

heard in support of the appeal, and the Assembly unanimously expressed sympathy with the proposal and commended it to the favourable consideration of the members of the Church.

The increased interest taken in the Continental Churches by British Presbyterians is one of the first fruits of the Pan-Presbyterian Council that has assumed a practical form, and is in itself a very satisfactory result. The object of this appeal is to raise a capital sum of £12,000 to supplement the stipends of the twenty-two pastors and professors who constitute the Church of the Waldenses. The history of this church is extremely interesting. To quote from the appeal,—“No Church has in proportion to its numbers contributed so large a contingent to the noble army of martyrs, nor endured such savage and bloody persecutions. And after persecution unto death became no longer possible, they still laboured under oppressions of the most grievous description, up to the year 1848, the era of their emancipation. From that period the Church of the Valleys has become as prominent for her missionary enterprise as she had previously been for her sufferings. She has planted her mission stations throughout all Italy and Sicily, and to such an extent that her missionary ministers have already attained to double the number of the pastors of the parent Church.

It is not generally known that the salaries of these Waldensian pastors are hardly sufficient at this moment to afford their families even the necessaries of life. But recent enquiries on the spot have revealed the truth. *Three hundred dollars a year* is all that these devoted men receive! Even when the price of provisions was low, this scarcely raised them above want, but now, their position has become a singularly painful one. Butcher's meat in many of their households is almost unknown, and where families are large there is not unfrequently a positive deficiency of wholesome nourishment. And now, comes the reflection,—How is this ancient and, in the present circumstances of Italy, this unspeakably precious Church to be supplied with pastors? The present state of things cannot last much longer. The very existence of the venerable Church of the Vaudois now depends on extraneous aid, without which, humanly speaking, the noble old fortress which hurled back the fierce assaults of Popish persecution, backed by all

the powers of France and Piedmont, may be sapped and mined, and crushed by poverty.” But, the necessary funds *will be* provided. Already the appeal has been liberally responded to in Britain, and, no doubt there are in Canada *some* who would be glad of the opportunity of helping to pay the debt that the whole Protestant Church owes to our Waldensian brethren. Contributions for this purpose may either be sent direct to Rev. William Gillies, Edinburgh, or to Dr. Reid, Toronto, or Dr. McGregor, Halifax.

### Our Colleges.

THE thirty-fifth session of KNOX COLLEGE, TORONTO, commenced on the 1st. October. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Professor Gregg, who took for his subject JUSTIN MARRYR. A large number of students and of other friends of the College assembled in Convocation Hall to manifest their interest in the Institution and the occasion. The Rev. James A. Spurgeon, of London, England, at the request of Principal Caven, addressed the students. In the course of the day a meeting of the students was held for the purpose of taking leave of Rev. John Wilkie, a graduate of the College, prior to his departure for the Foreign Mission field in India. THE PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, Montreal, was formally reopened on the evening of the same day with a lecture by Rev. Principal MacVicar, L. L. D., his subject being,—HINDRANCES AND HELPS TO THE SPREAD OF PRESBYTERIANISM. In addition to the staff of Professors, the students made a strong muster, while the body of Erskine Church was well filled by the citizens and members of the Presbytery who were in town. We understand that both colleges begin their winter's work with rather more than the average number of students. The Theological faculty of QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, at Kingston, resumes its classes on 3rd November. The Theological Hall, at Halifax, will be opened on 5th November, with a lecture by Professor Currie. MORRIN COLLEGE, Quebec, resumes its divinity classes on the 5th instant. Manitoba College opened on 2nd September, with 41 students.