

adherents. As it is, in most cases, the knowledge of a Presbytery's proceedings are to the people shrouded in mystery, and the idea that a Presbytery is a priestly conclave, is too generally entertained. The same evils do not, to the same extent, pertain to our Synod. Here we have generally a goodly representation of elders, and the benefit of their wisdom and experience; but even here it would be better if their voice was more frequently heard, and their practical sense more largely infused into our decisions and debates. It is not expected that as a rule they should define or philosophise, or speak so expertly or eloquently as ministers, but their words, if but few, would in general indicate the pulse of the public sentiment, and give practical direction to our legislation. We greatly want elders practised in Church processes, who will take their rightful place in our deliberative assemblies and make their influence be felt on the Church. Whatever the Church can do to consolidate in this way her Apostolical organisation, will greatly promote her interests in this Province.

II. We have little space left to speak about *Our Mission* in its *external* aspect, nevertheless, we may be permitted to say a few things in regard to it. That we have a vast external work to do is obvious to any one even slightly acquainted with our position in this province.

(1) We have to watch over the spiritual welfare of Presbyterians from the mother country. They are arriving by thousands every year in this land, and spreading themselves over its western districts especially. It will not do for us to neglect these our brethren. They should be our first and chiefest care. Hitherto they have not been neglected. To the full extent of our abilities we have ministered to them in spiritual things. In this respect no Church is better entitled to the name of "missionary" than ours. No part of our Lord's commission have we attended to with greater faithfulness than this, and we have our reward not only in the divine blessing but also in the rapid increase of our members and adherents. That there is much yet to be done in this field we readily acknowledge, and of this our Presbyteries are fully sensible. That which hinders further exertions both in the east and in the west is the lack of these two important elements, namely; *money* and *men*, or *men and money*. It is difficult to say which of these is the greater necessity; sometimes the one pinches and sometimes the other. In most cases both are in demand, and a famine in regard to them an equal source of solicitude. It is gratifying to be able to say that neither of these evils arise from any marked culpability on the part of the Church—they are incidental to our position. Every year we are becoming more able and more willing to give both money and men to the Lord. Our income for Church purposes shows a gradual expansion. In 1855 our annual contributions for ministerial and missionary purposes amounted to £25,000, and the value of our property to £60,000; in 1856 the amounts were respectively £30,000 and £100,000; and in 1857 they were £37,000 and £110,000; showing a gradual increase and expansion of our material resources. If in this respect we keep our ground and add to former labours a just measure of increase, we shall not be altogether unfaithful to our mission. The same may be said as regards our Collegiate institution, from which we obtain our chief supply of men. Our educational apparatus has been greatly enlarged during the past two years. We have a College property purchased at considerable cost and nearly free of debt, and there are now three professors of well known ability, engaged in the work of tuition. The number of students on the college Album, was in 1855, 43; in 1856, 56; and in 1857, 60; showing a gradual and pleasing increase in this department also. This is so far satisfactory. Upon our College, it is evident that the hope of our Church mainly rests. Men trained by ourselves and sprung from our people, whose traditions and affections all belong to the country, will be the life and power of the Church. They will root it into the