

VI. Educational Intelligence.

—KNOX COLLEGE.—Last Thursday one of the most important events in the history of the Presbyterian Church in this country, transpired when the foundation stone of Knox College was laid. As will be seen from the statement of Principal Caven, published in full below, this is an institution which has passed through almost every grade of tribulation, so far as external difficulties have been concerned, but it is a matter for congratulation that since the commencement there has been a steady progress, and that the work has, in every department, shown marked signs of efficient and faithful labour. It is, therefore, an occasion of which the entire Presbytery should be proud, that this building should have been commenced under such favourable circumstances, with such good prospects that in the very near future it will stand entirely free from debt, and that additional facilities will thereby be afforded for carrying on the work which, during the past thirty years, has shown such magnificent results.

PLAN OF THE BUILDING.

The building now in course of erection is on the Crescent, a little north of College-street, and opposite Spadina-avenue, is designed in the Gothic style of architecture, and in plan is in the form of the letter E. The facade fronting the avenue is 230 feet in length, and the wings running north are each 150 feet in length. The main entrance is under a lofty tower of 130 feet in height, and is flanked on each side with stone pillars with carved stone capitals, tracery heads, and surmounted with moulded pediments and carved stone finials. The main entrance lobby under tower will be groined with oak moulded ribs, resting on carved stone corbels. The floor will be laid with encaustic tiles. The main entrance hall is 15 feet wide, with a heavy oak staircase opposite it, leading to the library, museum, reading-rooms, &c.; then to the right and left of this main entrance are the corridors, 10 feet wide, with arches at intervals, leading to the various class-rooms, professors' rooms, lecture-room, and dining hall. There are two class-rooms, holding 80 students each, and two holding 50 each. On the ground floor are also the Secretary's room, four Professor's rooms, Senate room, visitors' room, kitchen, laundry, wash-room, housekeeper's apartments, &c.; over these are the servants' rooms, and under are the cellars. The boiler-room is outside the central portion of the main building, and connected with the coal collars, &c. On the first floor in the centre of the building is the library, 50 feet long and 30 feet wide, with reading-rooms opening out of it at each end. Over the library is the museum, with a handsome timbered roof. There are 36 rooms for the students, each room averaging 14 feet by 20 feet, thus giving accommodation for about 80 resident students. The building will be heated by steam, and ventilated with a system of flues connected with a rarefied air shaft around the boiler chimney flue. There are bath rooms and water closets on each flat for the use of professors and students. The building is being erected with white brick, with stone base courses, belts, strings, sills, and door steps, moulded drips to windows with carved bosses, stone angle columns to tower, with carved capitals. The upper windows of the tower will have moulded and carved balconies, supported on carved stone corbels. All the gable copings will be of stone, with wrought iron terminals. The windows of the lecture hall will have stone jambs and sills, resting on moulded stone strings with moulded drips, and bosses over them. The lecture hall will have a rich open-timbered hammer-beam roof. At the west end of this hall is the gallery, approached by a stair running up in a tower over the east side entrance. The whole of the roofs are to be covered with slates laid on felt.

THE CEREMONY.—The assembly at the ceremony was particularly large, and much interest was manifested in the proceedings.

At the appointed time the Rev. W. Reid, M.A., Moderator, came forward, and said that on this occasion they were assembled to inaugurate an undertaking of great importance, which was to be a worthy result of many years' labours, which took place under less favourable circumstances. For several years the College was carried on in Grosvenor-street, in a building formerly the residence of the Earl of Elgin, which, after some alterations, was adapted to the purpose of the College institution. The first building was found to be uncomfortably small, and it was considered that something better was needed, although, unlike a great many things in the present day, old Knox College was much better than it looked. The subject of the erection of a new building was laid before the Assembly last year, and it was then decided that the necessary steps should be taken for the erection of new buildings. Accordingly the necessary steps were taken, the work was commenced, and subscriptions flowed in through the exertions made by the Principal, Prof. Caven, and the other Professors in various parts of the country. But the canvass was not yet completed, although the result has been highly satisfactory. They had met to-day for the purpose of laying the corner-stone and invoking the blessing of God on the erection of the building. Before proceeding with the more especial work, they would unite in singing a few verses of one of the grand old psalms which were sung by their forefathers in the days of old. It was one of the psalms which often

animated the hearts of their forefathers when labour and suffering too, was demanded of them.

The 46th Psalm was sung, after which the Moderator read portions of Scripture from Psalms 126-127, and Ephesians iv. Prayer was then offered up, after which the Rev. Principal Caven read a statement of the progress of the College, as follows:—

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF KNOX COLLEGE, FROM ITS ESTABLISHMENT TO THE PRESENT DATE (MARCH, 1874).

Knox College, although the title was not given till 1846, may be said to have been instituted in 1844, when at the meeting of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, on the 14th of October, it was resolved to appoint a Professor of Divinity, and a Professor of Literature and Science for conducting the studies of young men aiming at the Ministry, the Professors to be for the present stationed at Toronto. The Rev. Andrew King, a deputy from the Free Church of Scotland, interim Professor of Divinity; and Rev. Henry Esson, of Gabriel street Church, Montreal, was appointed Professor of Literature and Science. During the first session (1844-5), the attendance was in all fourteen, four of whom had been students of Queen's College, Kingston, before the disruption, which took place in July, 1844. The classes were conducted in an apartment of Mr. Esson's house, in James street, in the City of Toronto. The Synod, at the same meeting, in view of Dr. Robert Burns, of Paisley, who had been called by the newly organized congregation of Knox Church, in Toronto, coming out, and of his varied qualifications, appointed him as Professor of Theology, the appointment being subject to any contingency arising from the Synod resolving, at a future time, to separate the office of Professor from that of pastor, or such other circumstances as might affect the decision of the Synod as to the permanent institution or the locality of the Theological Seminary of the Church.

The Synod of 1845 confirmed the appointment of Dr. Burns as Professor of Divinity, and that of Mr. Esson as Professor of Literature and Philosophy.

In 1846, the Synod, with the view of placing the institution on a more extensive and efficient basis, appointed a Committee to consider the matter of the incorporation of the College, its name, the number of professors, the erection of suitable buildings and the establishment of an academy for the preliminary training of young men, and a boarding-house for the students. On the report of the Committee it was agreed that the College should be called "Knox College," and that steps should be taken for establishing an Academy or High School. This was done in the course of the year, the Academy being superintended by Rev. A. Gale, M.A., formerly of Hamilton, assisted by Rev. T. Wightman, formerly of Camden. No steps were taken for the erection of buildings, but the College and Academy found suitable accommodation in "Ontario Terrace," in the premises which, after having been enlarged and altered; now form the Queen's Hotel." During the session of 1846-7, able assistance was rendered in the College by Rev. Robert McCorkle, of St. Ninians, Scotland; also, by the Rev. W. Rintoul, who conducted the classes in Hebrew and in Biblical Criticism. The Synod of 1847 confirmed the appointment of Mr. Gale as Principal of the Academy, and as professor of Classical Literature in Knox College. The Synod at the same meeting, in consideration of the increased number, nine students, requiring the undivided services of a professor, resolved to separate the professorship of Theology in Knox College from the pastorate of Knox Church, Toronto, and to send Rev. John Bayne, of Galt, to Britain to confer with the Colonial Committee of the Free Church, and secure, if possible, the appointment of a Professor of Theology. This mission was undertaken and fulfilled, and the result was the appointment of the Rev. M. Willis, D.D., who continued to teach theology with distinguished success for the period of 23 years. The Synod, when resolving to separate the professorship of Theology from the office of pastor of Knox Church, expressed their sense of the great obligations under which they were to Dr. Burns for the valuable service he had rendered to the College, his watchfulness over the spiritual interests of the students, and his diligence and zeal in collecting books for the library.

In 1848 the Synod having expressed their great satisfaction at having obtained the valuable services of Dr. Willis, with the view of promoting the efficiency of the College, appointed Rev. William Rintoul as Professor of Hebrew, it being understood that the appointment would be an interim one, its permanence being dependent upon the provision that might be made for oriental literature in what was King's College, now the Toronto University. Mr. Rintoul discharged with great diligence and efficiency the duties of the Chair of Hebrew for several years, when, in consequence of changes in the University, it was considered no longer necessary to maintain a professorship of Hebrew in Knox College.

In 1849 and 1850 Rev. William Lyall afterwards connected with the Divinity Hall at Halifax, Nova Scotia, rendered important services to the College and the Church as Professor of Literature and Mental Training. The names of others might be mentioned with honour in connection with important services rendered when necessary to the College from time to time. It would be specially unjust not to mention the name of Rev. Ralph Robb, of Hamilton, who, until prematurely cut off in 1850, was ever ready to give aid when called upon to do so.

In the early part of 1853, Professor Esson, who had been connected with the College from the beginning, and had done much to advance its interests, and promote the improvement of the students, was removed by death. He was succeeded by the Reverend George Paxton Young, of Knox Church, Hamilton, who entered upon his duties at the beginning of the session 1853-4, and brought to his work talents of the very highest order, and a zeal and aptitude for teaching which were highly appreciated by the successive classes of students which came under his care.

In 1855, it became necessary to remove from the premises, hitherto occupied in Ontario Terrace, Front street, and the property of "Elmsley Villa," formerly occupied by the Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin, when Governor-General of Canada, was purchased, and enlarged so as to afford accommodation for the classes and boarding department.

In 1856, the Synod added to the Staff by appointing Rev. Dr. Burns