

the nature of a private document and therefore not calling for special consideration at their hands. The Synod would, however, in this connection, refer to their previous action on the question of separate schools in June, 1856, in which they express strong views adverse to the continuance of such institution established for sectarian ends. In regard to other aspects of this question the Synod appoint a committee to watch over any legislation that may be proposed, during the next session of the Legislature, in regard to education, seeing that it be based on scriptural principles. The report was adopted.

The Rev. William Gregg, A.M., presented the report of the College Committee. They expressed great pleasure in the continued prosperity of this valuable institution. The number of students who matriculated in Knox's College during the past year was 35. Besides these, there were other students, who were studying with a view to the ministry, partly in that College and partly in the University College. The whole number was about 50. No fewer than 17 students had completed their theological course during the past year, and they were thus in a position to ask license at the hands of the various Presbyteries. This was the largest number that had on any occasion completed the curriculum at the close of one session in Knox's College. With respect to entrants upon the College course, the committee learned from the report of the Professors that several had come up from the Presbyteries unfit to enter the classes on account of deficiency in elementary training. They therefore recommend the Synod to instruct Presbyteries to give more particular attention to the literary attainments of students making applications to them, and, when necessary, to send them to institutions where they might be trained under the care of the Presbyteries until they were prepared to enter the college classes. The committee had satisfaction in being able to state that there was an improvement in the fund for the current expenses of the college. It would be remembered that for three preceding years there was an annual and increasing deficiency of £40 in 1856, £187 in 1857, and of £210 in 1858. The whole balance against the fund was £438 10s. 8d. During the year now closed there had been no deficiency. On the contrary, the balance had been reduced to £392 8s. 7d. It should be added, however that the interest on the mortgage had been as formerly charged to the account of the building fund. The improvement in the current expenses fund had been the result of increased contributions from the different congregations, the whole of which was \$5,477 this year, against \$4,749 last year; making an increase of \$728. Besides the contributions thus referred to, the committee had to report the receipt of a legacy of £500 from the late James Gibb, Esq., of Quebec, whose memory would be long and gratefully cherished in the Synod. The terms of the bequest left it in the power of the Synod to determine how it should be appropriated. The committee recommended that it be placed to the credit of the current expenses fund, against which, as already reported, there was a balance of nearly £400. No contributions were specially asked for during the past year on behalf of the College Building Fund. Contributions, however, had been received amounting to \$466 30, which had enabled the treasurer to pay a large proportion of the interest due on the mortgage. The whole amount due on the mortgage was £2,678, which was payable in 1862. There was a balance in favor of the building fund of \$722 14. Upon the consideration of the report of the college committee, a good deal of discussion took place on a suggestion which was thrown out last night for the appointment of a tutor to superintend the elementary training of students entering the college. The recommendation of the report "that the Synod wished Presbyteries to give more particular attention to the literary attainments of students making application to them, and when necessary to send them to institutions where they may be trained under the care of the Presbyteries till they are prepared to enter the college classes, and further to see that in such case pecuniary assistance be provided by the Presbyteries, if necessary," was adopted. The next question which came up was whether the Professor's court have power to determine the position of students in the curriculum. The majority of the professors were of opinion that they had the power. The minority thought the power belonged exclusively to the Presbyteries. Rev. Mr. Kemp moved that the power of determining the position of students in the curriculum rest entirely with the Presbyteries.

— UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.—Rev. Dr. Taylor (Toronto) presented the annual report of the committee on Theological Education. The committee expressed their satisfaction with the progress made by the students at the Hall during the past year. In presenting the report, the Rev. gentleman remarked that the contributions for the purposes of the institute, on the first call some years since, had been so liberal that

no further call had since been made on the congregations; and now if a call were made he felt satisfied the institute would be fully relieved. He thought the Synod should empower the committee to arrange with the students at the beginning of the session with reference to their course of study for the year. The *First* class of students were those who had passed through University College. The *second* was composed of the matriculated students of University College. The *third* class was composed of those attending both the Hall and University College. Some discussion then ensued, after which the following resolution was passed—That the committee on Theological Education have full power to make all necessary arrangements in reference to the study of the students during the session of the Hall. The circular of the Chief Superintendent of Education* was referred to a committee to report thereon at the next Synod.

— CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN CANADA.—The report of the trustees of Queen's College was read, and was of a gratifying character. The attendance on the Institution last year was as follows, viz.:—Theology, 11; Arts, 53; Medicine, 79. Total, 143. Of these 12 belong to the Lower Provinces, and in all 45 are studying with a view to the Ministry.

— CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF CANADA.—The committee appointed in reference to the circular of Dr. Ryerson, stated that they were not prepared with a report, but recommended that the Union resolve itself into a committee of the whole to take the subject into consideration. The recommendation was adopted, and the Union accordingly went into committee, Rev. F. H. Marling in the chair. A discussion of some length then ensued. It was ultimately resolved that the chairman appoint a committee to consider the subject brought before the Union in the circular, and present a report at the next annual meeting. The committee rose and reported, and the resolution was adopted. The Chairman nominated as the committee—Revs. E. Ebbs, J. Wood, D. McAllum, William Hay, and Charles Whittod, Esq.

— WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH IN CANADA.—The committee to whom was referred the circular of the Chief Superintendent of Education submitted their report, and the following resolution:—"That the Conference earnestly recommend the ministers of this body to avail themselves of the facilities afforded by the regulations of the Council of Public Instruction, and to visit the public schools as frequently as possible at the times prescribed for the purpose of communicating religious instruction."

The Rev. S. S. Nelles, A.M., President of Victoria College University, thus reports the state of the College for last year. "The operations of the College have been continued during the past year, with the usual vigor and success. The number of under-graduates in the Faculty of Arts is 59; in the Faculty of Medicine 73; the number of occasional and preparatory students 153; making a total of 285. In addition to the President of the College there have been employed, during the year, three professors and four tutors; a staff not larger than that employed ten years since, when the attendance of students was not more than one half it is now. Many of the students are truly pious and the customary religious services have been maintained among them. The boarding hall for the past Session has been under the direction of a lay Steward, whose whole attention has been given to that department, and thus far, the results of this arrangement are satisfactory. The financial condition of the College will be learned from the statements presented by the Treasurer. The General Agent has continued his labours with unabated diligence, and has co-operated with the President of the College and the Superintendents of Circuits in carrying out the plan adopted by the last Conference, for the payment of the College debt. Several circumstances have combined to diminish the success of these efforts, particularly the failure of the harvest, and the unexampled scarcity of money; yet if it be thought that the true method of sustaining the College has been devised, it will be for the Conference so to modify and improve the plan as to give it greater efficiency. It is proper to mention, that most valuable assistance has been rendered by the President of the Conference, who has attended the College meetings, held in the cities and larger towns, and who has, by his example and able addresses, indicated the duty of the church in relation to these great educational interests. It is earnestly desired, that the talents and official influence of the President of the Conference, may still, as much as possible, be brought to bear on this noble enterprise. The Rev. Thomas Thompson has been appointed travelling agent for the College, for 1859.

— THE REV. J. H. JOHNSON, A. M., late principal of the Belleville Seminary, has been appointed (says the *Brockville Recorder*.) Head Master of the Victoria Central School at Brockville. The *Recorder* adds:—"The