

A STUDENT'S FALL.

I have seen some sad declensions from virtue during my four years' labors in this city. What do you think of a young man, a mere lad, in prison, convicted of stealing, and yet this young man can read the New Testament in Greek, being at one time a student in an Eastern college? This young man is not a Presbyterian, but it shows the depths to which young men may fall unless there are friends to help and encourage them to resist evil companions and temptations. Others have fallen in other ways. Yet let us be thankful that many are upright and pure in life, and seeking to serve God and Christ with loyal hearts.

ARCHIBALD LEE.

LETTER FROM DR. COCHRANE.

THE MEETING IN MARCH.

Editor PRESBYTERIAN RECORD.

DEAR SIR:—In view of the approaching meeting of the Home Mission Committee, on Tuesday 26th March, will you permit me briefly to call the attention of congregations, students, and all interested, to the following:

FUNDS.

All contributions from Congregations and Sabbath Schools should be in the hands of Dr. Reid, not later than the 15th of March. The Committee can only meet the claims for the past half year, *in proportion* to the funds then in hand.

The present indications are, that there will be a considerable deficit, in spite of the aid rendered by the British Churches. So far, there is not enough in the treasurer's hands to meet the notes falling due at the bank, for the monies borrowed last October to pay for the summer work. The urgent need of funds was presented last October to every presbytery and congregation, so that nothing further need be said. If there are still congregations, that have not allocated their missionary contributions, I trust they will help the committee to the utmost of their ability, while at the same time, not overlooking the other important schemes of the Church.

STUDENTS AND MISSIONARIES.

The attention of Students and Missionaries desiring appointments from the Committee for the ensuing summer, is called to the following enactments of last Assembly:—

1. That hereafter every ordained minister, licentiate, student, catechist, or other missionary desiring work from the Committee, shall make application on printed forms specially prepared, *at least one week prior* to the regular half yearly meetings of the Committee, and *only such shall receive appointments.* (This rule applies to Presbyteries also, who must forward the names of Catechists at present under their care, for *reappointment*, if so desired.)

2. The Assembly ordains that in giving appointments to students, the Home Mission Committee give the preference to students, *in the order of seniority in their college course*, and the Assembly enjoins all Home Mission stations to procure their supply through the Home Mission Committee. (In other words, Theological students are to have appointments before all others.)

The blank forms for applications for mission work, may be had from Dr. Warden, Montreal, to whom also, claims for the past half year should be sent.

3. There is yet another matter, to which I desire to call the attention of student missionaries, especially those who labor in the North-West and British Columbia, and who are assisted by special contributions from missionary societies, congregations, and Sabbath Schools.

Certain fields were allocated to these societies and Sabbath schools, on the promise that the student missionaries, would send them from time to time letters, giving an account of the progress of their work. In some cases the missionaries have faithfully done their duty, and their communications have been received with great interest. But in many cases, the student missionaries pay no attention to the matter, in spite of the explicit instructions of the Superintendent of Missions. The result is that complaints are sent me, by the Societies and Sabbath Schools contributing, and intimation made, that unless the letters *are sent*, the assistance will be withheld.

I have made enquiries as to the cause of this neglect on the part of our missionaries, and the replies sent me seem frivolous in the extreme. Some think it unfair to ask them to write, while others are not; some are afraid to write because they have nothing worth talking about; others think that if they write they will be blowing their own trumpet; others, it is said, have never been taught to observe and record what they see and hear; while a large number are simply indifferent or unwilling to put pen to paper.

Such excuses are a reflection upon the Foreign Missionaries and other laborers, who amid their arduous toils, endeavor to keep the Church fully informed as to their fields.

What the Committee may do, at its next meeting in the premises it is not for me to say. My own opinion is that in every case where the student neglects or declines to correspond with the Society or Congregation or Sabbath School assisting the field, his claim for service should not be honored, and further appointment refused.

Societies or Sabbath Schools or Churches, assisting certain fields during the past year, but who have had no communications from missionaries in charge, will please write me before the meeting in March.

Yours faithfully,

WM. COCHRANE.

Brantford, Ont.,
Feb. 7th, 1895.