

opening of the College Session, it may be well to remind students of the importance of having their preparations so made as that they may be forward at the commencement of the business. It is to suit their general convenience that the commencement of the session is deferred to so late a period of the year as the first of November; and they ought not still farther to hinder the proper work of the classes by being late in their arrival. Those also who have it in prospect to enter upon the study of theology this session should remember that they must previously be examined by the Presbyteries within whose bounds they respectively reside as it is upon the certificate of the Presbytery, declaring them to be in their judgment possessed of the requisite qualifications, that they are enrolled as students in divinity. This is requisite both with respect to those who may wish now to be enrolled as students in divinity for the first time, and for those who have been already attending as such. It is hoped that Presbyteries will keep this in view, and arrange a meeting for this object where it may be necessary. Let the Church at large also remember the deep interests that are involved in the business of the session; and, when the state of these Provinces is such as to press upon all the duty of praying the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth labourers into the harvest, let their earnest prayer ascend for a rich blessing upon the labours both of professors and students.

FREE PRESBYTERY OF HALIFAX.

The Free Presbytery of Halifax held its ordinary meeting here on the 27th ult. Besides appointing their usual supplies, which it is unnecessary now to state in detail, the Presbytery considered an application from the Rev. Mr. Adam in Bermuda for ministerial supply for the charge there, for six months from October next, as he was about to return to Britain. In the prospect of the opening of the session of the College in the beginning of November, Mr. Romans appeared to be the only available supply to whom the Presbytery could look, and as he was not present the Presbytery adjourned till six o'clock in the evening of the same day in order to give an opportunity of communicating with Mr. Romans on the subject. At the evening meeting it was reported that, although Mr. Romans had not been personally met with, and no favourable answer could be given, he might be expected to attend before the Presbytery would adjourn. This expectation, however, was not realized, and the Presbytery adjourned without being able to do more than authorize a communication to Mr. Adam, intimating that the Presbytery could not at present undertake to supply the charge at Bermuda, but they would endeavour, if possible, to give some supply during the winter.

Their next meeting is to be held here on Wednesday, the first day of October next.

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PASTORAL VISITING.

Some people would have their Pastors chiefly occupied in visiting: others would have them visit but little or not at all. Some would have their visits past off in a social way; others would have them devoted to religion. The duty of visiting "from house to house" is enjoined in Scripture, and has every thing in reason to sustain it.—Such work as ministers perform in families during the week, is an application of their Sabbath prayers and sermons, and has in numerous instances been crowned with astonishing success in the conversion of souls, the edification of christians, and the reformations of communities. *There can be no perfect ministry without it.* Yet it is a duty, like all the direct duties of the ministry, environed with its difficulties and its dangers, and certainly requiring the pastor to bear its cross. *How the duty is best to be discharged, must be learned from the word of God and from efforts, and observation and prayer.* The great difficulty, after all, in the way of a proper and successful discharge of the duty, lies in the want of an earnest and devoted piety on the part of the ministry. Let that piety exist in the soul of a minister and he will gain access to the homes and the hearts of his people, and find time for it, and find a way for it also. Is it difficult for a minister to visit religiously, in a time of revival? The great majority of the excuses of ministers for a neglect of this duty, are founded, when they are searched to the bottom, upon selfishness, pride, and love of ease. The heart leads us astray in its deceitfulness, and we laud and consecrate ourselves to one great duty to the neglect of others, and why? Because there is an aversion at heart, on account of the sacrifices attendant upon them! Yet in our self-deception, we endeavour to feel justified. Surely if any in the ministry should abound in pastoral visiting, it should be those who are settled in missionary fields and churches. It is alone by visiting, that the missionary can know the people of his charge, and the strangers that settle around him personally, and gain their esteem and confidence, and finally their affections. It is alone in this way that he will come to an exact understanding of the religious faith and character of people gathered from all parts of the world: it is alone in this way that he can properly interest the people in the gospel, and obtain the attendance of their children at the Sabbath-school, and attach the children to him, and so lay a broad and good foundation for a permanent church and congregation. More turns on a faithful performance of this duty in our missionary