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TORONTO, FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1879.

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

OUR Provincial Institution for the Education of the Blind is situated at Brantford. From Mr. Langmuir's report it appears that during the year ending 30th September, 1878, this establishment afforded accommodation and instruction to 175 pupils. The number in attendance in the preceding year was only 148. This increase necessitated enlarged accommodation; and accordingly a new wing has been added to the building and a separate dwelling house built for the principal. So far as practicable, the pupils are taught all the branches usually taught in the ordinary Public Schools, such as reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, history, English literature, etc.; and, in addition to this, special care is taken to put them in possession of some useful art, such as is possible for persons in their condition to practise, and by which they can earn a livelihood after their educational course is finished. It appears that, during the year, 27 pupils were receiving instruction in the manufacture of willow ware; 49 were being instructed in the use of sewing machines; 27 were engaged in the manufacture of socks by machinery for the public institutions of the Province; 63 received daily instruction in hand sewing; and 80 were taught hand knitting and fancy work. During the last two or three years special attention has been given to the development of the musical talent which many of the blind are found to possess in a very high degree. The work of this department is now carried on by three resident teachers and a monitor, and by two non-resident teachers. The number of pupils receiving instruction in vocal music was 83; while 53 were taught in the various kinds of instrumental music, and 23 were studying musical notation. It is expected that some at least, perhaps many, of these pupils will afterwards take good positions as professional musicians; and the Inspector recommends that a good pipe organ should be introduced for the instruction of such pupils as show an aptitude for that class of music, with a view to preparing some of them to be organists in churches.

KNOX COLLEGE ALUMNI.

WE are glad to learn that a circular has been issued calling a meeting for Wednesday the 2nd April, of the graduates of Knox College with a view to the formation of an Alumni Association. It has frequently been to us a matter of surprise that such an association has not long ago been organized.

When Prof. McLaren was appointed to the chair of Systematic Theology in his *alma mater*, his fellow graduates presented him with a professorial gown, etc. The subject of forming an Alumni Association was then spoken of and a committee was appointed to give definite shape to the matter, but from some cause or other nothing further was done. Now that the idea has been revived we trust that it will be vigorously pushed. We believe that such a society was successfully organized last year in connection with the Montreal Presbyterian College and doubt not that it will tend to draw more closely together the graduates of that institution and to deepen their attachment to their *alma mater* and everything pertaining to her prosperity.

The number of ministers at present in the church whose theological training was received in Knox College is in the neighbourhood of two hundred. The combining of these into an Alumni Association could not fail to be advantageous. A grand social reunion annually would be of immense service in many ways in intensifying the feeling of loyalty towards the Institution to which they owe so much, and in enlisting their hearty co-operation on behalf of its increasing usefulness and success. By means of such an association a gold medal or special scholarships might be founded and a college journal efficiently maintained.

We notice that the meeting is called for Wednesday, 2nd April, within the College Building, Toronto. Probably this is as good a time as could have been arranged in the interest of a large attendance, unless the meeting had taken place about the time of the General Assembly.

We would suggest, however, that subsequent meetings be held at a time when, as far as possible, a large number of graduates of Knox will not necessarily be prevented from attending. Those of them who are members of the Senate or Board of Management of Montreal College, for instance, could scarcely be expected to absent themselves from the closing exercises of that Institution, the administration of which has been committed to them by the General Assembly, to attend a meeting of the Alumni Association of Knox.

The same suggestion we offer to the Alma Mater Society, of the Montreal College, so that the graduates of that Institution settled in the west may not be deterred from taking that interest in the Society they otherwise might.

We trust that the attendance on the 2nd prox. will be large, and that the result of the meeting will be the successful launching of the Knox College Alumni Association.

CHURCH FUNDS.

IN the "Record" for the current month, there is given a comparative statement of the contributions received for the several Schemes of the Church, from which it appears that with two exceptions all the funds are in advance of what they were at the corresponding period of last year. So far this is gratifying. We hope, however, that there will be no flagging of effort on this account upon the part of any of the congregations of the Church that have not yet made their contributions. Not only will the expenditure this year be greater than last in connection with some of the schemes, but it is of the utmost importance that there should be a considerable balance in the respective Treasurers' hands at the close of the year to enable them to meet salaries, etc., before the contributions of the ensuing season come in and thus render unnecessary the borrowing of money and the payment of large sums for interest. The two schemes the receipts of which are less than at the same date last year, are the Colleges and French Evangelization.

In regard to the latter we learn that the deficit is chiefly owing to the withdrawal (we hope temporarily) of the Church of Scotland grant and other contributions from Britain, as also to a large falling off in the receipts from legacies. There is the greater reason, therefore, for our own people and the congregations of our own Church devising liberal things for the maintenance of this important department of the Church's work. The decrease in the College contributions may be owing to the special effort made to remove the ordinary fund debt and in some measure to the effort on behalf of the endowment of Queen's College. We earnestly trust, however, that before the close of the ecclesiastical year the contributions will so come in as to free every one of the funds from debt. There are not a few, even in those dull times, who could give large donations beyond their ordinary contributions, and we hope that such parties may come to the rescue and forward what they can for the French Evangelization and College Funds, the two apparently most needy at the present time.

There can, we believe, be no question as to this, that if ALL the congregations of the Church, that have not yet done so for this year, were to forward contributions somewhat in proportion to the number and wealth of their membership, every one of the schemes would end the year free from debt.

A careful perusal of the published statistics of the church for the past few years and of the acknowledgements in the "Record" for the current year affords most convincing evidence that there is something wrong *somewhere* in the matter of supporting the Church's schemes. Where the blame lies we shall endeavour to point out next week. Meanwhile, let all ministers and office-bearers see that contributions are forwarded without delay to such of the schemes as have not been attended to for the years which end with the month of April.

THE English Bible Revision Committee have revised for the first time all the books of the Old Testament except Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastics, and the Song of Solomon.