

of Synod, the Board met with the Professors elect, and fixed the day for the opening of the Classes, for the first Wednesday of November, and determined that the Inaugural services, which the Presbytery of Halifax were requested to conduct, should, for the present year, take the place of an Introductory Lecture.

After conference with the Professors respecting their respective departments of labour, and the line of division between them, it was agreed that the subject of Homiletics should go with Systematic Theology and Church History, and should therefore be allotted to Professor McKnight; and that Professor Currie's classes should embrace Hebrew, Exegesis, and Biblical Literature.

A small Committee was directed to prepare and publish a Prize or Bursary List in the *Record*, as quickly as possible, as an encouragement and stimulus to Students, and as a means of aiding them to meet the expenses, necessarily involved in prosecuting their studies for the ministry; and a list was published in the October *Record*.

#### PROPOSED ENDOWMENT.

Thus early, too, the Board entered on the consideration of the resolution of Synod by which they were empowered and directed to have the church visited, so as to raise the endowment fund to such a sum as would afford interest sufficient to meet or nearly meet the Salaries of our Professors, both in arts and theology.

The Board were well aware that their functions were executive and not legislative; and that in ordinary circumstances their duty was not to inquire into the wisdom of the Synod's determination, but simply to obey it. It seemed to the Board, however, that the circumstances, both of the Hall and of the church, were peculiar and exceptional, and such as did not give promise of success should they proceed.

As respects the church, they found—First, That the Synod had previously given directions that the congregations generally should be canvassed in favour of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, an order which, if carried out as was expected, would seriously interfere with the raising of a Ministerial Education endowment.

Secondly, they found various opinions prevailing respecting the effect which the union negotiations going on, if successful, would have on our Theological School, on its character and locality, and they had reason to know that there were persons, in considerable numbers, who would decline contributing largely, till they knew whether the Hall was likely to be continued in the Lower Provinces or merged in that of Montreal.

Thirdly, They knew that in Halifax, Dartmouth and St. John, some of our most

liberal people had heavy pecuniary responsibilities from church Building and payment of church debt, which made the time unfavourable, so far as these places were concerned.

And then as respects the Hall itself, the Students were at a minimum, and it was felt that we ought to be able to show that there were at least a considerable number of young men to be taught, before asking the people to provide largely for farther means of Instruction.

Weighing these considerations, the Board gave notice to its absent members of these difficulties, inviting them to attend or give counsel by letter; and the result of the next meeting, held on the 1st of November, was the adoption of a resolution—to pause for the present year, and to lay before Synod a plain statement of the grounds of delay.

The Board would now submit their action to the review of Synod, simply adding that they assumed the responsibility of acting as they did, under the full persuasion that the Synod, had it met then, and had full time to weigh all the circumstances alluded to, would have arrived at a similar conclusion.

#### ANNUAL INCOME.

All the more did the Board feel it incumbent on them to attend at once to the second part of the Synod's resolution, and therefore issued a circular showing that the maintenance of our Professorial Staff in Dalhousie College and in the Theological Hall, with other necessary expenses, would require \$2,500 in voluntary contributions from the people, being an average at the least of \$20 per congregation, and requesting a liberal collection as soon as possible from all congregations that had not contributed within the year. They also solicited the co-operation of all the Presbyteries in the church, that the direction of Synod might be fully carried out respecting support for the current year. The results have not been all that could have been desired. Instead, of \$2,500, the Treasurer has received \$1,640.31, a larger sum, however, and from a larger number of congregations than ever contributed before. Ninety-nine congregations have contributed, and the sums given vary from a very few dollars up to \$60, the highest being \$61.24; but so many flourishing congregations have fallen below the average of \$20 that all the efforts of the more liberal have failed to bring the contributions, as a whole, up to or very near the mark.

#### THE SESSION.

On the first Wednesday of November, the Professors were inducted by the Presbytery of Halifax in Chalmers' Church. Rev. J. B. Logan preached; Rev. A. Falconer,