

Various important matters engaged the attention of the Assembly. Reports were given in respect of conversion of the Jews, Indian Missions, and Colonial Missions, Education, Popery and other important subjects. The Report on the conversion of the Jews was very interesting. We may in another number revert to some of these subjects, and the other matters which engaged the attention of the Synod.

D R. Lee's case attracted a good deal of attention. The action of the inferior Courts was sustained by the General Assembly.

There was a discussion on the subject of Lay preaching, having especial reference to the labours of Mr. Brownlow North, Mr. Radcliffe, and Mr. McEowall Grant. While several members appeared to regret that the matter had been brought before the Assembly, the Assembly decided that the practice of preaching the Word of God, and conducting the other solemn services of the sanctuary by persons not duly appointed to the office of the Ministry ought not to be countenanced by the Courts or Ministers of the Church.

The subject of the induction of Ministers involving the provisions of Lord Aberdeen's Act, was the subject of warm discussion. The regulations were gone over clause by clause, with the view of being sent down to Presbyteries. There appears to be a growing feeling that some important changes will soon be necessary in order to give freer expression to the popular mind on the qualifications and suitability of a Presentee.

REPORT OF THE COLLEGE COMMITTEE.

The Committee have great pleasure in reporting the continued prosperity of our Theological College. They would ascribe the praise to God, who, since the commencement of this Institution in 1845, has made it a most important means of advancing the interests of our Church in this Province.

A list of the Students matriculated in Knox College during the past year is appended. The number of these is 35. Besides these, there are other students who are studying with a view to the Ministry in our Church, partly in Knox College, and partly in University College. The whole number is about 50.

It will be seen from the appended list that no less than seventeen students have completed their Theological course during the past year, and are thus in a position to ask license at the hands of the various Presbyteries. This is the largest number that has on any occasion completed the curriculum at the close of one session in Knox College.

The course of instruction in the different classes will be seen by the Reports of the Professors which have been handed to the Committee, and which will be submitted to the Synod. It will be seen from these Reports that besides the usual classes, a class of Sacred Rhetoric and Elocution was superintended by the Principal, and the Professor of Church History. The Committee deem it desirable that this class be continued, and recommend the Synod to instruct the Professors' Court to make the necessary arrangements.

As during previous years a Mathematical class was conducted in the College by Mr. Thompson, and Hebrew and Latin were taught

in University College by Messrs. Hirschfelder and Wickson. With respect to the Hebrew class the Committee recommend the Synod to instruct the Professors' Court to confer with Mr. Hirschfelder with a view to bring his instructions into greater harmony with the requirements of the classes in Knox College.

The Committee find that the returns received from Presbyteries relative to the examination of students have not been all sent in, and agreed to direct the attention of the Synod to that subject, recording at the same time their opinion that a Committee be appointed to consider the subject of the examination of the Students generally, and to report next year.

With respect to entrants upon the College course, the Committee learned from the Reports of the Professors, that several had come up from Presbyteries unfit to enter the Classes on account of deficiency in elementary training. They therefore recommend the Synod to instruct Presbyteries to give more particular attention to the literary attainments of students making application to them, and when necessary to send them to Institutions where they may be trained under the care of the Presbyteries till they are prepared to enter the College Classes, and further to see that in such cases pecuniary assistance be provided by the Presbyteries if necessary.

A question which gave rise to much discussion in the Committee was, whether the Professor's Court have power to determine the position of students in the curriculum. It was the opinion of a majority, (five to four,) that they have this power. The minority were of opinion that the power belongs exclusively to Presbyteries. It will be necessary for the Synod to come to a decision on this question, so as to prevent future misunderstandings.

It will seem from Professor Young's report that some doubt is entertained whether attendance on his exegetical class is imperative on students of the second as well as of the first year in Theology. In point of fact, the class is attended by students of both years. The Committee recommend the Synod to order the attendance of Students of both years as the standing rule.

Although the subject of the employment of Students during the summer months, has occupied the attention of the Synod at previous meetings, the Committee deem it necessary to urge it upon their notice again. They feel that it is impossible for students to prosecute their studies satisfactorily while burdened with the labour of preparing for preaching two or three sermons each sabbath. The Committee, therefore, recommend that measures be taken by the Synod to remedy this evil; and particularly that they instruct Presbyteries to be more stringent in securing to Students a reasonable time for the exclusive prosecution of their studies.

The Committee now proceed to report on the Finances of the College. They have satisfaction in being able to state that there is an improvement in the fund for the current expenses of the College. It will be remembered that for three preceding years there was an annual and increasing deficiency of £40 in 1856, of £187 in 1857, and of £210 in 1858. The whole balance against the fund was £488. During the year now closed there has been no deficiency. On the contrary, the balance has been reduced to £392. It should be added, however, that the interest on the mortgage has been as formerly, charged to the account of the Building Fund.

The improvement in the Current Expenses Fund has been the result of increased contributions from the different congregations, the whole amount received from which was \$477

this year against \$4749 last year, making an increase of \$728.

Besides the contributions just referred to, the Committee have to report the receipt of a Legacy of £500 from the late James Gibb, Esq., of Quebec, whose memory will be long and gratefully cherished in this Synod. As an Elder of this Church, he took a deep interest in all its concerns; and his liberality in support of the various schemes is well known to the brethren.

The legacy has been received by the Agent of the Church. The terms of the bequest leave it in the power of the Synod to dispose of it at pleasure. It will therefore rest with the Synod to determine how it shall be appropriated. The Committee recommend that it be placed to the credit of the Current Expenses Fund, against which, as already reported, there is a balance of nearly £400.

No contributions were specially asked for during the past year, on behalf of the College Building Fund. Contributions, however, have been received, amounting to £116 10 which have enabled the Treasurer to pay a large proportion of the interest due on the mortgage. The whole amount due on the mortgage is £2678, which is payable in 1862.

There is a balance in favour of the Bursary Fund of \$722. A particular statement of the receipts and disbursements of this and the other funds, will be submitted in separate documents.

The Boarding department of the College is still conducted under the superintendence of Mr. Thomas Willing, who continues to give satisfaction. A slight reduction has been made during the last session, on the price of board. The Committee are of opinion that it is exceedingly desirable that the students be not required to pay more than two dollars, weekly. This would require the church to supplement the payment from their own funds. Such a provision the Committee recommend so soon as practicable.

It may here be added that the comfort of the students has been materially increased by the introduction of Gas-light into the large Dining-hall. This has been effected by the private liberality of the Principal and Professor of Church History. Other private efforts are just now being made towards still adding further to the comfort of the students in the separate rooms.

In concluding this report, the Committee would not forget to state that they were glad to learn that special prayer on behalf of the College was generally offered in the various Congregations on the Sabbath appointed by the Synod. They have reason to believe that the prayers offered have not been ineffectual; and they recommend the Synod to renew a similar appointment for the ensuing year. The Divine blessing is that which is above all things necessary, and ought therefore to be specially and earnestly sought.

WM. GREGG,

Couvenor.

Toronto, 15th June, 1859.

REPORT OF THE FOREIGN MISSION.

Your Committee regret that they cannot report much progress in the matter of a Foreign Mission during the past year. At an early meeting after the last meeting of Synod, the suggestions contained in last year's Report were taken into consideration; and eventually the Committee resolved to take steps towards sending two Missionaries to Vancouver's Island and British Columbia, for the purpose of gathering together the Presbyterians and such others as may be found willing to receive the Word, with the ulterior view of conjoining with this undertaking, an effort to christianize the Pagan Abori-