

it was most interesting to hear these excellent men pleading for those over whose wants they sorrowed, because they had not the means of relieving them. It may not be improper to add, that at the close of the proceedings of the Synod the Moderator addressed the Deputation with a feeling and earnestness which they can never forget.

Such is a general view of the religious necessities of the colonies. It would have been easy to illustrate it by examples quoted from the documents, full of pathos and artless urgency, which have been lodged with the Committee; but it is hoped that the above outline will be satisfactory to the Assembly.

II. *Education.*—Connected with almost all the congregations in the provinces, the Deputation were glad to find that Sabbath-schools were in operation and prospering; and it needs scarcely be remarked, that always, when practicable, they took an opportunity of addressing these little flocks. The system pursued in these schools was, generally speaking, effective and orderly,—each being superintended by the minister, or, where the church was vacant, by an elder, or some pious member of the congregation. With regard to week-day schools, they regretted to observe that in many instances the quality of the education was defective. There were honourable exceptions; but the remark, in too many instances, is applicable. From what does this defect in quality arise? Not from the circumstance of each school being entirely left to support itself, or of the teacher being totally dependent upon the precarious revenue of fees for his remuneration, because the provincial governments concede liberal grants for education; but from the want of preliminary seminaries of a sufficiently high order, at which teachers may be duly qualified, and at the same time, of such institutions as our Normal Schools, which have done so much to elevate the tone, and pervade with energy the mode, of teaching in Scotland. A serious defect, moreover, appeared to the Deputation to attach to the schools upon which the provincial governments expend their liberal donations, viz., the not requiring that education be based upon Religion; and, consequently, the want of information under which the governments labour regarding the principles instilled into the minds of the youth by those instructing them at the national expense. The opposite plan,—that of associating religious with secular education, which has proved of inestimable advantage in Scotland, as evidenced by our parish-schools and those humbler seminaries under the fostering care of the General Assembly,—the Deputation regretted to find not generally recognized in the colonies. Especially in a rising country like that referred to, it appeared a material defect, that moral are not cultivated along with the intellectual faculties of the young, nor due care taken that their minds in early life be imbued with those principles by which it is of so much importance that they be governed. During their stay in Halifax the necessity of a college was pressed upon the Deputation, and there can be no doubt that such an institution, founded upon right principles, and under competent instructors, would be in a high degree advantageous to the Lower Provinces; but it is for the Assembly or its Committee to consider the practicability of such a project, the mode of organizing it, and the measure of assistance which it might be proper to render. The ministers and kirk-sessions, and members of the Lay Association, were extremely urgent about the matter; and it was promised to them, that their anxious desire would be communicated, and they were assured at the same time, that, as the General Assembly has always been the warm and liberal friend of sound education, the proposal would receive from you due consideration. Naturally enough, when this subject was referred to, the situation of Dalhousie College in that city was inquired into by the Deputation. It was founded by the Earl of Dalhousie, when that distinguished nobleman was Lieutenant-Governor of the Province. The building is spacious, and there is an existing capital belonging to it, amounting to £10,000. The college is entirely in abeyance, and the capital unemployed. The trustees, however, with some of whom several consultations were held, seemed to clog its being brought into connection with the Church of Scotland with such conditions as rendered any successful negotiation with them at present hopeless. A short time ago an ap-

plication was forwarded by the Lay Association for a teacher of superior talent and sound principles to superintend the education of the families connected with our two congregations in Halifax, along with a guarantee that his income shall not be less than £150 stg., or £175 currency a year. After many inquiries it is gratifying to report that a teacher of experience, and highly recommended, sailed on the 14th of this month to fill this important situation.

III. *Glebe Lands.*—Many of the congregations have already obtained land for glebes to their ministers. Although most of these glebes are at present of comparatively little value, yet, as the country advances and becomes more densely populated, it is certain that they will form by no means an inconsiderable endowment to the different charges. They vary in extent from 50 to 260 acres each. The Assembly through its Committee signified some time ago a readiness to assist the Synod of Canada in the purchase of glebes for the charges still unprovided with them. In the conference which the Deputation had with the Synod of Canada this subject was considered, and the notes of conference handed since their return to the Committee. It is manifestly of importance both to the stability of the congregations and the independence of the ministers, that this scheme be proceeded with, and also that, if possible, manes should be erected for the comfort of the ministers and their families. In all cases of this description, the property would of course require to be vested in trustees for behoof of the Synod of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland. An admirable model-deed has been prepared by Judge Malloch of Brockville, to whom the Church has long been indebted for his services in her behalf in the colonies.

IV. *Clergy Reserves.*—These reserves form a great boon to the ministers in connection with our Church. They are under the management of commissioners appointed by the Synod of Canada, each nomination being subject to the approval of the Governor General. The fund is in a prosperous condition, and the honorary secretary, Mr. Allan, and the treasurer, Mr. Edmonstone, who is at present in the house, kindly furnished the Deputation with valuable statistics regarding it and other important matters, which, although extremely useful to the Committee, and interesting for private information, no authority was given to publish.

V. *Queen's College.*—The history of this Institution is well known. It was established about nine years ago by funds realised partly in this country, but chiefly by subscriptions made in Canada. Besides receiving at its institution the sanction of the General Assembly, and of the Synod of Canada, it has obtained a royal charter embodying the usual privilege of conferring degrees in divinity, and medicine, and law. The course of education which has been adopted in it by the professors and trustees, who exercise a judicious control over its interests, is very complete; indeed as complete as that afforded at our Scottish universities. The importance of such an institution, at which young men may be thoroughly educated for the holy ministry in connection with the Church of Scotland, is too obvious to require much illustration. First, to meet the lamentable want of ministers in the provinces, Queen's College promises annually to produce a considerable supply, trained under men of whose creed and sound instructions there is the strongest guarantee; and, second, considering the want of teachers of a superior order, it is evident that Queen's College may contribute to a material improvement in this respect. It promises to effect this in a twofold point of view;—first, by imparting to those who are to devote themselves to the education of youth a cheap and at the same time a thorough education; and, second, by thus contributing to fill the elementary schools with properly qualified teachers, young men will emanate from under their care well grounded in those branches which are indispensable, previously to prosecuting a university education with profit and success. These advantages presenting themselves strongly to the Deputation, they regretted to learn that the College has had to encounter difficulties from which it has not yet by any means escaped. From what have these difficulties arisen? Assuredly not from inefficiency on the part of the professors, who combine learning with piety,

and exemplary energy with a true desire to be organs of usefulness to the Church and to the country. In the course of their mission the Deputation met with two ordained ministers, who had been educated under their care; and it is gratifying to intimate to the Assembly that they are excellent specimens of able and faithful labourers among their flocks. The difficulties arose chiefly from a want of confidence in the permanency of the College. Hopes were held out of a share in funds to which the Synod of Canada and the trustees of the College are persuaded they have a legal title. These hopes, however, have for years been alternately raised and depressed. At one time it was imagined that the whole matter was adjusted; but very soon fresh obstacles appeared, throwing a damp over both parties in the management, and also over the community. When the Deputation were in Canada, a proposal for finally disposing of this subject was submitted for the approval of the Synod by a member of the government. By that proposal Queen's College was to receive £1500 a-year in name of salaries to the professors. The Synod acquiesced in the arrangement, although it was felt that the sum was not equal to what it was fairly entitled. Founding upon the decision in the case of the Clergy Reserves, it was believed that Queen's College ought to have received *pari passu* with the College in connection with the Church of England, which by the new arrangement was to retain £3000 a year. The Synod, however, agreed to an adjustment on the terms proposed, and soon thereafter a bill for that purpose was introduced into the Provincial Legislature by Her Majesty's Receiver General. The issue has been again unfortunately interrupted by a change of the government and a dissolution of the Legislature. The matter is, therefore, once more in abeyance. But it is difficult to see, whoever form the advisers of His Excellency the Governor General, upon what sufficient grounds they will long delay the settlement of a question which tends so plainly to aid in furnishing a well educated and well principled population. By the resignation of Dr. Liddel of the office of Principal a severe loss was sustained by the College. Our brethren in Canada, sensible of the valuable services which he had rendered to the Church and to the university, forwarded to him repeated applications to return and resume his labours. These negotiations having failed, the Rev. Dr. Machar, one of the most venerable ministers in Canada, has been appointed to the office of Interim Principal, and is present in this Assembly. Although the difficulties surrounding Queen's College be harassing in the meantime, the Deputation by no means believe that they are insurmountable. Patience and perseverance may overcome them all. No doubt the small number of students hitherto attending the university may surprise some, and lead others to believe that it is not likely to operate beneficially to any great extent. But this surprise will diminish, when it is remembered that, from the insecure footing on which it has been resting, there was no certainty to young men entering the College that it would survive till their curriculum was ended. The attendance at colleges, moreover, in the Provinces cannot be expected yet to equal that at our Scottish universities. Neither students of medicine nor of law require an academical education; the only students from whom it is imperatively exacted are those designed for the Church; and there is not that general desire for a liberal education which, as the country advances, will in all likelihood be manifested. The same comparative deficiency in the number of students is experienced by all the colleges of all religious denominations in the Colonies. It is gratifying, however, to state that at Queen's College the attendance of students during the last session was a fourth more than during the preceding. It is also gratifying to state that the Missionary Association, composed of the students attending the University of Edinburgh, lately resolved to place at the disposal of the Principal and Professors of Queen's College an annual sum of £12, as a bursary to pious and promising young men directing their views to the ministry in Canada. This step, it is believed, will be as pleasing to the Assembly as it is creditable to the Edinburgh students. Upon the whole, the Deputation respectfully submit the claims of this infant institution to the most