

prosperous congregations have made no effort to sustain the movement. Whether the ministers declined to act up to the resolutions of Synod to which they themselves made no opposition, and therefore sanctioned, or found that the people would not contribute, the committee do not know. They regret, however, to have to state that as a consequence of the vis-inertia of so many the actual surplus amounted only to \$536, on the 31st of May; contributions paid in since the closing of the accounts raise it to about \$600. The committee learning that a small sum belonging to capital will come into fund in a few days, have unanimously agreed to retain it and to pay the four Professors the farther sum of \$200 each, reporting the facts to Synod.

A BEQUEST.

The committee have received within the year the bequest of the late George Kerr, Esq., of Chatham, of \$1000, which has been invested according to the terms of the Will.

DEATH OF DR. KING.

The committee has to record with sorrow the death of the Rev. Dr. King, their late venerable and esteemed Professor of Systematic Theology. He died somewhat suddenly in Helensburgh, where he was residing, and where he enjoyed the presence and affectionate care of Mrs. King in his last illness. Though locally distant from us during the last few years, he still retained his deep interest in the Church of the Lower Provinces and especially in the maintenance and prosperity of her Theological school. In every part of the bounds of this Synod the late Professor has left his mark, in the character, the attainments, and the work of the men whom he trained as preachers of the Gospel; and his memory will be affectionately cherished by the whole living ministry, and by very many of the Christian people of these Provinces.

WANT OF PREACHERS.

The committee would not conceal their anxiety, not so much at the prospect of the Hall, as of the Church itself. The attendance at the Hall has risen from six to ten, but what are ten and some three or four at other theological seminaries? The whole number of students is under 15, which means less than five licensed annually, certainly not more than four effective men per annum. Every intelligent man knows that this number will not allow us to make any advance in these Provinces. Nova Scotia would require four, New Brunswick the same number every year, and the islands near and remote, Prince Edward and Cape Breton at our door, with Newfoundland north, and Bermuda south, would require an equal number, so that

we really have not half the supply which the spiritual destitution abounding calls for. The outlook is far from encouraging. The Board of Home Missions knows not whither to turn for aid. Our young men are going into secular callings and our vacant Churches especially if weak, or poor, or remote from the centres of activity, are tried by long delays and frequent disappointments. Some of these vacancies have been greatly discouraged, and the Presbyteries and Boards of the Church have shared in the feeling of depression and have asked, What is to be done? What will the end be?

But while the outlook is somewhat dark and discouraging; yet it cannot be denied that we are making progress notwithstanding; and we look for better and brighter days. We look and wait for a turning of the tide. We hear too of outpourings of the Spirit of God, and of consequent 'times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord;' and have warrant to expect as a consequence that our "sons and daughters will prophesy." This outpouring of the Spirit in the part of our Great and Gracious Master has, in the past been followed by the thrustingout of the labourers, thus furnished from above to work in numbers, and with zeal in the Lord's great harvest field. For this glorious and blessed effect of Revival we would wait and hope and work; waiting in believing persevering prayer, hoping in calm and joyful expectancy that the Lord will visit and comfort Zion, and fulfil his promise to provide her with Pastors and teachers, and working by selecting, advising and assisting youths of piety and promise, to come forward to the help of the Lord in this special department of His work.

In conclusion if the outlook is not bright we have seen it darker, and yet a bright day has followed. We have seen times of even greater anxiety in the history of our own Church, and the Lord has been better to us than our fears. We therefore submit our report without despondent feelings, thanking God for the past and looking hopefully to Him for the future.

Respectfully submitted, by order of the Board.

P. G. MCGREGOR, *Secretary.*

Halifax, June 15, 1874.

ENGLISH SYNOD.—The English Presbyterian Synod held a most successful in London. It was fully expected that the proposed Union with the U. P. Synod in England would be sanctioned by the parent Synod in Scotland. This hope, however, failed. Dr. Gillan, at the meeting of the "Kirk" Synod in London, urged his brethren in connection with the Church of Scotland to unite with the other Presbyterians.