

THE CHURCH AT HOME.

Annual Report of the Colonial Committee to the General Assembly.

(CONCLUDED)

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CANADA.—The following Report by the Trustees of Queen's College, addressed to the Colonial Committee, and recently received, will put the Assembly in possession of the leading facts connected with the present efficiency, and in many respects gratifying prosperity, of that invaluable university:—

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE TO THE COLONIAL COMMITTEE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

“5th April, 1858.

“It is with pleasure that the Trustees of Queen's College submit to the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland a brief Report on the progress of the University during the past year, and also on its present condition and prospects. In discharging this duty, the Trustees have again to express their gratitude for the grant of £300 sterling, renewed by the Committee—an addition to the revenue of the Institution which is of essential importance, and without which its efficiency could not be maintained.

“The past year has been one of activity in every department of the University, and, it is confidently believed, of increased usefulness. While the number of students has been augmented, more time has been devoted, by means of a larger staff of professors, to their instruction and training, especially in the Divinity Hall; and in no previous year have the young men enjoyed greater advantages.

“The Trustees have had much pleasure in securing the co-operation and services of the Rev. Dr. Cook of Quebec, as Principal and Professor of Divinity—an appointment which has given the utmost satisfaction, not only to all connected with the College, but also to our Canadian Church at large. Of Dr. Cook's eminent qualifications for the important trust committed to him, it is unnecessary to speak; well known as these must be to the Colonial Committee; but the Trustees cannot refrain from expressing the earnest hope that an office, accepted temporarily and at great personal sacrifice, may yet be retained for years to come especially after trial has already shown that such an arrangement must prove more and more conducive to the best interests of the College.

“Since last Report, the Rev. J. B. Mowat, a graduate of Queen's College, has been elected to fill the Chair of Hebrew, Biblical Criticism, and Church history. Mr. Mowat entered upon his duties at the commencement of the session, and has discharged them to the entire satisfaction of the Board. Having devoted himself with the most laborious application to the branches of knowledge under his care, the Trustees entertain the confident belief that Mr. Mowat's students will hereafter reflect credit upon their professor, and upon the Institution.

“Of the other professors it is unnecessary to say more than that they continue to labour with efficiency and zeal. The Rev. Dr. George having been relieved by the appointment of a principal from lecturing on theology—an addition to his other labours which was more than any one professor could permanently undertake—now does full justice to the students in logic and moral philosophy, while the appointment of an interim lecturer of

chemistry has enabled Dr. Williamson to devote his attention entirely to natural philosophy and mathematics. The Chair of classical literature continues to be ably filled by Professor Wier; and the Trustees can only express their regret that the state of their finances will not permit them to separate the Latin and Greek languages by an increase to the professorial staff, so as to render the course of instruction yet more thorough and complete.

“The Board having long felt that sufficient prominence had not been given to natural history and chemistry in their curriculum, are now in correspondence with Dr. George Lawson of Edinburgh, who must be known to many members of the Committee, and they entertain strong hopes that his valuable services will be secured before next session.

“In the number of students, the Trustees have again to report an increase. The roll is as follows:

Matriculated Students in Theology,	10
Do. do. Arts,	37
Do. do. Medicine,	60

Total, 107

with 2 private students in Hebrew and Classics.

“During the session now drawing to a close, the conduct and attention of the students has been most commendable. They have applied themselves with earnestness to their studies, and the general progress has been most satisfactory. As proof of good conduct, the Trustees have only to state that no case of discipline has been dealt with by the senators during the session.

“The finances of the Institution remain unchanged; and its yearly support is derived from a grant by Government of £750 sterling per annum, £500 sterling per annum from the funds of the Canadian Church, the annual interest of monies invested, and your own grant acknowledged above. For the past six years, the revenue has been seriously impaired by an annual payment of £1000 sterling on account of buildings and ground purchased, only one half of which has yet been met by contributions from our congregations. The past year having witnessed the extinction of this debt, the Trustees have resolved to enter upon their long-cherished scheme of improvement, though not without great anxiety as to the result.

“The bursary fund continues to be of essential benefit to many young men; and the Board again return their warm thanks for your liberal grant of £35 sterling in aid. Feeling, however, that the sum allotted to each bursar is far too scanty, the Trustees have gladly accepted the offer of one of the professors to make a personal appeal to our congregations, and thereby endeavour to raise the nucleus of a permanent and liberal endowment for the fund. The Rev. Professor Weir will enter upon this work at the close of the present session.

“A subject of much importance has occupied the attention of the Board—viz., the framing of rules, regulations, and bye laws for the government of the University, similar to those which contribute so much to the order and efficiency of the seminaries of learning at home. A copy of these rules will in due time be forwarded for the information of the Committee.

“The Trustees would conclude this brief Report by renewing the expression of their hope that the Church of Scotland, through the instrumentality of her Colonial Committee, may continue to foster and aid the University of Queen's College. Our Canadian Church is, in the true sense of the expression, a mission-

ary one. She has been planted by divine providence among the Scottish pioneers in a vast country, whose future no Christian can look forward to without feelings of solemn responsibility. Year after year a ceaseless tide of emigration is borne to our shores; and, if the present ratio of increase to the population is preserved, the close of the century will witness in this portion of our Queen's dominions a people equal in number to the existing population of the British Isles. Need we point to the fertile regions about to be thrown open to emigration in the hitherto *terra incognita* of the Hudson's Bay Company, added to the tracts of country within the borders of British North America yet unclaimed from the forest? If our supply of ministers is sadly inadequate to meet the wants of Canada in her present state, how can we look to the future without feelings of deep anxiety? Shall these coming millions be left to other denominations and Churches, who are now preparing to embrace them within their folds; or is the Church of Scotland to do her duty to those who are attached to her communion, and who may look in vain for her hallowed ordinances and sacred instruction?

“To Scotland Canada cannot look for a permanent and full supply of ministers, however much we may welcome those who are led through the exertions of your Committee, to come over and help us. We must rather trust that the Great Head of our Church will here raise up labourers in His vineyard, and in Queen's College must these prepare for their work. At the close of each succeeding session, our students, are being sent forth, and are filling with usefulness and acceptance their several stations. Brought up in the country, accustomed to its usages, and inured to hardships and trials which might damp the zeal of many who have not lived in the backwoods or newly-settled regions, we may well regard those young men as invaluable to the Church.

“Such are the circumstances in which the College is placed, and which we again submit for your consideration. If left to themselves, and with no one to care for their souls, our countrymen may feel that they are abandoned by their Church, and say with Israel of old, ‘How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?’ Let us then ask for your aid, as before. Give us also your prayers at a Throne of grace, that our Zion may lengthen her cords and strengthen her stakes—that she may become a praise in the whole earth—that through her instrumentality our people may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty.

“JOHN PATON,

Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Queen's College, Kingston, Canada.

“N.B.—The preparatory school continues to be a most useful auxiliary to the College, and is efficiently conducted by Mr R Campbell, as head master, with two assistants—Owing to accidental causes, the number in attendance at last Report was twenty-two. This is now increased to forty-eight, with the prospect of a considerable addition ere long.”

Upon this report the Committee will offer no remark, with the exception of recording their entire concurrence in the selection of the Rev. Dr. Cook, of Quebec, to the office of temporary Principal and Professor of Divinity. The eminent talents and scholarship of that gentleman, his thorough acquaintance with theology in all its departments, his intelligent attachment to the doctrines and government of the Church of Scotland, and his kind, and, at the same time, dignified manner, are undoubtedly guarantees not only that he will discharge with