

THE
Home and Foreign
OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

JULY, 1873.

The Reports given in the present issue of the *Record* are printed as submitted to the Synod. Our next issue will contain the action of the Synod on these and other Reports.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SUPERINTEND-
ANCE OF THE THEOLOGICAL HALL,
1872-73.

For several years past, the reports of this Board have been somewhat voluminous, but the present one may be brief. Our Theological Hall was in a transition state, and important correspondence and work were entrusted to this Committee requiring frequent meetings and earnest deliberation. These circumstances no longer exist. Our Theological School is in a condition, not indeed entirely satisfactory, yet somewhat settled, and no special meetings of Committee were needed.

The Committee have, however, at least, been most interested observers of the work of Ministerial Education, both in the preparatory and theological departments. In Dalhousie College, the number of young men receiving collegiate education is still increasing, and has reached one hundred, two-thirds of these being in the Arts course, and the larger number connected with this body. The graduating class has again been larger than usual, and will, we trust, furnish a fair proportion who will enter the School of the prophets in due time. The Committee know that a large proportion of our young men, during the last session, attended classes for Bible instruction in the different churches of the body in the city, and have heard of none who neglected Divine ordinances on the Lord's day.

The Theological Session was opened on Nov. 5th, by a lecture read by Rev. Professor McKnight, on the subject of Prayer, being an able and exhaustive reply to the

sceptical views recently broached on this subject, by Professor Tyndall, and defended by himself and other scientists.

The Professors, as usual, have furnished a full account of the course of study prosecuted by their respective classes; and these reports are submitted as containing nearly all the facts which the Board have to lay before the Synod.

REV. PROF. MACKNIGHT'S REPORT.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—The Session closed on the 9th of this month. We had six students, five of the first year and one of the second.

The department of Theological study, which principally engaged our attention, was that of Apologetics. The text-books used were, Hodge on the Confession, Chap. I., and the works of Chalmers on Natural Theology and the Evidences of Christianity. Two days in the week, as a general rule, were given to exercise on the text-book, which furnished the back-bone, so to speak, of a course of instruction; and the materials supplied on the other days were of a supplementary character.

In Church History, I was unavoidably limited to the tutorial method. Besides reading some chapters in the book of Acts, we got through a volume and a half of Schaff's Church History.

Homilies were read by four of the students; as also essays on two subjects prescribed in the course of the session. These were criticised by the class, as well as by myself; and the exercises on the text-books already named, were conducted with a view not merely to test the knowledge of the students, but to exercise and cultivate their faculty of utterance.

The attendance of the students was regular, with the exception of one, who was compelled, by the urgent claims of his medical studies, to discontinue his attendance at the Hall for the last month of the course. And their diligence was highly commendable. They form but a little band; yet,