

**MEETING OF THE SYNOD'S EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE.**—This Committee met at Toronto on the 24th ult., and proceeded, in view of the closing of the Session, to examine the Students (14 in number,) attending the Theological Seminary, under the direction of the Rev. Messrs. King and Esson.—The professors reported in the most favourable terms respecting the attendance, diligence and whole deportment of the Students, and their progress in the various departments of study in which they had been engaged, was found, on examination, highly satisfactory. The Divinity Students more immediately under Mr. King's care, were found to have passed through a very thorough course of systematic Theology, in connexion with the Doctrinal Standards of the Church—bestowing considerable attention also on the critical reading of the holy Scriptures in the original languages—while all of them seemed to have profited greatly by the interesting prelections of Mr. Esson, on general History and Philosophy, and in the Latin, Greek and Hebrew languages. Three of the Divinity Students, Messrs. Angus McColl, John McKinnon, and Robert Wallace, were duly certified as having completed their theological course—and these, with three others, Messrs. Gray, Sutherland, and Black, were recommended as well qualified to be useful to the Church in the meantime, in the capacity of Catechists, under the direction of Presbyteries. Messrs. Ross, Dickson and Hudson, were certified as well qualified for public or private teaching, and Messrs. Nesbit, Jamieson, McCruar and McKenzie, and other junior Students, were recommended as far as possible, to avail themselves of Mr. Esson's instructions during the recess.

The Committee found themselves unable to enter on the examination of the preparatory School—which, however, is advancing satisfactorily—and will receive Mr. Esson's special attention during the recess. Some gentlemen of Toronto were named as a Committee to aid Mr. Esson in the arrangements connected with this undertaking: and one or two of the Students will render valuable assistance in it under his direction. The Committee recorded in strong, but well-merited terms, their sense of the highly valuable services rendered by the Rev. Andrew King, to this Church, by his able, indefatigable, and efficient labours in superintending the class of Theological Students during the past Session.

**Extract from the Minutes of the Educational Committee, at Toronto, 24th Feb., 1845.**

“Mr. McMurrich, the Treasurer, reported that he had received from Isaac Buchanan, Esq., a donation of £100 for the Theological Institute: and Mr. Gale stated that Mr. Buchanan had expressed his purpose to contribute to the same amount for the next four successive years.

“The Committee heard these statements with great satisfaction, and agreed to record their deep sense of gratitude to Mr. Buchanan for his very reasonable and munificent liberality to the Church, as evinced in this, as well as in his equally ample contribution towards Church building. And the Convener was requested to write to Mr. Buchanan in terms of this Minute.”

(Copy of Correspondence.)

Streetsville, 5th March, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

Mine is now the pleasing duty to convey to you, in behalf of the Educational Committee, the expression of their gratitude for your splendid benefaction to the Theological Institute. This is embodied in the accompanying extract from the Minutes of the 27th ult.

And allow me on this occasion to say that while we are ready to think those happy who have acquired simple riches and possessions—we may with far greater safety congratulate those to whom God has given this rare and infinitely better gift—a disposition to consecrate their substance to the honour and service of God in the world. And

with the proof before me of your liberality to the cause of Christ in connection with our Church, I trust, my dear sir, that I may congratulate you for having had something of this disposition formed in you.

And, praying that you and yours may know all the blessings for time and eternity that flow from an interest in the kingdom of God and his righteousness,

I am,

Yours very respectfully,

[Signed]

WM. RINTOUL,

Convener, &c.

To ISAAC BUCHANAN, Esq., }  
Hamilton. }

Hamilton, 13th March, 1845.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

I have much pleasure in acknowledging your letter with the thanks to me of your committee.

It has sometimes struck me that a great change may in an incredibly short time be wrought on the religious or religious bodies of such a country as England, and thro' it, perhaps on the whole world, when I think of the superfluity of human means there would be if the hearts of all who could afford it were led to give: many could give £50,000—£10,000—a-year, just as easily as £100, and from the larger of these sums to £1 a-year, what an amount could be raised from the people for any object they had at heart.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

ISAAC BUCHANAN.

Rev. Wm. RINTOUL.

**HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.**—This Committee met at Toronto on the 25th ult., and had under consideration the applications from Presbyteries, for the services of the more advanced Students, as Catechists. Messrs. McColl, McKinnon, and Wallace, were assigned to the Presbytery of Toronto, Mr. Gray to the Presbytery of Montreal, and Mr. Sutherland to the Presbytery of Hamilton: Mr. Black being retained by Mr. Esson, to assist in the preparatory School, was also placed at the disposal of the Presbytery of Toronto, in so far as he may be able to render service as a Catechist. An interim salary was fixed for Catechists, to be communicated to the several Presbyteries. The Rev. Mr. Steele was appointed to visit the Townships of Thorn: and Eldon; and places adjoining, in the beginning of May, and to fix and organize Missionary Stations in that quarter, under the direction of the Presbytery of Toronto.—With reference to inquiries from individual Ministers and Presbyteries, the Committee resolved that it be intimated, that in appointing this Committee, the Synod did not institute any Synodal Home Mission Fund, nor authorize them to interfere in any way with the Funds raised by the several Presbyteries for this object, and that it remains with the several Presbyteries; as heretofore, to provide for the support of Missionaries labouring within their bounds respectively.

The Committee resolved to forward an earnest representation to the Colonial Committee of the Free Church, to give effect to the call to Mr. King from Kingston, and to represent the importance of his services to Canada.

**PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.**—This Presbytery met at Toronto on the 25th ult., Sederunt: Mr. William Rintoul, of Streetsville, Moderator, with Messrs. Harris, King and Esson, of Toronto. Mr. Brown, Elder of Knox's Church, Toronto, and Mr. Gale, of Hamilton, being present, were invited to sit with the Presbytery. After the usual devotional exercises, the Presbytery proceeded to arrange the Missionary field within their bounds, according to the plan suggested by the Synod's H. M. Committee; and having made some progress in this matter, it was left to the Moderator to fill up

the details, and submit the whole at an adjourned Meeting. The Presbytery had also under consideration the means of obtaining a supply of Missionary labour, and resolved to employ several of the more advanced Students as Catechists. The application of the Congregation of York Mills, for the Moderation of the Presbytery, in a call to the Rev. Mr. Howden, was then taken up, and the Report of a Committee formerly appointed to visit the congregation, having been heard, it was agreed that the Moderator, with Messrs. Harris and Gale should meet on Thursday next, with the Congregation of York Mills, in order to make farther inquiry as to their preparedness to unite in a call to Mr. Howden. The Presbytery then adjourned till Friday, when they resumed their sittings. On the Report of the Deputation to York Mills, it was resolved to grant the moderation requested by that Congregation, it having appeared that there was an unanimous and strong attachment to Mr. Howden's ministrations, and that the congregation were prepared to contribute to the Sustentation Fund, according to their utmost ability. The Moderator produced a Schedule of H. M. arrangements, exhibiting the bounds of the several Missionary Districts, and the preaching Stations belonging to each of them, and the same having been carefully considered, was, with a few alterations, adopted. Deputations from the Presbyterians of King, West Gwillimbury and Oro, as also of Thorah and Eldon, were received and heard, and it was resolved for the present, to place Mr. John McKinnon as a Catechist in the former Missionary District, and Mr. Angus McColl in the latter—the Moderator being appointed to organize the District assigned to Mr. McKinnon, and the Rev. Mr. Steele, that assigned to Mr. McColl. A Missionary District comprising several Stations in Chingacousy and Esquesing, was assigned to Mr. Wallace as Catechist. Messrs. McColl, McKinnon and Wallace having applied to the Presbytery to be taken on trials for License, and having produced the necessary testimonials, the Presbytery agreed to prescribe to them subjects of preliminary trial, and to report their application to the Synod. In view of the early departure of the Rev. Mr. King for Scotland, the Presbytery devolved the care of the congregation of Knox's Church on the Revd. Mr. Esson, and the Session, until the arrival of Dr. Burns; and the Moderator was authorized to call a Special Meeting of Presbytery, for Dr. Burns' induction as Minister of Knox's Church. The Presbytery was then closed with prayer.

**UNION OF CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS.**

At the bicentenary Commemoration of the Westminster Assembly, in July, 1843, it was suggested that the leading Ministers of various denominations should write a series of Essays on Christian Union. This suggestion has been acted upon, and a volume containing Essays on various topics connected with this interesting subject, has recently appeared—the writers being Dr. Chalmers, Dr. Balmer, Dr. Candlish, Rev. J. A. James, Dr. King, (of Glasgow,) Dr. Wardlaw, Dr. Struthers, Dr. Symington. Dr. King's Essay is on “Union among Christians viewed in relation to the present state of religious parties in Scotland;” and our readers will, we are sure, rejoice to see such sentiments as the following; expressed on such an occasion, by a leading Minister of the Secession Church.

“On examining the designations of the various sects, in Scotland, all contentious as they appear at first view, they will be found, in most instances, to present a distinction without a difference. The ‘Free Church’ is not more free than other un-denominated Presbyterian bodies; nor can it protest more resolutely than they do against the Erastianism of the Establishment. The ‘United Secession’ Church is no more in a state of secession than other Presbyterian Dissenters; and after the