperity. Unless the Lord smile upon our institution, and send down the dew of his heavenly grace, our arrangements, however wisely made, will be in vain. Let the friends of the Church and of the cause of Christ then, bear this interesting object upon their hearts, at a throne of grace, and earnestly plead that the gracious influences of the Spirit may abundantly descend on both teachers and students.

## INDUCTION AT PLYMPTON, C. W.

On Wednesday, the 10th of September, a Commission of the Presbytery of London, met at Errol for the induction of the Rev. William Troup, formerly of English River, C. E., into the charge of the Congregation of Plympton. The services were conducted by the Rev. John Gauld, of Bear Creek, Moore, and the Rev. David Walker, Sarnia—the former preaching a most suitable discourse from Revelation, ii. 1, and the latter addressing pastor and people on their respective duties. The attendance was good, and comprised a large representation from both the Stations at which Mr. T. is to preach. A deep interest was manifested in the whole proceedings, and the hope entertained that the Union then formed would be very abundant and lasting in its fruits.

Until about three years ago, the large Townships of Plympton, Sarnia and Moore, were united under the charge of one pastor, the Rev. William McAlister, now of Metis. Three Congregations have been formed out of this—one in each township. Each has its pastor, and furnishes field enough for the most abundant labours. It might be added that each does

more for the support of Gospel ordinances than the whole did when united.

Facts like these are very encouraging.—They not merely tell of an increasing population, but of the wide door which God is setting before us as a Church. An amount of prosperity has been given us, much greater than might have been expected. We have been breaking forth on the right hand and on the left, and yet there is room. With what encouragement should this inspire us in reference to the future! It is plain the fields are white unto the harvest—that he who has already multiplied ministers, will give to those sheep still without a shepherd, pastors according to his own heart, and that, if sought aright, we shall largely enjoy that spiritual prosperity in which a Church's true glory alone consists. Let us not be led aside by a shadow from seeking that glory which excelleth. There is a danger! What are the *nether springs* without the upper?—*Com.*

## OPENING OF NEW CHURCH—BELMONT.

The new Presbyterian Church in Belmont, was opened for the worship of God, on the 14th September, on which occasion the services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. McDiarmid of Woodstock, who delivered an excellent and most appropriate discourse from Romans viii. 1, to an attentive assembly of about four hundred persons.

Belmont is a flourishing village situated in the centre of a highly fertile and well cultivated country, principally settled by Highlanders, a great many of whom, in consequence of the irregular dispensation of the means of grace among them by a suitable and competent person, have become sadly careless in their observance of the ordinances of God's house, and the institutions of his appointment. But we rejoice to know that a great reformation has been begun, the people are being roused from the lethargy and cold indifference in which they have long lain dormant, and instead of remaining at home, or visiting from place to place on the Lord's holy day, as they were wont to do, they now spend their Sabbaths in the fear of God, to repair to the Sanctuary, knowing that "God loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob."—But, although a reformation has been begun, it is far from being finished; there is still great, very great room for improvement among us; and we do hope that our worthy Presbytery may see fit to send us a missionary who will be the means, in God's hand, of carrying on the great reformation already begun, through the instrumentality of our energetic, faithful and devoted missionary, Mr. McDiarmid, whose departure for College, the members of this congregation and inhabitants generally, look forward to with heart-felt sorrow and deep regret.—*Com.*

CALDEX EAST.—The members of the Bible class taught by Mr. Geo. Bremner, student, presented him, on leaving, with a valuable token of their regard.