

serious consideration be given to the fact, that so large a number of graduates of this College and others on whose attendance in the Theological studies here provided the success of our incipient undertaking greatly depended, have failed to become members of the several classes in this department, and were, it is supposed, to be found in other Institutions during the year.

It appears plain that earnest and strenuous effort is called for in the use of all proper influences to retain our own students in the country, and to combine all our strength for the maintenance and growth of our own Institutions.

At the meeting of your Board, in December last, it was found, from the report of the Finance Committee, that the services of a suitable agent for the Provinces could not be obtained. It was hoped that a series of Educational Meetings would be held in different sections, where it would be feasible for the President and other members of the Faculty to attend, and present the claims of the College. Something in this way was accomplished; but the extreme severity of the weather, and difficulties in travelling, interfered greatly. At the different Associations in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, the matter of endowment was strongly urged, and cordially responded to. It remains for this Convention to mature such measures as will meet the pressing exigencies of our Institution. Your Board believe it to be a question of *life or death*, and our aim should be to reach the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, making a strenuous effort for at least twenty-five thousand the coming year.

Wm. Elder, Esq., A. M., Professor of Natural Science, has tendered his resignation of the post so ably filled by him during the past three years. This resignation your Board were reluctantly compelled to accept.

It becomes the painful duty of your Board again to report a vacancy in their number, caused by the death of Rev. J. E. Balcom, in June last. An enthusiastic lover of our College—a large portion of the latter years of his life was given for her benefit. His services, until debarred by illness, cannot be too gratefully acknowledged. Such a loss cannot easily be repaired; but we bow in submission to the will of Him, who doubtless had a more excellent service for our brother in that world where His servants shall serve Him, and shall see His face.

The removal of Rev. E. C. Cady from the Provinces, has caused another vacancy—both of which can be filled at this session of your body.

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