

THE HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD.

APRIL, 1862.

OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

TO THE MINISTERS, MEMBERS, AND ADHERENTS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

DEAR BRETHREN,—

The last Report of your Educational Institutions, presented to Synod, contained details of most encouraging character, plainly indicating, that the just expectations of the Church had not been disappointed.

The circumstances of the current year are not less cheering, as far at least as operations are concerned. The Philosophical and Theological Departments are numerously attended, and efficiency characterises the whole.

To maintain your Institutions, in thorough working order, entails on those entrusted with their superintendence, no small amount of anxiety and labor. Of this they do not complain. Were it far greater, it would, for the sake of the object in view, be cheerfully borne. The Church for its perpetuity, and efficiency, in all its schemes, is under God, dependent upon your Educational arrangements. But, no superintendence, however laborious and faithful, can meet the necessities, or surmount the difficulties of such a position, unless sustained by the cordial sympathy of the Church, and provided with adequate means. That that sympathy exists, extensively, may be considered unquestionable. This impression tends to lighten labor. But, mere sympathy, or good will, cannot supply the lack of means, nor remove the material, or pecuniary, difficulties incident to the operations of the Church. "Be warmed and clad," to make it a reality, demands more than good wishes.— Our object is to submit this subject to your serious consideration, in connection with the present position of your Educational arrangements.— Were that position the same as at last Synod, no special necessity would have existed for our present action, and appeal. But, it is not so : and it is to the altered circumstances in which we are placed, and your duty arising therefrom, that we desire to claim your prayerful attention. To place matters clearly before you, it is necessary that we enter, somewhat into detail.

At last Synod, your Educational operations stood thus. In the Philosophical Department, three Professors, and fifty-two Students. In the Divinity Hall, three Professors, and seventeen Students. For these six Professors, together with the Master of the Preparatory School, the Church was responsible, in salaries, for £1370. To enable you to understand the subject fully—as it was and is now,—we must briefly advert to the state of matters at the time of the Union, and the consequent incorporation of the Institutions