

you make from year to year—from day to day? Christ gives us ample opportunities to deny ourselves, and to serve Him. Do we avail ourselves of these? When a call comes for money to support Missions to India, or China, to Trinidad, or to the New Hebrides, the answer too often is “hard times,” “dull times,” “no money,” “other claims.” Excuses flow apace. We are apt to forget what Christ has done for us, and what faithful disciples are still doing. God does not leave himself without witnesses in all lands. He sends us lessons such as the above from far off India to rebuke us. Be it ours to be faithful unto death—or let us say, faithful to the sacrifice of some of our luxuries, fancies, and pleasures, for Christ and human souls. None of us will have the opportunity like Bora Singh to sacrifice a kingdom for Christ; but the opportunity comes to all to sacrifice something for Him, enough at least to show loyalty and love to Him who died for all.

Another Indian Prince, Dhuleep Singh, has for many years past given, year by year, a donation of \$25,000 to the Presbyterian Mission in Egypt, as a proof of gratitude for a good Christian wife obtained from among the pupils of the Mission schools there. How many Presbyterians in Canada owe thank-offerings to God for the precious gift of domestic happiness! And is there a more appropriate way of expressing gratitude than by advancing that Gospel which sweetens, brightens, and sanctifies every relation of life?

### The support of our Theological Seminaries.

THE condition of our Theological Seminaries is a matter of the greatest importance to the Church. This will not be questioned by any member of our Church who is both intelligent and pious. Our obligations to the parent Churches, for sending to this country devoted, able, and laborious ministers, to lay the foundation of the Presbyterian Church, must always be remembered with much gratitude; and we shall continue to receive ministers of like

character, as they shall from time to time come to us, from parent or sister Churches. But the greater part of our ministerial labourers must clearly be furnished by our own Church; and hardly anything could more strongly testify against us, or be worse omen for the future, than the failure of a Church which has attained the age and proportions of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, to find within itself candidates for the ministry, in numbers nearly adequate to the necessities at least of the Home field.

The Rolls of our Seminaries shew that whilst the number of young men studying for the ministry may not yet be sufficiently large, there is good reason why the Church should be encouraged to make still more vigorous efforts in behalf of Theological Education, and should endeavour by every means in her power to sustain and develop this great department of her work. She has at present the opportunity of rendering service of the utmost value in connexion with the training of her future ministry.

All members of our church who have given any attention to the important question of her finances, are aware that the revenue of the Seminaries, as well as that of the Home Missions, has, for the past two years, proved greatly inadequate. We cannot here detail the causes of the deficit which three of the Colleges have had to report to the General Assembly. The main cause is the necessary increase of expenditure arising from the enlargement of the work; so that a state of things which is not in itself good, does yet testify to a fact which we can regard only with thankfulness. The Church may be sure that the deficit has not arisen from a careless or unwise administration of her funds. But unless she shall really awaken to the situation, and adopt effective measures of relief, there is the near prospect of the Theological Schools being seriously embarrassed. The writer of these lines is no alarmist, but he cannot close his eyes to what is obvious to every one who will but direct attention to the facts. The Colleges cannot long continue their work with balances of two, three, or five thousand dollars annually against them.

But is it in the power of the Church to remove this difficulty? And is there sufficient reason why she should be entreated to do so? To both questions an affirmative answer may surely be given. The Church can never dream of withdrawing her hand from a work which is essential to her very existence. Nor can she, by weakening her Institutions, recede from the ground she has already gained. The question of consolidating or amalgamating Theological Institutions, whatever on other grounds could be said in