

the result of these was encouraging to us; while we trust it may be good for the young men themselves.

Though the number named by us was only ten, several others have been recommended to us, likely to seek admission into the institution for the current session.

The committee had intended to have rented a house in Toronto large enough to afford lodging for the professors and students, but from the short period allowed for providing for the commencement of the institution after the meeting of Synod, and other hindrances, this intention was laid aside. A house has been rented for Mr. Esso, and it is expected that Mr. King will lodge with him. This house will afford a public hall for instruction; while the students are for the time boarded in private houses.

Had the committee been able to procure a suitable house for the accommodation of the institution, it was their intention to have lodged the students rent free, leaving them to pay only for their board; as it is, they have promised an equivalent to those whose circumstances shall be considered as requiring it, in the way of assisting to board them in the houses in which they now reside. Such assistance, together with the rent for the house above mentioned, and a salary for one professor of literature and science, constitute the principal amount of pecuniary responsibility for which the committee are pledged. Mr. King's valuable professional labours are, through the liberality of the Free Church, and the congregation in Toronto, a gratuity to the institution.

But in addition to these objects, you will perceive that a library is required in the institution even in its present infantile state; and that funds must be sought for this, as well as donations of books; and I have now to remind you, that the offerings of the whole church, as these are to be called for according to the act of the Synod respecting collections,* on the first sabbath of February next, will be appropriated to these different objects; and you will see that while our institution has at present an avowedly temporary character, these objects are nevertheless so great and important, as to warrant our making an earnest and pressing appeal to the liberality of our people. And I am instructed by the committee to suggest to you, that besides the public collection, you should invite the people to make special subscriptions and donations of books. It may be well to state to the people that copies of the Latin and Greek classics will be useful for the students, as well as books in general literature and science, in history, civil and sacred, and any of the departments of medicine. And we cannot doubt that when the call is presented to all our people, many will come forward with special gifts for this important object.

It may be proper for me to remind you that one of our resolutions on the subject of the education of students, adopted at the late meeting in Toronto, was of the following tenor:

"That it be recommended, as it hereby is, to congregations in which there are young men of decided and approved piety who are giving themselves to the ministry, to assist and encourage these as their circumstances may require."

We believe that those congregations are truly honoured who furnish promising candidates for the ministry, and they may well aid and encourage such of their young members in every competent way, while acquiring the gifts which human teaching can confer, for that noblest of all employments the ministry of reconciliation—the taking an oversight of immortal souls. Where congregations or individuals thus contribute to the support of individual students, in whom they feel a special interest, the general funds of the institution will of course be so far relieved.

The committee, in resolving to address you in this way, on the importance of stirring up our people to liberality, felt that they are only partially doing their duty to the great interests intrusted

to them—inasmuch as that the funds which we are now calling for, do not constitute all our wants.

We, dear brethren, strongly feel, that our students, to become able and faithful ministers of the New Testament, must have the spirit of God enlightening, elevating, and purifying their souls, while they are in the way of acquiring useful gifts; that our professors must be under the same heavenly influence, in order to their being effective teachers of divine truth; and that our churches must be visited with a more plentiful effusion of the holy spirit, in order to their furnishing us with more candidates for the ministry, and in order to their sustaining the ministry; and we too, brethren, charged as we are with an oversight of our seminary, and being called on to furnish a plan of a more extensive institution, feel for ourselves the need of the same divine agent—the Spirit of power and of a sound mind. Hence it has seemed to us to be a duty to make, in connection with this appeal for funds, an appeal for the prayers of our people also. We have resolved, therefore, to recommend that the Thursday immediately previous to the Sabbath on which the collection is to be made, viz. the 30th day of January next, or so much of that day as our Sessions may think fit in their several congregations, may be set apart for prayer and supplication for the divine blessing towards the raising up an able and effective ministry amongst us. And I have now, in behalf of the committee, to recommend to your Session to give your people an opportunity of assembling on some part of that day for humiliation and prayer for the objects above stated; or in the event of this day not being found convenient, on some other day in the same week, or in the week previous to that in which your collection is to be made; and I have also to recommend that you will endeavour to stir up the people to the exercise of prayer for the future, as well as the existing ministry of the Church, while you call on them for liberal offerings towards the support of our institution.

It has seemed to us to be an especial reason for such an appeal as this for the prayers of our people, that from the want of ministers in other churches, and those from whom we could especially welcome labourers to assist us, we have but slender hopes of a supply from any other greater than from the piety of our own congregations. And if we consider well what are the resources of Him in whose exclusive dominion over the Church we delight to glory, we shall find ample ground for the assurance that in looking to him for labourers to take part with us in our ministry, and to fill our places when He shall require us to resign our stewardship, we shall not look in vain. And we may just in conclusion remark, as a ground of special encouragement for us, that in all those junctures in the history of the Church of our fathers, as in the present, in which she has been most faithful in asserting the high and absolute prerogative of her adorable Head, she has been, as she now is, most honoured by him with able and gifted evangelists and pastors and teachers. Commending, then, dear brethren, these suggestions and recommendations to your kindly reception, and requesting, as I am specially instructed to do, that they be laid before your Sessions and read from your pulpits,

I am,
Dear Brethren,

With much respect and esteem,

Your unworthy fellow-labourer in the ministry,

WM. RINTOUL,

Concener.

Streetsville, 7th Dec., 1844.

* See the RECORD, No. 4, page 27, act respecting collections.

THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, HELDEN AT TORONTO, OCTOBER 27th—16th, 1844.

(Concluded from No. 4.)

VI. Respecting the Education of young men for the Holy Ministry.

The report of the committee of the whole house on the Education of Students, was brought up, and the same having been read and considered, and variously amended, the Synod ordained as follows:—

1st. That an interim Professor of Divinity be appointed, and that Mr. King be appointed to the office for the ensuing session.

2ndly. That there shall be a Professor of Literature and Science for conducting the studies of young men aiming at the ministry, and that Mr. Esso be appointed to this office.

3rdly. That the Professors be for the present stationed at Toronto.

4thly. That the Synod undertake to provide a suitable maintenance for the Professors, and make arrangements for having the students suitably boarded.

5thly. That it be recommended as it hereby is, to congregations in which there are young men of decided and approved piety, who are giving themselves to the ministry, to assist and encourage these in their studies as their circumstances may require.

6thly. That the following members constitute a committee on the education of students, viz: Mr. Rintoul (Convener) Mr. Gale, Mr. Harris, Mr. Bayne, Mr. Cheyne, ministers, and Mr. Westland, Mr. McLellan, Mr. Webster Mr. Dixon, Elders; and that their duty be to provide for the accommodation of the professors and students, to superintend the raising of funds, and generally to watch over the institution: The ministers in the committee to constitute a sub-committee for assisting the professors with their counsel, in any matter regarding the education of the students.

[Mr. King having been called on by the Moderator, to undertake the instruction of the Divinity students for the ensuing session, expressed his willingness to do so.

Mr. Esso was requested to accept the office of Professor of Science and Literature, of which he craved time for consideration, before giving an answer; the same was allowed, and he was instructed to send his answer to the convener of the education committee; they being authorised in the event of Mr. Esso's declining the office, to make another appointment.

The committee on education were also instructed to report on a suitable salary for the professor of science and literature, before the rising of the Synod. Also to report on the letter of Dr. Burns, read at the third session, and the following minutes respecting Dr. Burns was afterwards adopted.]

The Synod feeling that in present circumstances, they are unable to decide whether their contemplated Theological Institution shall be located at Toronto or Montreal, or what the precise and permanent arrangement of the institution shall be, yet rejoicing to hear that there is the prospect of Dr. Burns of Paisley's being settled at Toronto as Pastor of the Church there; and being well assured of his eminent gifts and abilities, they do nominate and appoint the said Robert Burns, D. D., Minister of Free St. George's Paisley, to be the Professor of Theology, and to have the charge of training the young men for the holy ministry.—this appointment being of course subject to any contingency arising either from the Synod's resolving to separate at a future time, the office of the Professor from that of the Pastor, or from such circumstances in the progress of the church and the condition of the public educational institutions of the country, as may affect the decision of the Synod in regard to the establishment of a permanent institution, or the locality in which it may be most advantageously placed.