

tee were enabled to report a decided improvement in this respect; this year they are enabled to report equally favorable results. One difficulty the teachers have to contend with is the want of punctuality on the part of the children, in not being present at the hour of meeting. As parents have much in their power, a little attention to this matter will conduce much to the order of the Sunday School.

The Committee have to report that the library is in an efficient state. One hundred volumes of valuable books have been added during the last week to be given out on Sabbath first, making a total of three hundred volumes. The books distributed have all a moral and religious tendency, and from their perusal it is to be hoped that they may be instrumental in doing much good.

The "Children's Paper," published by Nelson & Sons, Edinburgh, has a considerable circulation, one hundred numbers being taken; all who attend the Sunday School receive a copy. This little work is received with much pleasure, and from its illustrations and valuable matter must also have a favorable tendency.

The Scripture lessons for the past year have been taken from the course—approved of by our Church, and from the Old and New Testaments, being studied each successive quarter, a variety of the most striking incidents and truths are presented to the youthful mind. In connection with these lessons the Shorter Catechism with proofs is committed to memory—one question each Sabbath, with the proofs.

In regard to missionary effort, the collections during the year have been devoted to the Buxton Mission, to which object former contributions have been devoted.

The Rev. Mr. King, in charge of that mission, favored the Sunday School with a visit a short time ago, and brought prominently before their minds the claim of the mission upon their sympathies. In the course of the evening the amount received for this object will be stated. (The sum of fifteen pounds was afterwards reported.)

In drawing this report to a close, the teachers have much to encourage them in the work in which they are engaged, and although many difficulties have to be encountered and overcome, yet they feel that their labors have not been in vain; and, commencing a new year, they desire to look to Him who alone can bless his own work and overrule all for his own glory and the eternal interests of the rising generation.

In conclusion, they would feel encouraged if parents and others who send their children could find time to visit the Sunday School and watch its operations, and by their presence strengthen the hands of those engaged in the work of instruction.

GEORGE A. PYPER,
Superintendent.

Toronto, Jan. 13, 1857.

The Record.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1857.

KNOX'S COLLEGE FUND.

TO THE MINISTERS, ELDERS, DEACONS, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS,

On behalf of our Synod's College Committee, we desire to bring under your consideration the present financial state of Knox's College. In one word—we have to inform you that the treasury for defraying the annual

expenses of our College is exhausted—indeed is largely in debt, while considerable balances are due to the Professors on account of stipend. We respectfully, but earnestly solicit your prompt co-operation in placing this department of our ecclesiastical operations in a healthy and satisfactory position. The following considerations, among others, we submit as worthy of serious consideration.

I. Our College may, with every propriety, be regarded, under God, as the right arm of our Church. We are not insensible to the amount of valuable aid furnished to us by churches in the mother country in our endeavours to provide for the religious destitution of the Province. At the same time, we would have you remember that in the great majority of instances, the moral wilderness has been first entered by the students of our College, and the cultivation of many of its important parts has been hitherto successfully accomplished, through the Divine blessing, by the same students who have afterwards become licentiates and ministers of our Church. An Institution which has produced such fruit, must undoubtedly be regarded with deep interest by any Christian community, and more especially by those who look to that Institution for the greater number of those pastors who shall, in coming years, break the Bread of Life among the people under our spiritual oversight.

II. Those brethren who have placed, at the disposal of this Church, their services as teachers and trainers of candidates for the Christian ministry, have a large claim on our sympathy and support. They are devoting their time, their energy, and their talents to the best interests of the Church. Their onerous duties require much self-denial, undivided attention, and untiring exertion. We ask you, is it equitable or wise to allow such men to be in the slightest degree annoyed with purely secular matters? Should not the Agent of the Church be placed in such a position, in regard to funds, that our Professors and Tutors should never have to apply to him for their stipulated salary; but rather, should not he be able to pay them the full amount as regularly as a quarterly or half-yearly term expires?

III. The Synod, at its late meeting, felt called upon to add to the number of the Professors in Knox's College. We wish to regard the cordiality with which that addition was made as an indication of the readiness with which our people would sustain our Synod in its progressive movements. We have hitherto found that funds were available in promoting our Collegiate operations, and we cannot believe that these will be wanting when the outward prosperity of our Church and of the Province generally has led us to take another step in advance. As a Church rises from infancy and youth to comparative manhood, her necessities will increase; and in the supplying of these her members should ever address themselves to their Great Head in the language, "Lord! what wilt thou have me to do?"

We request, therefore, that individually and collectively, in your respective congregations, you will enter into immediate and effective arrangements by which funds may be raised for the current expenses of our College. For reasons that we need not particularly specify, it is specially desired that all funds collected for that purpose should be in the hands of the Synod's Agent on the 1st of March next, at the very latest. Let the office-bearers in each congregation, and other friends who have time at their disposal for the promotion of the object, see to it that every family connected with our Church shall be asked to give a portion of the Lord's property in their hands to this object, and we cannot fear the result. We would also request you to let the interests of our College have an important place in your supplications at the throne of Grace. Without the blessing of God's Spirit nothing is wise, nothing is strong. Our Professors need daily bestowments of grace by which they may be men "of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Our students require the teachings and influences of the Spirit of light and of faith, to make them "good stewards of the manifold grace of God." We all need the Spirit of life to work in us "both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

In name and in behalf of the College Committee.

THOMAS LOWRY,
JOHN McTAVISH.

January 13th, 1857.

WHY ARE MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL NOT BETTER SUPPORTED?

The fact that at the present day ministers of the gospel are very inadequately supported, is universally admitted. The remuneration which they receive for their arduous and incessant labours cannot at all bear comparison with the income which is thought reasonable in other professions. At the same time it must be borne in mind that a much larger period of preparation is requisite in the case of candidates for the ministry, than is required from young men studying with a view to the practice of law or medicine. The salaries of most classes of educated men have been of late very considerably increased. Teachers, as a general thing, receive much more than they did some years ago. Clerks in counting houses and salesmen in shops receive larger salaries than they formerly received. But many ministers receive no more than they did five or six years ago, when a hundred pounds could be made to go twice as far as it will go now. Even in cases where an increase has taken place, and we are glad to acknowledge that in not a few instances an increase has been given, it has not in general been in proportion to the increase of price in the necessaries of life, or in proportion to the increase which has taken place in other professions. Now the question has sometimes been forced on our mind, How is this to be accounted for? Why are ministers of the gospel not better supported? An inquiry into the causes may help