

THE MONTHLY RECORD

OF THE

Church of Scotland

IN

NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, & ADJOINING PROVINCES.

VOL. XXI.

FEBRUARY, 1875.

No. 2.

'IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS CUNNING.'—PS. 137: 5.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

"THE Colonial Committee have for some years past fairly entered upon a policy of encouragement to the rearing in the Colonies of their own ministry, and of discouragement to the sending of their students to Scotland or elsewhere, for preparatory education; and nothing that has yet happened has put the wisdom of that policy in question." It is much to get so emphatic an utterance from the Colonial Committee on any Colonial subject; because the Committee is not fond of expressing opinions. It prefers to give assistance wherever needed. That is why it exists. It is not a discussion forum, but a Committee called into existence by the General Assembly to execute its benevolent intentions on behalf of Scottish Presbyterians abroad. But many of our people have so profound a respect for the wisdom of the Committee that they crave some deliverance from it on every difficult subject, even though the subject be one on which the Committee cannot possibly be so well informed as they themselves ought to be. And therefore, we hail with lively satisfaction the above clearly and firmly expressed opinion and policy of the Committee on Theological Education in these Maritime Provinces. It will set at

rest any doubts that may have been entertained by some of our people as to the wisdom of the views taken by the Synod. And what is of equally great importance, the Committee has not only expressed its policy, but has come forward with deeds. It guarantees the salary of our Professor till we can raise the endowment required.

It is well, however, to look at this question of a Divinity Hall in Halifax, not only in the light of our present state as divided churches, but from the point of view of a re-united church; not only in the light of our present, but in the light of our future. United, we shall begin in these four Maritime Provinces with nearly 150 ministers, and 180 congregations. To supply our people properly, we need now about 200 ministers. We inhabit a section of the Dominion distinct from the rest. Immediately to the west of us is the Romanism of Quebec. The first question for us to consider is, can a Synod or Synods numbering at least 200 congregations in this Maritime section flourish, without a Divinity Hall to guarantee a supply of native labourers? This question can be answered only in one way. Without referring to the experience of all other churches in America, even if we look across the ocean to our Mother Country, we find that she has al-