

The meetings of the Missionary Association were attended, of course, mainly by theological students and those Arts students who had the Church in view. It did good work, although it had no official recognition at that time by the Synod or the Presbyteries. That recognition it obtained for its missionaries in 1860, however, during my occupancy of the President's office.

In the session 1854-55 a Gaelic Debating Society was organized, with a view to cultivating the language of Ossian. It had but a brief career. My knowledge of the language was rather limited, and as I could not speak it, although understanding its colloquial phrases, I was on one occasion placed in rather a ridiculous situation. All the speakers were needed on the floor of the house, and the Society resolved to utilize me by putting me in the chair. I was able to follow the arguments of the speakers fairly well, but when it fell to me to sum up the debate and render my decision there was infinite merriment over my attempts to make myself understood in the language of Eden.

The Alma Mater Society came into being later. It was the result of a correspondence which the writer had had with ex-students on a matter of common interest. Mr. J. M. Machar, who had returned from Germany, gave great assistance in shaping the organization, his knowledge of continental College societies being of much service to the Committee, consisting for the most part of graduates resident in Kingston at the time, who had set to work to frame a constitution. I was Chairman of the Committee, and the original draft of the constitution and by-laws will be found in my handwriting. The most important feature aimed at in originating the society, making it a medium of communication between the ex-students and the University, has, however, been lost sight of. The guarantee for this, provided in the Constitution at first, that the President should not be a resident of Kingston, was removed as soon as the organizers of the society ceased active connection with it, and it has become a student's society, pure and simple, really filling the place occupied by the old Debating Society, which became defunct as the local and literary feature of the Alma Mater Society became prominent. The same tendency, that I see complained of yet, that of the medicos voting like a flock of sheep, was illustrated in the first election. The nominee of the theologues and arts' students, for the most part, was Rev. J. H. Mackerras, afterwards the beloved Professor of Classics; but Mr. William Mattice, M.P. for Cornwall, was run in opposition to him, and was elected by the overpowering vote of the disciples of Esculapius, only one medical vote being cast for Mackerras by the gentleman who seconded his nomination, according to a promise previously made. Mattice's election proved to be a mistake, and the society afterwards made amends by choosing Mr. Mackerras, who amply justified the confidence reposed in him, and reflected lustre on the society.

❖ MEETINGS. ❖

MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

THIS Association held its fortnightly meeting in Divinity Hall, on Saturday, 28th ult. Amongst other business a committee was appointed to take steps for the liquidation of the existing debt of the Association.

Interesting reports of mission work were read by Messrs. Steele, Cameron and McLaren, the two first mentioned having been employed during the past summer in the Muskoka district, and the latter in the North-West.

READING ROOM.

A MEETING of the curators of the reading room was lately held, and arrangements completed for furnishing a full complement of periodicals, daily and weekly newspapers, &c., to the files of the reading-room. The latter are now kept in good order, and contain the latest and best contributions to popular literature. The magazines are supplied by the Faculty, and the newspapers from contributions received from the students. Mr. A. Givan is Chairman of the Committee; Mr. L. Perrin, Secretary, and Mr. J. C. Anderson, Treasurer. Mr. C. L. Herald remains Permanent Curator.

Y. M. C. A.

THE regular monthly business meeting of the Y. M. C. A. was held on 21st January. Mr. A. McLaren, the Corresponding Secretary, wished to resign, but was induced to hold office until the annual meeting. The Treasurer reported on the financial state of the Association. There were \$10 on hand, but there was yet to be paid debts to the amount of \$18. It is believed that the Association will be free from debt in a short time. One very noticeable feature of the meeting was the scant attendance. A larger number might reasonably be expected to put in an appearance.

ALMA MATER SOCIETY.

A REGULAR meeting of this Society was held on Saturday evening, the 21st January. In the absence of the President the chair was occupied by Vice-President Hay. A lively discussion ensued on the advisability of limiting the number of speakers at the debates. It was decided to limit the number to three on each side, the rule to continue in force long enough to test it fairly. The debate for the evening was then proceeded with, the subject being: Which had the greater influence on mankind, eloquence or wealth. After listening to the various arguments advanced in support of each side, the chairman decided that the root of all evil had a more potent influence than eloquence.

On Saturday evening, the 28th January, the usual meeting of the Society took place. A new feature was introduced at this meeting, the debate being prefaced by a couple of readings given by members of the Society. Mr. A. Shortt and Mr. Milne, of the freshman class, were the readers of the evening. Considerable interest centered in the debate, as it had been announced that the speakers (three on each side) would be well prepared. The subject was a popular one, viz., Manhood suffrage vs. property qualification. The affirmative was ably sustained by Mr. John Herald, M.A., who had for supporters Messrs. Shanks and A. McLeod. The negative side of the question received due justice at the hands of Messrs. R. W. Shannon, M.A., (leader), Gandier and G. F. Henderson. Good speeches were delivered on both sides, and it was gener-