

like? These reports and tables of statistics are quite as suitable for pulpit discussion as the social and political subjects advertised by many of the alleged "preachers for the times."

HERE is a paragraph from the Assembly Report which is worth repeating, and were it acted upon would do more to advance the real interests of the Church than all the political, Anglo-Israel and Gladstone-Ingersoll harangues of the next twelve months. Here are the words of the sober Senate adopted by the General Assembly *vide* appendix, No. 7, iv. "The KNOX COLLEGE MONTHLY has been conducted throughout the past year with much ability. It is hoped that the Alumni and friends of the College will see to it, that the circulation of the MONTHLY shall be made sufficient to secure its financial basis, and thus insure the permanency of a periodical, which has already an excellent reputation, and which may be rendered increasingly useful to the College and the Church."

THE coming of three new ministers to Toronto is a matter of interest, especially to students. The city pulpits have much to do with the training of men for the ministry. At least such is supposed to be the case. The Presbyterian ministers in Toronto will hold their own against those of any other city of equal size on the continent; but any increase of pulpit strength will be welcome. Messrs. McTavish, Wallace and Hunter will find in their new audiences many who can easily be gulled by an ostentatious display of erudition and who will crowd the gates to see an exhibition of pyrotechnics. They will also have some who can distinguish between things that differ, between sound and sense, between rockets and stars. And the approval of one of these is more to be desired than all the hoarse huzzas of the fickle and shallow crowd. The hearing of the common people is not now an unmistakable evidence of good preaching. It is not a question to be settled by votes. Even in Toronto a good market can be had for chaff, and audiences can be found ready to gulp down "milk"—skimmed, watered, soured milk—in preference to "strong meat."

"CITY *versus* COUNTRY" was frequently the "bone of contention" in a debating society which met once a fortnight in a country school-house. The brawn and brain of the country ran tilt against the cleverness and skill of the city, and in the combat weight and muscle told. These gladiatorial combats were recalled to mind by public references recently made to the number of theological students and ministers who are city-born. Take Toronto for example. The number of city students who have passed through Toronto University and Knox College during the past decade might be counted twice over on the fingers of one hand. Nor is Toronto behind other cities. We do not say whether the reason is to be found in the city youth, or in the parents, or in the congregations, or in the preachers. There is the fact that city boys do not take kindly to theology, nor for that matter to any of the learned professions. And Mr. Wallace was quite in order when he urged the claims of the ministry on his people in Bloor Street. It is quite true, as Dr. Gregg then said, that while Toronto has not furnished many ministers she has done her part in providing ministers' wives. It may be that this division of responsibility will prove the most satisfactory in the end.