

that it is worth considering, whether the constant increase in the number of lectures has not a tendency to encourage men to rely too much on the aid given by teachers, and too little upon their own powers. We are sure that none would regret such a result more than the college authorities themselves.

"THE HITCH IS WITH THE PASTORS."

WHY is there a deficit in the Home Mission Fund? Is it because our people are poor or illiberal? It is not. The money is in the Church, otherwise Principal Grant could not have raised, in one season, a quarter of a million for Queen's College. And the people would contribute for missionary purposes if they knew the state of the funds. But they do not know. Their ministers have not given them the facts. Therefore the people are not wholly responsible for the present crisis, nor for the consequent failure, if it ends in failure. As old Dr. Duff used to say, "The hitch is with the *pastors*."

Very little was known about the deficit until Dr. Cochrane's article on the "Home Mission Outlook" appeared in the November MONTHLY. Since then the Church papers have taken the matter up and it has been talked about a little. Dr. Cochrane put the alternatives more clearly before the Church. Rev. James Robertson shewed that retrenchment means disaster, and in the *Presbyterian Review* for January 5th gives a detailed statement that should be read by every minister and member of the Church. But all this in the papers. What have the pastors done? Many of them have been keeping the country straight on social and political questions at the expense of the work of the Church. Talk to very many of their most intelligent members about the "crisis" in politics and they know all about it. But the "crisis" in Home Missions—they have never heard of that. Mention the Committee's "determination to retrench," and they say, "Why do not our ministers tell us about this?" Why indeed!

If the Church is to be saved from the disgrace of retreat, if 2,000 families in the North-west are not to be deprived at a stroke of all Church privileges, if the history of half a century ago, as recorded in the Colonial Correspondence, is not to be repeated, the ministers must take up the work. The Church papers may thunder, but too many people, like too many pastors, confine their reading to the news department. The ministers must study this question until they are thoroughly informed and become impressed with its grave importance. Then let them go to their people, tell them the facts, point out their duty and leave it with them to say whether they have money to contribute to save the Church from disgrace and defeat. The Convenor's statement, "That in more than one of the presbyteries of the Church there are ministers who never speak to their people on the subject of missions, and who refuse to allow other brethren to occupy their pulpits and speak on Home Missions and Augmentation," cannot be denied. These ministers are responsible for the ignorance and illiberality of their people. "The hitch is with the pastors."