

use to the students, the Board would recommend that they be handed over to Dr. Honeyman as a small contribution to the Provincial Museum under his charge.

FINANCES.

The Synod will be gratified to learn that the year past shews some improvement in a financial point of view. The surplus of the Professional Fund is somewhat larger than usual, and the deficiency in the general Ministerial Education Fund is smaller than it has been for a number of years. Were it not that a considerable sum is drawn from this fund in payment of the salary of the Synod's general agent, there would be no deficiency, but a balance in favour. Still, there is not merely no ground of boasting, but no satisfactory evidence of any decided increase of interest, on the part of the church, in favour of this fund. Some two or three hundred dollars constitute all the increase of contribution. Other three hundred and fifty dollars are included in this year's receipts which belonged properly to the revenue of last year, but were not collected till after the closing of the accounts. These and the \$240 rent which we do not expect to have next year, prevented the report of a larger deficiency.

NECESSITY FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION.

In view of these facts and figures and of the whole aspect of the subject of Ministerial Education, the Board feels that the Synod never stood in greater need of Divine direction. We have reached a crisis. The question has become one of life or death; the time for deliberation has been protracted, and decisive action must follow or it will be too late. For three years we have been deliberating about remodelling the Hall. Two years have passed since the chair of Biblical Literature became vacant, since which time it has been filled by a temporary appointment. And now that the chair of systematic theology is unoccupied, it is obvious that these vacancies must be filled up without delay.

The Students who have been in attendance are anxiously waiting to see what this Synod will do; and young men of promise who contemplate the study of theology are waiting to see whether they shall enjoy the means of a good theological training within the bounds of our own church. The delay which has already occurred in adopting and pursuing a definite course, has issued in unsettling the minds of the students, and has led to the proposal of schemes wild, visionary and retrogressive. We cannot afford any longer delay, and our earnest desire and prayer therefore is that God may, by His Holy Spirit, lead this Synod to the choice of suitable instructors, men of wisdom and culture of talent

and zeal, and godliness, and to scriptural and practical means for their comfortable maintenance. The work to which the Synod is called involves great difficulty, but it must be met with faith and courage. We are acting for more generations than one. May we prove ourselves men of understanding and worthy of our position and our times.

The young men want an institution adapted to the advanced requirements of the age, and worthy of the Church of the Lower Provinces, and will neither be contented with, nor retained by, anything less. Neither they nor we can afford to have a theological course, in contrast with the matured programme of the Schools of the Prophets in Britain and America. We therefore conclude by recommending the Synod to go forward—for we must move in some direction—and to adopt the old watchword of our fathers in difficulties of a similar character, "The God of Heaven: he will prosper us, therefore we His servants will arise and build."

Rev. E. ANNAND moved that the report be received and the diligence of the Board approved. Sometime ago he had been of opinion that our Hall might be closed without damage to the church. His views were changed, and he now felt that we were solemnly bound to go forward. We have a large amount of money consecrated to the work, and in justice to the donors we must go forward. Attending on foreign colleges has become very expensive, and many of our students cannot afford to do so. A Session in Halifax costs a student \$120, while a session at Princeton costs fully \$300. Attendance on foreign institutions would tend to alienate the affections of our students from our own church. Even temporary suspension of the Hall would be injurious. He showed that the position of the maritime churches, our population and resources, justified us in going forward with Theological education.

Rev. D. B. BLAIR seconded the motion. He hoped no one would for a moment think of extinguishing the Hall. He had himself been dreaming of Theological education in these Provinces before he had left the Highlands. We cannot get a supply of ministers from abroad. Scotchmen are as hard to move from their native soil as limpets from the rock. He had himself to struggle for two years before he could