

in all great enterprises. To many students dollars are much-needed friends; but when we are told that by the yearly payment of from \$1 to \$10, anyone may become a member of the association, it surely becomes every student, if possible, to get enrolled. He may also bring his influence to bear upon his lady friends. Ladies we are told may be members "on the same terms as gentlemen." One lady has already become a life member by the payment of \$25; twelve have offered \$10; and others guarantee sums ranging from \$1 to \$5. We are informed that parties may have an opportunity of enrolling their names on the list of membership by notifying R. V. Rogers, Esq., or by calling at his office, Ontario Street, Kingston.

THE *Montreal Witness* has made the pertinent statement, that in the United States and Canada church attendance is on the decrease, while scepticism is making rapid headway. Our contemporary is anxious to get a reason for this state of matters. We fear the reason is to be found in an accumulation of uncongenial circumstances not easily accounted for. Anyone with his eyes and ears open cannot fail to see that spiritual lethargy is on the increase. We do not presume to solve the difficulty; but simply to point out some things that have pressed themselves upon our attention. It is clear then that the understanding generally betwixt pastor and people in many of our churches is not what it ought to be. The agreement in many instances is one of dollars and cents, and quality and quantity of tangible work performed; a regular commercial transaction. Business men are apt to carry their commercial habits into the church; and ministers, who are not wholly free from the trammels of the world, are led to look at things much in the same light. Men of the world lay themselves out for animated competition and commercial war-

fare and risk the consequences. If this same spirit is imported into the church, where peace should reign, there is sown seed, which, sooner or later, must inevitably bear fruit after its kind. A minister's relation to his people is not a marketable one: it is a living and life-giving relation. "Tit for tat" it is said is fair play; but there should be no "tit for tat" in the church. When a man is made pastor he should be looked upon as something more than one of his flock, and not as a mere hireling. The shepherd and sheep, though intimately connected, are yet somewhat distinct; and only when this unique distinction is maintained and undue familiarity on the part of people towards their pastor, so commonly practiced, done away with, will the pastor exercise that influence for good which he ought. But pastors, are also, in many cases, more inclined to preach in order to please, than to present the truth fearlessly to the people. In many instances we hear the praises of a man upon the lips of his following, more because he is a genial sort of a fellow than because of the power of his preaching. His stories, his puns, his witticisms, and his homely acts are the talk of the country round. He is liked, and well, on this account; but why on all sides in his field of labour does spiritual deadness and indifference reign? Men believe in realities in spiritual as well as in material concerns. The church will yet be forced to consider the *Witness*' statement, and we, as students, must also do our best, for we must either help to stem the tide or flow with the current; because whatever may be our future anticipations—divinity, law, medicine or commerce—we shall affect and be affected by popular opinion and inclinations. Our present tendencies, as students, will in great measure shape the future of the country. Let these tendencies, then, be ennobling and spiritually inclined.