

THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD EXTRA.

"Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and the strength of salvation."

STREETSVILLE, C. W., JANUARY 24, 1848.

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KNOX'S COLLEGE.

The Circular on the subject of Collections for Knox's College, will, we doubt not, come into the hands of all the Ministers of our Church, and of most of her Elders and the Deacons, Trustees, or Managers of vacant congregations and mission stations; and we trust that the call which it makes on these office-bearers will meet with a ready response. About six weeks ago the Convener of the College Committee was requested to write private letters to the Moderators of the Presbyteries of Kingston, Perth, Brockville, and Montreal, requesting them to bring the subject of the collections before their several Presbyteries, and move them to take action in the matter, and to write also to the same tenour to various Ministers in different places. With this request he has been prevented, by his duties in the College and other engagements, from fully complying. He trusts that the present Circular will be taken up by Presbyteries as well as by Sessions and Deacons' Courts, or Managing Committees, and that the consideration of its appeal will lead to general activity throughout the Church to meet the requirements of the College.—Since transmitting the Circular to the printer, he has received a private letter from a member of the Presbytery of Hamilton, which gives a gratifying account of the vigour with which that Presbytery at their meeting on the 12th instant, took up the subject of Collections for the College. He takes the liberty to make a short extract from the letter referred to. "The Presbytery has adopted the most energetic measures to raise the College Funds with as little delay as possible. We have divided the Presbytery into three districts, and appointed two deputies to each. Messrs. Bayno and Smellie take one, Dr. Ferrier and Mr. Robb take another, and two brethren in the West take the western portion. These deputies are to visit every congregation and station within the bounds, plead the cause of the College, report progress in the *Record* for March, and have all the returns completed by the first of April."

We rejoice in being able to record this resolution. The Hamilton brethren manifestly apprehend the importance of the College, and we trust that their example will be followed by all the other Presbyteries of the Church.

Knox's College, 17th Jan., 1848.

CIRCULAR

TO THE MINISTERS AND ELDERS, TOGETHER WITH THE DEACONS, TRUSTEES, OR MANAGERS OF THE CONGREGATIONS AND MISSION STATIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.

DEAR BRETHREN,—We now address you, at the request of the Acting Committee of Knox's College, and in their name. We presume that you are acquainted with the resolutions respecting the College adopted by the Synod at its last meeting, and that you are aware of the extent to which these have been carried out in increasing the staff of Professors. The Rev. Dr. Willis, from the Free Church, you may know, is now, through the good hand of God upon him, amongst us, and having been formally installed as Professor of Divinity, is labouring in his important department in the College. He who for two past sessions had been conducting the departments of Hebrew and Biblical Criticism, has been appointed to a perma-

nent place in the College, so far as the act of the Committee goes; and the College is now in vigorous operation. The Academy, itself numerously attended, and flourishing, is lending its aid to the College, as many of the students are attending classes in it. The entire number of students for the current session is 43, being an increase of 6 over last session. Of this number, 23 are attending the Literary and Philosophical classes, and 20 the Divinity classes.

We have on various occasions recognized the special obligations for gratitude to the Great Head of the Church for what he has done for us in our Seminary. And oh! that all of us, who profess to be his servants and people, may shew that we appreciate these obligations, and that we are duly influenced by them! Surely we may well praise the Lord for his goodness, and look to him for a blessing on the instrumentality which he is himself preparing for the advancement of his kingdom, and stir ourselves up to be, in our several stations, fellow-workers with him in this great work.

We now address you, dear brethren, to remind you of your duty to the College in one important matter, we mean the raising of funds.

You will remember, that the Synod deliberately estimated that for the expenditure of the current year, embracing the expenses of the deputy to Scotland, the salaries of Professors, payment to the Academy as a compensation for the instruction of many of our students, payments for the library and contingencies, the sum of £1,200 would be required.

Now, the Committee, as is noted in the Circular dated 22d September, printed in a separate sheet, and afterwards published in the first number of the new series of the *Record*, made arrangements for having collections made through a large portion of the bounds by various ministers, while Presbyteries were left to do the work in the remaining portion. We have as yet received few reports respecting the progress of the work; but, from our thorough conviction that in all cases its success must, in a great measure, depend on the zeal and activity with which the office-bearers of the Church in each locality superintend and direct and encourage subscriptions and contributions, we now address you, calling on you to do your part to provoke the liberality of the people over whom you are severally placed as stewards, whether you be visited by deputations from Presbyteries or not.

We feel persuaded that more need not be said respecting your obligations to Knox's College. The Great Head of the Church, after causing the Presbyterian Church of Canada to pass through a sifting process, has confessedly placed her in a prominent place amongst the evangelical churches which are aiming at the subjugation of this land to Him. Now, need we say, dear brethren, that her present

complement of labourers, even though they had all been most highly accomplished, are altogether insufficient for the great work that is before them. Large accessions must be made to their numbers.—yea, and their places must in a little while be filled by others. And whence are the labourers to be supplied but from such a school as Knox's College is? There, a goodly number of youths, hopeful as to gifts and character—and we trust we may say, hopeful especially from the experience of the Lord's work in their own hearts—are under training for the ministry in this land.

Oh! if it be that we are not remembered in the prayers of the Churches, we fear that the dow of the Holy Spirit will be withheld from us. And even in this address we would not omit to remind you, dear brethren, of your duty to pray for the College, and to stir up others, as you are severally called, and enabled to influence them to become intercessors with God in behalf of the College, even its directors, its teachers, and its students.

And again, brethren, if it be that the College is not sustained by the liberality of the people—and we are bold to remind you that you are to be their exemplars, and that you must stir up and direct their liberality—then what can be the result but the decay—yea, the ultimate extinction of the College.

Remember that its only foundation is in the liberality of living Christians: alike unchartered and unendowed, should this fail it, it must perish, and with it the fond hopes which many have cherished, that it was to be honoured by the Great Head of the Church, to do something to the advancement of his cause in these regions, and in these latter times. We acknowledge, brethren, that it is painful to contemplate even the possibility of such an issue. But we advert to it only to remind you how it is to be averted.

Dr. Chalmers, when speaking of a provision for "the ecclesiastical and educational wants of all the people of the Free Church," gave utterance to this sentiment: "Should the Free Church fall short of this lofty aim, the failure will be at the door of her own clergymen." Now, should the Presbyterian Church of Canada fall short in her lofty aim to raise up an able ministry, commensurate with the widening fields that stretch around her, the failure, we would say, must lie mainly at the door of her clergymen. We say mainly, and we trust that our brethren in the ministry will ponder their responsibility, and act faithfully under it. But all our people have their responsibility too, and those of you who are called to rule in spiritual things, and those who are appointed to be stewards of your several congregations in temporal things have a greater share in this responsibility. And, dear brethren, in those cases in which contributions have not been made among you for the current year, grant us the