

ow vacant, they will be heartily welcomed by the Church whose prayer will be for the continued and increasing welfare of the College.

Rev. Dr. Burns' Death.

The cable bringing the news of Rev. Dr. Burns' death, brought sorrow to many in Canada whose privilege it had been for many years to enjoy the friendship and ministrations of the deceased. Especially sorrowful will be his late congregation of Fort Massey Church at Halifax where his memory is fresh in the minds of every member of the Church. Dr. Burns died at Broughty Ferry Scotland where he had lately resided.

A brief sketch of his career is as follows, but space forbids at present a reference to his great services to the churches he ministered to and to the church in Canada as a whole: Rev. Robert Ferrier Burns, D.D., was born in Paisley, Scotland, on the 23rd of December, 1826. He received his early education at the High School of Paisley, and then entered the University of Glasgow, where he remained four years, taking honors in Latin, Greek, logic, and moral philosophy. He studied theology in the New College (Free Church), Edinburgh, and Knox College, Toronto. In April, 1847, he was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Toronto, and on the 1st of July following he was ordained pastor of Chalmer's Presbyterian Church, Kingston, Ont. For one year he was Presbyterian chaplain in the 71st Highland Infantry. During his charge in Kingston, where he remained eight years, he succeeded in having built for his congregation a handsome edifice. In July, 1855, he moved to Knox Church, St. Catharines, where a fine building was erected for him by his people. He remained until March, 1867, when he accepted a call from the Scotch Presbyterian Church in Chicago, U. S., where he remained three years, during which time a new church was built. The degree of D.D., was conferred upon him in 1866 by Hamilton College, New York. He moved to Montreal in April, 1870, taking charge of the now Crescent Street Church. On the 18th of March, 1875, he became pastor of Fort Massey Church, Halifax, a charge he occupied until his death. During his residence in Montreal he was Chairman of the Presbyterian College Board, and from his appointment to Fort Massey Church up to the present acted as Chairman of the Halifax College Board. He was elected Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at the Winnipeg meeting.

Augmentation of Stipends.

From a paragraph in another column it will be seen that the sum of \$3,000 is still required to enable the Assembly's Committee on Augmentation to pay in full the grants to ministers for the half year ending 31st March. This sum represents 25 per cent. of the total of these grants. In other words, if this \$3,000 is not forthcoming 25 per cent will require to be deducted from the half years grants now due the ministers of augmented charges. Such a course will be far from creditable to the Church, besides inflicting hardships on these faithful men. To render this unnecessary we appeal to all congregations that have not yet forwarded contributions to do so at once. Could not many congregations that have already contributed send in an additional sum, and could not many of our Church members, to whom God has given the ability, come to the help of the Committee by forwarding direct to the Rev. Dr. Warden a special donation towards this deserving object?

The grants for the past half year are already overdue and ought to be paid without further delay. Contributions should therefore be forwarded immediately.

We understand that quite a number of congregations have contributed nothing to the Augmentation Fund for several years. Would it not be well for the Committee in their report to the General Assembly to give the names of all such congregations, with their ministers? If any one scheme should appeal more strongly than another to the ministers of our Church we would naturally conclude that this would, seeing that its object is to aid in supporting brethren who are doing the Master's work at the minimum salary in weak, struggling charges.

Foreign Mission Funds. Rev. R. P. MacKay Secretary F. M.C. writes:—Will you allow me

to draw attention to the following facts. 1. It is encouraging to be able to report that the state of the Foreign Mission Fund has improved during the last two weeks. 2. In order to close the year free of debt, Dr. Warden estimates, that \$6000 must be received by the 1st of May. 3. Interest has been saved by the fact that congregations have sent in their contributions earlier than usual. From many of the remaining congregations, judging by their records in past years, not very much can be expected. Hence if the needed \$6000 are to be secured congregations that have already contributed must make an extra effort. These special appeals are undesirable, yet we have put our hand to the plough and cannot go back. If the effort is at all general, the burden will not fall heavily upon any. 4. The late Robert Anderson of Montreal has left a legacy of \$25,000 for the Foreign Mission work of our Church. But according to the terms of the Will, that sum must be invested by us, the interest accruing to be applied to Foreign Missions from year to year. Hence the legacy will bring no immediate relief—probably none for two years—and after that, only to the extent of the amount of interest received. Nothing remains but another effort. Let each congregation do a little and it will both relieve the Committee and gladden the hearts of our Missionaries.

Loyal Alumni. The most loyal and useful friends of a college must naturally be of its own household. When the Alumni are full of enthusiasm for their Alma Mater, her cause will prosper. It has been said that some graduates of Knox College do not maintain the interest in it they ought when they settle in their own charges and when the lapse of a few years dim the recollections of class-room and hall. In some cases, no doubt, the change is by the book, and graduates to whom it is applicable ought to awaken to their duty, for the voice of the Mater should never lose its charm and power. But there are others. And their zeal and self-denial and high ideal of duty is worthy of all praise. Then there could be no more loyal nor more worthy sons. The graduates of '96 last week formed a class association in the interest of Knox College, one object of which is to pay for five years the interest on a portion of the college debt. Then, just a day or two later, an association was formed, which shall be known as "The Knox College Endowment and Sustentation Association," whose object shall be to increase the efficiency of the Endowment Fund, to stimulate interest in the College, and generally to enlarge its sphere of usefulness. Membership in the Association will be open to any member or adherent of the Presbyterian Church on payment of a fee of \$1. Anyone desiring to become a life member of the Association may do so upon payment of a fee of \$50. A means is here provided for the co-operation of all interested in the College, and it ought to be the aim of the members to see to it that the claims of Knox College are not lost sight of when collection day comes round. When the "spirit of giving" stirs within men of means.