

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE STUDENTS OF KNOX'S COLLEGE, TORONTO, AND THE STUDENTS OF THE NEW COLLEGE, EDINBURGH.

To the Students of the New College, Edinburgh.

KNOX'S COLLEGE, TORONTO,
6th February, 1851.

DEAR BRETHREN,—

It is only at this apparently late date that we recipitate your kind letter of January 7, 1850. Our delay requires some explanation. Your letter of last year was only received at a date which enabled us to read it at our usual monthly meeting in March, after which we could not have written you, so that you would have received our answer before the close of your regular session. This circumstance led us to defer our response to your affectionate and fraternal letter, until we should re-assemble. But, at the same time, we owe an apology for not having written at an earlier date of the current session. Our interchange of sentiment and mutual expressions of interest in each other's welfare and prosperity will, we trust, prove beneficial to both parties. Professing to be fellow-heirs of the same kingdom, to serve the same Lord, to have been baptized with the same spirit, and still more, as fellow aspirants to the same solemn and responsible work of the ministry, and that, too, in these portions of our Saviour's Zion which are affiliated to each other in the bonds of a common faith and ecclesiastical government, and which have been led to assume a distinct and formal existence from the same cause, fidelity to the crown rights of the King and Redeemer, how can we but feel an interest in each other's welfare? You in the parent country have been called to unfurl the banner which God has given you because of the truth, and to declare your adherence to these precious doctrines, for the maintenance of which our covenanted forefathers counted not their lives dear to them, but resisted even unto blood,—we, in this our transatlantic home, have felt the call to stand by you, and to express our sympathies with you, and our adherence to those principles for which, through Divine Grace assisting you, you have so nobly contended. We have a common cause, a common Zion, and we are servants of a common Master,—are we not then united by the closest, the most sacred of bonds?

It afforded us much pleasure to hear of your progress as a College, through the channels of public information. The account of the opening of your New College was read with deep interest by many of us. Under the superintendence of your able Professors, with an ample library at all times available, and with the facilities and comforts which your new building will place within your reach, we would express the hope that, under the blessing of God, the present session may be one of pleasure and of profit to you all.

We regret to learn, that from the low state of your funds you have been obliged to relinquish your India Mission, or rather to devolve the support of it upon other agencies of the Church. The difficulties which you have experienced in this respect are not entirely unknown to ourselves. You are aware that, about three years ago, one of our own number was designated for the Mission field among our French Canadian countrymen of Lower Canada. After spending some time in improving himself in the French language, he commenced his labours in connection with the French Canadian Missionary Society, with which our Society agreed to co-operate. Ultimately he was led, with the concurrence of the Missionary Society of Knox's College, to accept the office of General Secretary to the former Society, an office of responsibility and importance, which opened to him a new and unexpected, but most promising field of usefulness, and one for which he was regarded on all hands as admirably qualified. In the capacity of Secretary or General Agent for the French Canada Missionary Society, he last

year visited most parts of the Province, and his visit has, we trust, been productive of good fruits, in awakening a deep interest in behalf of the large proportion of our fellow countrymen who are held captive by the man of sin. He is at present repeating his missionary tour. The subject of Popery is one which, at the present day, cannot but stir up the soul of every true-hearted Protestant. Its recent aggressions in Britain have doubtless aroused from their lethargic state, many who had hitherto been, alas! too indifferent to the enormous evils connected with, and the soul-destroying nature of that monstrous system of error and delusion. That which you now are fully alive to, has long been familiar to us. But especially of late years has Popery in the Lower Province been making rapid and alarming progress. Everywhere it is putting forth its most strenuous exertions, grasping at power, both civil and ecclesiastical, and causing its influence to be felt even within our halls of legislation. Its vast wealth is here expended, in rearing Seminaries and Colleges, and in supporting those various Jesuitical agencies which have ever been found to be so successful in forwarding its interests. In looking, then, at the vast array of power, wealth and individuals (many of whom are men of no mean talent) which we have here to oppose, well may we ask, "Who is sufficient for these things?" Our only hope of ultimate success is in this, "Our sufficiency is of the Lord." But as already hinted, we feel the very difficulty of which you have had to complain, in meeting all the financial demands which, in the support of our Mission, are necessarily made upon us. Still we hope that, trusting to Him to whom "the earth and the fulness thereof belong," we will be able to meet all. Yet a full treasury alone, will never give success to any Missionary undertaking. We need the outpouring of the Spirit from on high, that proud and stubborn hearts may be made to bow in faith and lowly submission to the Saviour. It is "not by might nor by power, but by the Spirit of the Lord" alone that any good can be effected in the field of Missions. Let us then, dear brethren, unite in earnest and believing supplications at the throne of Grace, for the enriching and prospering blessing of God to descend upon all our undertakings of this nature, and upon all the Missionary enterprises of the Christian Church, especially of that portion of it with which we are more immediately connected. And were we thus to pray without ceasing for an outpouring of the Spirit, might we not expect that many a poor devotee of Indian idolatry, and many a deluded votary of the man of sin, would be led to the experience of the precious truth, "that there is none other name given under Heaven among men whereby we can be saved" than the name of Jesus,—but that, "being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." We cannot pass from this subject without adverting with pleasure to the accounts which we have read of Dr. Duff's visit to Scotland. His holy zeal in his Master's service, his fervent piety and devotedness, and his eloquence in pleading the cause of Missions, will all undoubtedly be productive of much good. Fain would we hope that he may yet extend his visit to America, that even the wild woods of our beloved Canada may echo to his voice.

We rejoice in the zeal with which you have entered upon the West Port Mission. You will there have an interesting and important field of labour. While it is certainly our bounden duty to do what we can for the perishing heathen abroad, and while we acknowledge that a Missionary spirit is one characteristic of a lively Church, we surely ought not to overlook the masses who, in the large cities, are perishing at our very doors for lack of knowledge. In every such city there may be found a large mass of moral profligacy, which must be removed ere that healthy tone be given to society which it is so necessary it should manifest. And it is not the least exercise of Christian benevolence and

philanthropy to seek out the individuals who compose this mass, and to apply to them the remedial measures which the Gospel proposes. It is often the case, that the romantic associations connected with Foreign Missions in distant lands enlist the sympathies of even the mere sentimentalist. But seldom will anything, save a deep conviction of duty, and love to the souls of men, engage our efforts in behalf of the wretched and miserable to whom we have now referred. We have been, and still are to some extent, engaged in the same department of labour. Most of our number have tract districts allotted to them, which they visit every fortnight, leaving a tract in each house, addressing a word of exhortation, or engaging in prayer with the parties visited, as the case may seem to require. Weekly Prayer Meetings are also sustained in some of the districts. Such visits often prove refreshing to our own souls, and we hope may not be unblest to others. It is not, we believe, the least important part of our training, as aspirants to the holy ministry, to be thus brought into contact with individuals whose characters, wants and experience are so diversified. We are thus enabled to study human nature in its actual developments, and may, if the Lord spare us, be all the more fully qualified for adapting our public ministrations, when called to exercise them as Ministers of the Gospel, to the wants and necessities of our hearers. But beside these advantages, such exercises, when gone about in a prayerful spirit, have the tendency of deepening our sympathy for those "who are ignorant and out of the way," and of leading us to pray the more fervently for the coming of the Redeemer's kingdom, and to labour more assiduously for the advancement of this all-desirable object.

The attendance of students at the College this year is nearly equal to that of any former session. There are twenty-three in the Divinity Hall, and upwards of thirty in the preparatory department. Seven of our number last year completed their course, and since licensed, have been labouring either as settled Pastors or as Missionaries. It is probable that about the same number will this year be ready for license. It is with feelings of pleasure that we remember that one of our number of last session is this year prosecuting his studies in the new College, Edinburgh,—as, through him you may receive all desirable information on the state of matters in the Presbyterian Church of Canada, we deem it the less necessary to enter more fully into these matters at present.

And now, dear brethren, we would commend you to God, and to the word of His Grace, praying that the choicest blessings of the covenant may descend upon you,—that you may be blessed in your own souls, and made a blessing to others, in leading the unconverted to Jesus, the sinner's Saviour, and in promoting the sanctification of the Lord's dear children. May the "Lord bless you and cause His face to shine upon you," that thus to some extent, through your instrumentality, "His way may be known upon the earth, and His saving health among all nations.

In the name of the Students' Missionary Society of Knox's College,

JOHN ALEXANDER,
Cor. Secretary.

To the Secretary of Knox's College Missionary Association, Toronto, Canada.

EDINBURGH NEW COLLEGE,
30th January, 1851.

DEAR BRETHREN,—

We have much pleasure in resuming correspondence with you; we esteem it alike a privilege and duty to do so. We cannot forget the special ties which bind you to us in respect of your country, your Church and your College. Considerations arising from each and all of these should stimulate us to growing fellowship and the warmest mutual interest. We esteem you as brethren in Christ; your College we regard as an