

that the Synod, Presbyteries, and Sessions petition Parliament again.

4th. That local papers be taken advantage of by ministers and others to disseminate information on the subject, and to meet the assaults of adversaries.

5th. Special attention is called to a variety of other practical suggestions contained in the *Record*, and in Reports for a series of years past.

Your Committee are more deeply impressed than ever with the urgency of the Sabbath crisis. Amid much that is encouraging, there is not a little to produce painful apprehensions. The wholesale Sabbath desecration on the Great Western, and especially at the very spot which witnessed that tremendous catastrophe that spread lamentation, sorrowing and woe through our land. The proposal to open the Grand Trunk on the Sabbath—the indifference manifested by many in high places to its claims—the countless forms in which, domestically and socially, it is neglected—these and similar manifestations are well fitted to excite alarm, and to stimulate to redoubled exertion.

Adding to faith fortitude, let us prayerfully and perseveringly go forward, and the Lord of the Sabbath will, in his own good time and way, crown our efforts with success.

R. F. BURNS, *Convener*.

REPORT OF KNOX COLLEGE BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The Committee beg to report to the Synod that, in accordance with the instructions of last Synod, they took immediate steps for the construction of the additions and changes which were agreed upon last year. These were all but completed at the time of the College opening in the beginning of October, and added greatly both to the extent and completeness of the accommodation for the students, although in the early part of the season, some inconvenience may possibly have been felt in consequence of the new apartments being so recently erected, and only partially seasoned. There has been received during the past year the sum of £1851 1s. 8d. and expended £1951 9s. 1d. The whole amount paid in liquidation of all charges for the new erection, has been £1508 10s. 9d., several extras being found necessary in the course of the execution of the work, which were not contemplated before. The work was superintended by Mr. Thomas, Architect.

The Committee, as instructed by the Synod,

corresponded with Presbyteries with the view of obtaining the necessary funds, and appointed deputations to visit different sections of the church. A considerable amount was obtained, but a considerably larger sum is still needed. The interest on the purchase money remaining unpaid becomes due on the 1st July. The next instalment of the purchase money is not due until November, 1858, but there is a sum of £1500, which it is desirable to raise as soon as possible in order to secure the release of a previous mortgage on the property and put the title deed in a proper and secure position.—The lawyer employed by the Committee, advises the Committee to endeavour to raise this amount with as little delay as possible. Of course if this sum is paid now it will make the future payments so much the less. Were every Presbytery and Congregation to do its duty, event to the extent of the effort made by the Presbytery of London, throughout whose bounds a praiseworthy effort has been made, the amount might be obtained; but there appears to be little prospect immediately of such a result. Reference has been made in the Report of the College Committee to the visit of Dr. Burns and Mr. Fraser to Britain, with the view of obtaining some assistance for our College Building Fund. And the Committee would only farther say in reference to this point, that in their most decided opinion whatever may be obtained in this manner will be necessary, in addition to the result of our own efforts to relieve our present wants, and to give some relief at the same time to the ordinary College Fund, which has suffered this year to a considerable extent from the effort necessary to be made for the Building Fund. The Committee would, however, urge upon the Synod the adoption of some decided measure for the purpose of having all the Congregations within our own bounds thoroughly visited, for the advancement of an object so important to the Church, not only now, but through coming generations. The Committee, in conclusion, suggest to the Synod, now that the Buildings are completed, whether the ordinary College Committee might not be entrusted with the supervision of this object in addition to their more immediate duties.

W. REID, *Convener*.

REPORT ON STATISTICS FOR 1857.

In presenting this Annual Report, the Committee are called on to explain the reason why it has not been laid on the table of the Synod