

evangelical religion, and of a pure and free Presbyterianism.

Knox's College was instituted in 1844, for the purpose of securing a sound literary and theological education to young men of piety who exhibit satisfactory evidence of gifts adapted to the office of the Holy Ministry, as well as of a sincere desire towards that "good work." The same reasons which appeared to the members of Synod, sufficient to justify a separation from the brethren with whom they were previously united in ecclesiastical fellowship, evidently required the formation of a distinct Theological school for the training of aspirants to the sacred office. Ceasing, and that with the approbation of an adhering people, to accept those benefits from the public national funds, which they could no longer hold with a conscientious regard to the full spiritual freedom of a Church of Christ, or without failing in their duty to those in the parent countries with whose views and contentings they sympathised—they necessarily felt that the separate organisation of our Church could not be complete without a Seminary to which they might look for the preparation of additional spiritual labourers. Those who are aware of the state, till recently, of the Provincial University, or the conditions of access to its benefits, need not be told that, besides a Theological class proper, we were necessarily led to involve ourselves in the expense of establishing preparatory classes, or providing the means of instructing our students in those branches of knowledge, admitted by all Churches to be necessary, before the study of Divinity can be entered on with full advantage. We are now in course of abridging this last department of our expenditure; and, as soon as King's College shall be available under the new law, (which only now, however, is beginning to take effect) we hope to relieve the Church of the burden of supporting any larger educational establishment than what is required to a purely Theological school. In the meantime, some of our existing arrangements are yet indispensable—and the faith of the Church is committed to the honourable support of those who are labouring in this most essential department of the ecclesiastical field.

The success of the Institution hitherto has been truly encouraging; and the fruits of the labours of our Professors are already largely reaped by the congregations of the Church, in the supply of the spiritual wants of many stations, by those who have gone forth from Knox's College. Not to speak of occasional services rendered by our young men, as catechists and missionaries, even while yet prosecuting their studies in Theology,—no less than twelve or fourteen ministers and licentiates have been added within these three years to the number of our full approved dispensers of the word of life. Of these, six have gone forth into the Church since the close of last session, and several of them are in course of being inducted into pastoral charges. Still, as the number of students has every year advanced with steady increase, no less than FIFTY are this session in attendance, of whom, it may be expected that, by God's blessing, four or five will shortly enter the field: and, say FIFTEEN or TWENTY within the

next three seasons. The remainder are yet but in the early stages of a six years' course of study. What a prospect of spiritual advantage to our religious community, and to the whole province, does this state of things hold out!—and who of us will not feel grateful to God for what we trust not His Providence only, but His Spirit has thus done for us as a Church? Of the character and motives of each of these young men, of course we cannot speak with certainty, but we discern in most of them the very best evidences of sincerity and devotedness to the cause of Christ and of the gospel, and of love to the sons of men. Not one is admitted to the benefits of the Institution without close examination of his credentials, and dispositions, and acquirements. And although a large proportion of them are not in circumstances fully to bear, unassisted, the costs of their education, they do so to a large extent—defraying the expense of their board in Toronto, during the winter, out of the very scanty returns of their labours as teachers and catechists during the summer months. As to any direct support of the College itself, however, neither their numbers nor their circumstances can yet warrant us to count on much more than their maintenance of the Library belonging to the Institution, or the payment of incidental charges. In the meantime, we cannot doubt that our congregations have but to consider the circumstances of the country, to see that some exertion proportioned to the value of the Institution, requires to be made by each congregation and church—as all are partakers either immediately or remotely of the benefit. Need we ask, how but by the maintaining of such a Seminary we are to provide for the supply of our vacant congregations, or of districts destitute of a preached gospel? or whither else are we to look for those who may fill the places of the spiritual labourers now in the field, as their places may be vacated by death or otherwise? It is evident, that, though occasional assistance may be derived from the old country, either by the temporary visits of deputies, or the settlement now and then within the province, of ministers disposed to emigrate and cast in their lot among us, this source of supply is too limited and uncertain to be trusted to; and that the hopes of our Church must mainly rest on a home-bred and home-trained race of pastors, from year to year prosecuting their studies at a central source of learning, and receiving the benefit of the counsels of men of talent and experience, residing among us, who know to adapt their instructions to the prospective engagements of their pupils, and the character and circumstances of our Canadian people.

We trust that the great value of Knox's College has but to be set before the intelligent and spirited members of our religious body, to secure for it the necessary financial means. The burden will be small, when divided among the constituencies of our wide-spread communion in any reasonable proportion to their respective numbers and power. We are confident there is no real lack of ability—though there may lack something of the necessary system of collecting—in our congregations. These are daily increasing in num-

ber, and embrace within their ranks a proportion of all classes—from the large proprietor to the humble mechanic—like capable to appreciate the benefit to themselves and to the country at large, of a well informed, and thoroughly trained, body of religious instructors.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

The University is now about to be re-organized, according to its new constitution. Much has been said about its irreligious character. Some assert that by the late changes a grievous wrong has been perpetrated against those who have heretofore had the sole control of the Institution; others declaim against the manner in which the reform is to be carried out, as being partial and incomplete. We could have wished that there had been a more distinct recognition of religion in the constitution of the University, and that the visiting Commissions and Senate had been somewhat differently constituted. As it is, we consider it to be the duty of religious bodies—of all right hearted men, as Christians and patriots, to use their influence to have the Institution conducted in such way as to be entitled to their confidence and support. And this is not to be done by denouncing the University, and abandoning it to the irreligious. If good men bring their character and influence to bear upon it, there is nothing to prevent the University of Toronto from becoming, what it ought to be, an educational institute of a high order, in which literature and science will be made to subserve the best interests of the people. Without such salutary control Royal Charters, and Acts of Parliament can never make it so.—Now that the changes contemplated are about to take place, we trust that the Board of Visitors will so thoroughly revise the whole system, as to adapt it to the circumstances and wants of the country.

The following gentlemen, appointed by the Government, compose the Board of Visitors for the University and Royal Grammar School, viz: The Hon. W. H. Blake, Chancellor, President, Hon. J. H. Cameron, M. P., John Wilson, Esq., M. P., David Buchan Esq., and Dr. Richardson; John Burns Esq., Secretary.

The Senate consists of all the Professors, Dr. Widmer, Hon. H. Sherwood, M. P., Hon. J. H. Cameron, M. P., J. C. Morrison, Esq., M. P., Dr. Hay and D. Buchan, Esq., Crown Members; and John Cameron, Wm. Proudfoot, John Roaf, junr., Oliver Springer, James Halinan and John McMurich, Esqs., Collegiate Members.

The Chancellor is an officer appointed triennially by the Convocation. The Vice-chancellor by the Senate, annually, and the President by the Crown. We observe that Dr. McCaul is appointed President.

GUELPH.—An effort to hold a Bazaar here, was made on the 14th ult., in behalf of the funds of Knox's College, by a deputation from the Galt Ladies' Association. A large, central store, was cheerfully given for the purpose, and was tastefully ornamented with flags and evergreens. We regret to say, that the storm which prevailed during the whole day, prevented the attendance of the people, except in small numbers, and rendered the praiseworthy exertions of the benevolent ladies all but unavailing for the object contemplated.