

and faithful men to help forward this great work.

It ought to be mentioned, that it was arranged that the Rev. Mr. McGilvray, of Glasgow, and the Rev. Mr. Buchanan, of Bothwell, Deputies from the Free Church of Scotland, should be received and heard at this meeting. This was felt to be an appropriate arrangement, the object of the visit and labours of these Ministers being kept in view. Mr. Buchanan has only recently come to Canada, and is to devote himself principally to the vacant congregation of Côte-street Church, Montreal. Mr. McGilvray has been upwards of six months in the country, and has been indefatigable in supplying some of our most destitute congregations, devoting himself principally to the Gaelic population in Glengary and Lochiel. At this meeting he gave a very clear and interesting account of his labours, which seem to have been greatly blessed in this most necessitous region, having already been productive visibly of many precious fruits, which we trust will be yet farther increased and ripened through Divine grace, and ultimately furnish a crown of joy and rejoicing to him who has been the honoured instrument in planting and watering the good seed whence they spring. A special expression was recorded, of the Synod's obligations and gratitude to the Free Church, and to these her Deputies, which was duly acknowledged by them.

We may here also take occasion to mention an interesting document which was read to the Synod next day, viz. a communication from the Missionary Association of Knox's College, in which they state that their attention and sympathy had been called forth in behalf of the French Canadian Roman Catholic population, and that one of their number, Mr. John Black, a student well advanced in his course, and distinguished by his attainments, had been induced to devote himself to this sphere of Missionary labour. The Synod, after having heard this communication, the object of which was to obtain the countenance and approval of the Synod to the undertaking, unanimously agreed to record their satisfaction at this manifestation of Missionary zeal on the part of the candidates for the holy Ministry, and their approval of the object selected by the students, and resolved that the Mission be placed under the care of the Synod's Home Mission Committee, who were instructed to consider the whole matter, and endeavour to promote an interest in it among the people, and especially to form Associations of the young men connected with the Church, for the advancement of Missionary operations among this class of our fellow-subjects, held in bondage by the Man of Sin. The mind of the Synod was fully expressed during the discussion of this subject, as to the importance of Missionary enterprise being prosecuted by the Church, through her own proper organization, as distinguished from mere voluntary effort apart from the Church—it being laid upon her, as her peculiar office and duty, in her organized and collective capacity, and by the appointed means and instrumentality committed to her, to preach the Gospel to every creature; and the attention of the Synod was also called to other sections of the growing population of our land having claims on the attention of the Home Mission Committee—such as the numerous German settlements existing in the western part of the

Province. We sincerely trust that the Home Mission Committee, with their youthful associates, may be enabled to make some decided progress in this department of their sphere of duty during the year.

On the following day (Friday), the principal subject of deliberation in the Synod was the Report of the Committee entrusted with the management of Knox's College, which was read by the Convener, the Rev. William Rintoul. The services of the Convener and Committee having been duly acknowledged, the report was committed to a committee to consider the steps which the Synod should take in the existing circumstances of the church and the institution. The report was listened to with great interest by the Synod and the assembled congregation; and the facts which it set forth, especially as to the numbers (about 40) of promising young men of the country devoting themselves to the work of the Lord in the land, contrasted strikingly with the circumstances of trial and discouragement in which the Synod was constituted three years ago in Kingston. This was impressively pointed out by Mr. Bayne on this occasion—and on his suggestion the Synod engaged in special thanksgiving and prayer, Mr. Rintoul conducting the devotions. The resolutions prepared by the committee above mentioned, with some unimportant alterations adopted by this Synod at an after session, will be given in full in our next number. We can only mention here, that the Synod finding the arrangements formerly entered into for obtaining a Professor of Divinity unsuccessful, resolved to send a Commissioner home, invested with full authority, in concurrence with the Colonial Committee of the Free Church, to make an appointment to this most important office, and made choice of the Rev. Mr. Bayne of Galt as their Commissioner for this purpose. It was also resolved, as being necessary to the success of Mr. Bayne's mission, that the Professor who might thus be appointed should, for the present, be sole Professor of Theology in Knox's College, the Professorship being formally disjoined from the pastoral office in Knox's Church, Toronto, with which it has hitherto been connected under the conditional appointment made by the Synod in 1844. It was also agreed that an additional Professor or Tutor should be selected for the College by the Commissioner, under such special instructions as he might receive from the College Committee. Mr. Bayne, although he can be but ill spared from his own extensive and important charge, acquiesced in the Synod's appointment, and it is expected will sail in July. Indeed, the whole discussion on the business of the College, although it occupied the greater part of a day, was so strikingly marked by unanimity and cordiality on all hands, that the Synod resolved to meet for special thanksgiving, and for commending Mr. Bayne and his mission to the Great Head of the Church. It need only be farther mentioned here, that it appeared from an estimate of the probable expenses of the College for the ensuing year that £1200 would be necessary to sustain it, in the event of the foregoing appointments being made, and that the Synod unanimously resolved, in dependence on the Divine blessing and guidance, to endeavour to raise this sum by a general contribution from the congregations and missionary stations. Hitherto an annual Sabbath day's collection has been nearly sufficient to meet the

necessary expenditure of the Institution, in consequence of the far greater part of the work of instruction having been done gratuitously. But this state of things could not, under any circumstances, have been continued much longer: and the number of students, and the wants of the church and of the country, require that the College should immediately be placed on the most efficient footing. And we see no reason to doubt, that an effort, corresponding to the magnitude of the object to be attained, and of the great spiritual interests which appear to be bound up with the success of this Institution, will be successfully made by the members of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. If every man will, as the occasion requires, only do his part, the necessary means will soon be furnished, and at very small cost to individuals. The College Committee have been authorised and instructed to issue an appeal on this subject, and to make arrangements for visiting the whole bounds of the church for the more effectual accomplishment of it, and we trust they will lose no time in bringing it fairly before the people. We shall only add that the College Report will appear in the next number of the *Record*, and will be found a very interesting document.

The Report on the Sustentation Fund was read by James Walker, Esq., the able and indefatigable Secretary of the Board, and the cordial and well-merited thanks of the Synod were tendered to the members of the Board, and in particular to the Secretary, for their valuable and gratuitous services to the church during the year. It appeared from the Report, that a great number of the congregations, which have hitherto been unable or unwilling, through a variety of causes, to come upon the Sustentation Fund, are making arrangements to do so forthwith, and there seems to be ample reason to anticipate the universal adoption of the scheme at no distant period. No serious objection indeed appears to be felt to the scheme in almost any part of the church, except such as are of a merely local, personal, and temporary character, and these principally arising from the embarrassments in which the old system has involved so many ministers and congregations. It is at the same time manifest that the scheme is yet but very imperfectly understood in some quarters—nay, we have had recent and painful evidence, that the grossest misapprehensions exist, and have been diligently promoted, in a few instances, regarding its provisions and requirements—some parties having been kept in the belief that certain recommendations and suggestions, which accompanied it in its original form, but which were never intended to be obligatory, are still indispensably required of every congregation coming upon the fund. Nothing will dispel these errors so effectually as the publication by the Board of the short and simple provisions of the scheme, as it now stands, and this we hope they will do forthwith. It may be proper to state here, that an important alteration in the scheme was adopted by the Synod at its recent meeting, on the recommendation of the Board, viz., that the deduction from the higher stipends should never exceed 20 per cent. This was agreed to, as we believe, not from any change of mind in the Synod in regard to the original principle of distribution, but merely on grounds of expediency, and with the view of obviating an objection which is understood to operate against the scheme in some of the city congregations. The thoroughly Christian and Presbyterian character of