

The Presbyterian Review.

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Toronto, October 10, 1895.

Augmentation Committees.

AS our readers are aware, each Synod has now its Augmentation Committee. All applications from Presbyteries for grants to augmented charges are submitted to their respective Synodical Committees and by them forwarded to the General Assembly's Committee on Augmentation.

The Synodical Committees have been called to meet as follows:—

1. British Columbia:—met last month,—Rev. E. D. McLaren, Vancouver, B.C., Convener.
2. Manitoba and N. West:—met last month,—Rev. Dr. Robertson, Winnipeg, Man. Convener.
3. Montreal and Ottawa:—Montreal, Friday 11th Oct. 10 a.m., Rev. Dr. Warden, Montreal, Convener.
4. Toronto and Kingston:—Toronto, St. Andrew's Church, Tuesday, 15th October, 2.30 p.m., Rev. Dr. Somerville, Owen Sound, Convener.
5. Hamilton and London:—Hamilton, on Monday 14th October, 7.30 p.m., Rev. Dr. Lyle, Hamilton, Convener.

The dates of these meetings have been so arranged as to admit of the Secretary, Rev. Dr. Warden, attending them all.

The duties of the Synodical Committees are

I. To co-operate with the General Assembly's Committee in the general supervision of the field and the work within the bounds of the respective Synods.

II. To hold an annual meeting before the fall meeting of the Assembly's Committee, these meetings to be so arranged that the Convener and Secretary of the Assembly's Committee may be present to consult and advise with each Synodical Committee. Presbyteries shall prepare schedules and extract minutes for their meetings as they prepared them for the meetings of the Assembly's Committee.

The business at these meetings shall be:—(a) To revise the list of Augmented congregations as sent up by Presbyteries; to give judgment as to grants asked, and report to the Assembly's Committee. (b) To arrange, as occasion may require, for co-operation with Presbyteries in the visitation (1) of particular districts in which rearrangements seem desirable in the interests of the fund, and (2) of congregations in which special dealing may be necessary for reducing grants. (c) To make arrangements for stirring up interest, especially in aid-giving congregations, and so securing liberal contributions to the fund.

III. As far as possible the Synodical Committees shall pronounce on all applications to place congregations on the list, and on the amount of grant to be asked in these cases, and in case of new settlements in vacant charges.

IV The Synodical Committees shall prepare a report on the state of the Augmentation work within

their respective bounds, which shall be presented to Synod, and this report, with the Synod's finding thereon, shall be forwarded to the Assembly's Committee.

The General Assembly's Committee on Augmentation meets in the lecture room of St. Andrews' Church Toronto, on Wednesday October 16th at 9 a.m.

Knox College.

In another part of our issue will be found the statement just issued by the Board of Management of Knox College. The institution has suffered greatly from the diminution of income arising from the fall in the rate of interest. Some years ago the interest on an endowment of \$200,000 yielded \$14,000 per annum when interest was seven per cent. Now interest on first class securities is reduced to five per cent., and thus \$4,000 of revenue disappears at once. The College has pre-eminent claims on the Church from its long and valued services. A larger number of ministers and missionaries have received their theological training at this seminary than at all the other Colleges of our Church combined. Never did so many students attend lectures than at present and it would be discreditable to the whole Church should the work of the College be hampered by lack of funds. The Church has called for two new Professors to take the place of Professors Gregg and Thomson and it is to be hoped that those Presbyteries who nominate Professors for the vacancies will remember that in doing so they exercise only one part of their privilege and will exert themselves in placing the Board in funds to meet the necessary expenditure.

The Value of Character.

Roland Hill was once called on to occupy the pulpit of a minister whose character was unfortunately not altogether immaculate and who worried him with apologies because he could not offer him a cassock, "Sir," said Mr. Hill, "I can preach without any cassock, but not without my character; character is of immense importance, sir, to a preacher of God's Holy Gospel." The mind of Roland Hill was in touch with the mind of God, for God has regard to character. When He chooses a man to be His messenger he chooses a good man, a man whose character will give him weight and secure for him favor in the eyes of the people. When He chose Noah "Who was a just man and upright in his generations, and walked with God"—He said to him, "For thee have I seen Righteous before me in this generation." When He chose Abraham He said of him; "I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment." It may be set down as an indisputable fact that all who have been used of God have been persons of character. Individuals who had respect unto righteousness. This fact finds another striking illustration in the Life of Dr. David Livingstone, which has been given to the world by the Rev. W. Garden Blaikie, D.D., LL.D., under the title, "The Personal Life of David Livingstone." This life of the great missionary explorer was published in an expensive edition in 1880, seven years after Dr. Livingstone's death, and has been out of print for many years. And now it has been issued from the press of the Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto, in a cheaper edition. The book is handsomely got up in its typography, its paper and binding. But the substance of the book is just such as we would expect from such a cultured and judicious mind as that of Dr. Blaikie. It is a volume of solid matter. One that comes to us as