

last year the Committee issued an appeal showing that in order to sustain the Educational Institutions of our church, the sum of £600 would require to be raised by collections. We regret to say that the contributions of the church fell far short of this sum—the whole amount collected being £279 18s. 3d. In order then to meet the expenditure of last year there was required not only the annual interest of invested funds in addition to this sum, but there was also used the sum of £203 1s. 4d., belonging to the Special effort fund, (a fund which was raised for a specific purpose and ought not to have been employed to meet the annual expenditure,) a legacy of £50 from the late James Carmichael Esq., and over £100 of the capital of our invested funds. Of these amounts £50 was applied to the purchase of books. All the rest were swallowed up with the annual expenditure, so that the collections came short of the annual expenditure by something over £300.

This year the expenses will not be quite so heavy. The Professorial fund of the Free Church bears Professor King's salary and Professor McKnight's in part. But there still remains to be provided for the balance of the latter, Professor Smith's £60, two Professors in Dalhousie College at £300 each, and the annual expenses of the College in Halifax. To meet these demands there is about £250 of interest from the invested funds in the hands of the Educational Board, so that there will still remain a sum little short of £500, to be raised by collections throughout the church, to meet the expenditure in which the Synod will be involved during the present year in upholding the Educational efforts of the church. This is independent of what the church ought to have to add to the library and otherwise increase the efficiency of the Institution. By the arrangements made in reference to Dalhousie College, the young men preparing for the ministry in connexion with our church, enjoy the benefits of a more thorough course of instruction than has ever been enjoyed in the Province, so that though the philosophical training of our students is not directly under the control of the church as formerly, yet the course to

which they have access being so much more extended, efficient, and at the same time such as may well enjoy the confidence of the Synod, we trust that the church will not be behind in doing her part. We are happy to add, that the Matheson bequest is about settled, and that there is every likelihood, that before another year it will be available, so that the Synod will not be dependent to the same extent upon the annual collections of the church. But in the meantime the state of the Educational funds calls for increased liberality on the part of the church at large.

Lastly, we must earnestly call the attention of the church to the Synod fund. Out of this fund are paid all the expenses of Synod. The work of the Synod and its various committees cannot be done without expense. In addition to this, the Synod have always been desirous of paying the travelling expenses of brethren coming from a distance to attend the meeting of Synod. These brethren at a distance are often those who are worst paid; their expenses are heaviest and what they can but ill afford. Yet these are the brethren who have most need of attending a meeting of Synod. They enjoy least of fraternal intercourse with their brethren, and this is no small benefit of which they are deprived. "As iron sharpeneth iron, so a man's countenance his friend," and particularly by the intercourse at the meeting of Synod, their hearts are refreshed and their minds strengthened for their work. They thus go back to their distant spheres of labour with revived energies and carrying into their fields of labour a new influence on behalf of the Synod's operations. It is hard that these brethren should either be deprived of this privilege, or only be able to enjoy it by an expense which they cannot pay without considerable self-denial.—The church would amply gain by paying the expenses of these brethren, in the increased life which would thus be carried back to the extremities of the body. Hitherto the Synod has not been able to pay more than half the sum necessary for this purpose. But we wish to bring before our readers the fact, that this fund during the present year is likely to be in a worse con-