

low, from allowing those who did not go into the Union to retain their yearly dividends from the Fund, that a *pro rata* portion of the principal should also have been handed to them. If it was fair and Christian and brotherly to do the one, we have always been persuaded that it would be difficult to show that it was not equally so to do the other. On the other hand, law or no law, it would be so utterly and preposterously out of all keeping with Christian equity and ordinary honour to have a mere handful—not a baker's dozen at the very outside—put in possession of all those "Funds," that we wonder any, in the circumstances, could have the courage to say they would take advantage of any technicality whatever which would issue in any such result. We are rejoiced, therefore, for the sake of all concerned, that reasonable and righteous counsels seem to be in the ascendant, and that there is every likelihood of such a settlement being arrived at as will permit all parties in the discussion to part with mutual respect, and to prosecute their work of faith and labour of love with no feelings incompatible with their being servants of the same Master and heirs of the same glorious immortality.

MR. DUNCAN MCCOLL.

WE are sorry to have to announce the death of Mr. Duncan McColl, of Westminster township, a youthful and very promising licentiate of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Mr. McColl was well known in many parts of the Church, and greatly respected and beloved. He gave great promise of being an eminently faithful, zealous and successful minister of the Gospel; but the Master, who does all things well, has determined differently, by thus taking him at an early age to Himself.

In the hope that the air of Colorado might brace up his enfeebled health and stay the progress of the insidious disease which threatened him, Mr. McColl went westward some time last summer, and for awhile was so much restored as to be able to engage in regular ministerial work. The effort, however, was too great for his failing strength, and he was obliged not only to relinquish his official duties, but to leave the country and return home, as it has turned out, to die. In our shortsightedness, we might be inclined to regard such a death as premature. By-and-by we shall know that it has been very much the reverse. Mr. McColl's dying message to his fellow-students was that "it was all bright—all bright." His own career, though short, has been "all bright" and very beautiful, and the memory of what he was, and what he desired to be and do, will, we doubt not, stimulate not a few to increased ardour and devotedness in the service of that Master whom he served so faithfully and loved so well. In Toronto especially very many will hear of Mr. McColl's removal with unaffected sorrow, as if they had sustained a personal loss in the death of a near and valued relative. His widowed mother and the whole circle of his relations will have the heartfelt sympathy of very many; while these may only now fully realize the greatness of their loss by finding how true it is that "much people" are with them in this their trying hour.

THE LATE DEAN GRASETT.

DEAN GRASETT, one of Toronto's oldest and most respected citizens, passed away on Monday morning last, at the advanced age of seventy-four. The dean was born in Gibraltar in 1808, and came to Canada when he was about five years of age. He received the most of his education in England, and returned finally to this country in 1834. In 1835 he came to Toronto, where he has ever since resided. During all these forty-seven years he had exercised the office of the ministry in connection with St. James' Cathedral, and has been respected and beloved not only by the members of his own flock, but by many of other denominations who recognized in him a "good minister of Jesus Christ"—one ready and rejoiced to love all those who loved and served his Master, though they might not in all things be able to follow along with himself. He cultivated more than a "street acquaintance" with many of those whom foolish, arrogant Churchmen usually designate as "Dissenters," and in his fraternization with these there was nothing of patronizing insolence or of pitying condescension. No one could speak of him either as a man of genius or as one of great intellectual power. But any one who was able to maintain a successful pastorate in one

place for nearly fifty years, must have had very considerable ability, and readiness as well. He was gentle, yet firm, and with all his catholicity, enlighteningly attached to his own section of the Church, for whose advancement and consolidation in the Province he laboured much and gave liberally.

He has gone to the grave like a shock of corn fully ripe, and "good men," without distinction of sect, have with respect and affection followed his remains to their last resting place, and made lamentation over him.

MR. GLADSTONE'S VISIT TO SPURGEON'S TABERNACLE.

ONE almost feels sorry for Churchmen of a certain type of more than usual pretentiousness and fatuity. The childish talk one sometimes hears in Canada, and the foolishly absurd writing one is occasionally condemned to read in journals professedly religious, and published not a thousand miles from Toronto, may be sufficiently whimsical and ridiculous. They are, however, comparatively moderate and sane when placed side by side with the churchly nonsense in which too many "apostolic succession" men, both in England and elsewhere, are prone to indulge. One poor unfortunate, we see by a late English paper, has been grievously exercised over the fact that the Premier of England had recently paid a visit to Mr. Spurgeon's Tabernacle, and had afterwards in the vestry drank the sturdy Baptist's health. It was certainly very awful, and no wonder that the righteous soul of the Rector of Handsworth was grieved at the monstrous unspeakability of the whole affair. The poor man, in short, came as near swearing over the matter as could well be expected from one who carried the inexplicable ichor of apostolical succession in his veins. But, worse than all, a gentleman who heard the clerical diatribe must needs write to Mr. Spurgeon himself for an explanation of the unheard-of atrocity; and he got the following reply, couched, as will be seen, in terse and perfectly intelligible Saxon:—"Dear Sir,—The wine drinking is quite imaginary. I am a teetotaler. I neither take wine myself, nor proffer it to others. Mr. Gladstone *did* visit the Tabernacle, and that is about all that is true in the Rector's statement. Had he been drinking anybody's health at the time he made this foolish display? Perhaps; and perhaps not. We have known people make displays of themselves almost equally foolish and equally insolent when they were as sober as judges and as dull as door nails. That particular Rector, however, we should think, has by this time discovered that it is rather a risky business for some people at any rate to meddle with edged tools.

KNOX COLLEGE BUILDING FUND.

MR. EDITOR,—Will you allow me, through your columns, to draw the attention of those interested in Knox College to the financial condition of its building fund? More especially do I deem this necessary from the fact that some published remarks about a year ago, to the effect that "the debt was fully provided for," have led to considerable misapprehension as to its true condition. It is true that at one time subscriptions were obtained, which would, if paid at once, have freed the building from debt; but they were not paid at the time, thereby causing a considerable increase in the burden of interest, and much has been lost through death, removal, and other causes. The result is that \$25,000 will be required to free the building from debt. To secure this, the interest and labour of one alone is not sufficient; for with the best advantages of travel, a house-to-house canvass requires a great expenditure of time and travel, and very much might be done to secure the desired end shortly.

First, then, I would earnestly appeal to ministers to inquire if any in his congregation are in arrears, and briefly but persuasively urge from the pulpit that subscriptions to the Building Fund should be met, and if no treasurer has been appointed, or if he has been removed or has died, see that another be appointed to receive and forward the money. Second, I would appeal to treasurers to collect and remit as soon as possible all arrears. An earnest effort would meet with encouragement. Third, I would appeal to subscribers yet in arrears. The College Board has dealt with remarkable gentleness. Surely this should be met now, when prosperity has in a measure returned, with a prompt and honourable recognition of obliga-

tion. Let me say here that many might learn with profit the motto, "*Bis dat qui cito dat*." And lastly, I would appeal to all who have not yet subscribed and may not be reached, and to all who have given but could give again. We want \$25,000 for the building, and \$10,000 for the debt on ordinary revenue. We have families in the constituency, who give, at \$2 per family, the entire indebtedness; and I am sure it only needs a little thought, a little interest and prompt action to secure the amount before the Assembly meets.

But every family does not get the paper. What then? Let everyone tell his neighbour to look at the paper, and I shall gladly acknowledge every remittance. WM. BURNS.

MONTREAL PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE STUDENTS' MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The last meeting of the Students' Missionary Society of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, was held on the 13th inst. The annual report of the Executive Committee shows the financial condition of the Society to be favourable. During the college session the Society supplied Richby, Massawippi and Coaticook gratuitously, and conducted Gaelic services in the city.

The following are the missionaries appointed, and their fields of labour, for the coming summer: Massawippi, D. MacKay; Chaudière, A. Currie; Cypress River District, Manitoba, W. Fraser.

D. CURRIE, Cor. Sec.

PRESBYTERY OF BRUCE.—This Presbytery met at Paisley on the 7th inst. Rev. W. Cochrane, D.D., was nominated Moderator of the next General Assembly. There was read a circular letter from the Presbytery of Toronto, stating that they would apply to the next General Assembly for leave to receive as a minister of this Church the Rev. W. H. Jamieson, M.A., formerly a minister of the Canada Methodist Church. At the request of the Rev. H. McKay, the calls addressed to him from Manitoulin Island were allowed to lie on the table. The following commissioners were appointed to the General Assembly, viz.: Messrs. Straith, Eadie, Blain and John Ferguson, M.A., B.D., ministers; and Messrs. J. G. Forbes and Matthew Lindsay, of St. John, elders. The appointment of the other two elders was postponed until the next meeting of Presbytery. Mr. Forbes having tendered the resignation of his pastoral charge of Kinloss and Bervie, it was resolved to allow the resignation to lie on the table, and notify the congregations to appear for their interests at an adjourned meeting of Presbytery to be held in Knox Church, Paisley, on the 18th of April next, at two o'clock p.m. The report of the Committee on the State of Religion was read, when it was resolved to receive the report, thank the convener (Mr. Scott), and instruct the Finance Committee to get 1,000 copies of it printed, to be distributed among the congregations of the Presbytery. Mr. Forbes read the report on Sabbath School Work which was received, and ordered to be forwarded to the convener of the Synod's Committee on Sabbath school work. Rev. W. Gallagher tendered his resignation of the pastoral charge of Sault Ste. Marie, etc. The Clerk was instructed to inform the Convener of the Home Mission Committee of Mr. Gallagher's action. —A. G. FORBES, Pres. Clerk.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—The Muskoka Relief Committee re Bush Fires acknowledge with thanks \$6.75 from Mariposa Sabbath School, in connection with Woodville Presbyterian congregation, through Mr. Robinson, for Muskoka sufferers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—Rev. James Sievenight acknowledges with thanks the receipt of \$180 for Prince Albert Church, N.W. T., per Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, B.D., viz.: St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, \$81; St. Andrew's Church, London, \$79; Melville Church, Fergus, \$20. The whole cost of the building has been \$2,300. Present indebtedness between \$600 and \$700.

THE ladies of Knox Church, Ingersoll (Rev. R. N. Grant's), have formed a Woman's Home Missionary Association, for the purpose of aiding the Home Mission Committee in supplying necessitous districts with Gospel ordinances. They intend supporting a student missionary during the summer months of the present year in the North-West. It is to be hoped that the ladies in other congregations will follow this good example.