

RETIREMENT OF REV. DR. BURNS.

The following minute was adopted with reference to the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Burns: The Synod in view of the retirement of their venerable Father, Dr. Burns, from the duties of Professor in Knox College, agree to record the sentiments of esteem and affection with which they continue to regard him.

It is with a lively sense of gratitude to the Great Head of the Church, that they acknowledge the eminent and rare abilities with which it has pleased him to endow their much beloved friend and Father. This Synod would recognise His care and wisdom on behalf of His Church, in having sent Dr. Burns to Canada about 20 years ago, at a period of our history when his varied talents, and the force of his character were so much needed, and His goodness to their much respected Father in enabling him to labour so abundantly and efficiently as a pastor in the Church, and as a Professor in the College, while at the same time he displayed such indomitable energy and zeal in preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ in the extensive mission field of the Church.

Although Dr. Burns has retired from the ordinary duties of the Professorial Chair by reason of the infirmities of a good old age, yet the Synod rejoice in knowing that they still enjoy among them the presence of Dr. Burns as Emeritus Professor, and the benefit of his counsels and services.

The Synod would hereby give utterance to their earnest prayer that God would be pleased to prolong the life of His honoured servant in the Church, and crown the evening of his days with health, unclouded serenity and usefulness.

APPOINTMENT OF A PROFESSOR.

On the subject of the mode of appointing a new Professor for Knox College, three motions were proposed: (1.) That it be remitted to Presbyteries to nominate persons eligible to the office of Professor, reporting to next meeting of Synod, and that temporary provision be made by the Board of Management for conducting the classes in the College. (2.) That the Synod proceed at once to the nomination of a Professor. (3.) That the matter be sent down to Presbyteries to report to a special meeting of Synod to be held in the month of September.

The first motion was carried, and the appointment is accordingly deferred until next meeting of Synod.

OVERTURE FROM MONTREAL ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE IN THAT CITY.

The overture was in the following terms;

"Whereas the number of students now being educated at Knox College, Toronto, is inadequate to meet the wants of the Church, the extensive missionary field in the eastern part of the Province containing a large professedly Presbyterian population, having as yet been little attended to, mainly from the want of suitable missionaries:

"And whereas the Church in this section of the Province, in seeking to maintain and disseminate scriptural and evangelical principles has to contend against the dominant power of Popery, with all the ignorance and superstition which it entails, as well as against many other adverse influences hurtful to a sound and pure Protestantism:

"Whereas also sixteen students from Canada East have been educated at Knox college, Toronto, only one of whom is now settled in a pastoral charge in this part of the Province, and about twenty students residing east of Cornwall, are now known who would in due time enter a Theological Hall, if instituted in Montreal, and be likely afterwards to labour in Lower Canada.

"And whereas the University of McGill College, which is thoroughly Protestant and positively Christian in its tone, offers special advantages to Theological schools viz.: Its charter permits them to become affiliated, and thereby en-