

BURSARY FUND, KNOX'S COLLEGE.

Mr. Spreull, Treasurer to the Bursary Fund, has, by the authority of the Synod, issued a circular, bringing the matter under the notice of the Church, and appealing to the Christian feeling and liberality of its members.

The Treasurer will need £50 to meet engagements in November, and about half that amount in the Spring, when the Session closes. These sums will only be sufficient to maintain the Bursaries upon the present very limited scale. Were the fund well sustained, grants could be made to deserving young men, who would thereby be enabled to prosecute their studies without interruption, and thus enter a year or two earlier into the missionary field.

At present, the Bursaries are very small,—some of them as low as £2 10s. Even that small sum serves as a mark of honourable distinction to the student who excels in any department of the course. But there is a class of students which we have more particularly in view, and which the present system does not reach, viz., young men of devoted piety and respectable natural gifts, but whose pecuniary means and elementary training are of the humblest kind. What we would desire is the increase of the Bursary Fund to an extent that will warrant the granting or loaning of a sufficient sum to enable such students, without interruption to prosecute their studies. The exercise of due vigilance, by Presbyteries and the College authorities acting in concert, will prevent any abuse of such aid.

The example of other Churches is all in favour of increasing the facilities for the acquisition, by candidates for the ministry, of the most complete equipment for their work. So long as the support of the Gospel Ministry compares so unfavourably with that of the other learned professions, or even of men in the ordinary business of life, we need not fear that many will be led to seek the office from mercenary motives.

The Church has an important duty to perform, in seeking to find the proper men for her future Ministers, and in giving them every aid and encouragement in the necessary preparation for their calling.

Mr. Spreull has entered upon the task of replenishing the Bursary Fund, with his usual zeal and alacrity. We anticipate a cordial response to his appeal in behalf of one of the most important auxiliaries to the schemes of the Church.

A NOTRE EXAMPLE.—A Student of Knox's College, who at the opening of the Session 1849-50, had little more than a sufficiency to defray the winter's expenses was unfortunately disappointed in the receipt of a part of his scanty means. This event, beyond his control, imposed upon him the disagreeable necessity of leaving Toronto, in debt to a small amount. His independent mind could not brook the idea of owing any man. His generous creditor, knowing the circumstances, was perfectly willing to extend every indulgence. No congenial employment likely to yield immediate remuneration having presented itself, our young friend bought an axe—went into the woods and

made, with his own hands, 1000 staves, which he sold, and with the proceeds paid off his debt.—Finding his means insufficient to meet the necessary expenses of attending at College in the Session of 1850-51, he, with the same spirit of self-denial, and with a similar determination "to owe no man anything," has been devoting himself to teaching during the current year, in order to procure the means of prosecuting his studies.

We record this not only to pay our tribute of respect to a meritorious youth, but as an example and encouragement to others. The church has need of such men. The manly independence of character thus early evinced, will tell upon their future career. The reasonable prospect is that they will, one day, take their places among the most energetic, useful, and honoured labourers in the Lord's vineyard.

MISSION TO THE RED RIVER.

In our last we mentioned the appointment of Mr. Black to the mission at the Selkirk Settlement, Red River, Hudson's Bay Territory. We have now to announce that, on the 30th July, Mr. Black was solemnly ordained to the office of the ministry, and designated to the mission by the members of the Presbytery of Toronto, assisted by brethren from other Presbyteries. The attendance was good, considering the shortness of the notice. Dr. Burns preached and presided on the occasion; Mr. Harris gave the address to Mr. Black; and Mr. Nesbet, of Oakville, addressed the congregation. The service was very impressive; and let us hope that an interest in this most important outpost of our Church is beginning to be felt by our people. On Thursday morning, Mr. Black was conducted on board the steamer by a number of Christian friends, and he left for the far west amid the best wishes and earnest prayers of not a few.

By a letter from Mr. Black, dated Galena, Illinois, U. S., August 7th, it appears that our excellent friend reached Chicago on the Saturday after leaving Toronto; and after spending the Sabbath in that city, he left by the railroad on Monday morning for Galena, but he found, to his disappointment, that the cars could go no farther than Elgin, only forty-two miles from Chicago, leaving 121 miles to be accomplished by stage over the prairies, and by roads of the most miserable kind imaginable. It was not till Wednesday evening he arrived at Galena. They had many detentions; one total upset; and on several occasions, the passengers saving themselves by scrambling out at the upper side of the coach, the first out holding down the wheels till the rest made their escape! Happily, however, no one received any serious injury, farther than by the excitement and fear in which they were constantly kept, and walking long distances over the worst of roads. A great delay has thus been occasioned, and Mr. Black did not expect to leave Galena for St. Pauls, before the afternoon of the 8th August. This is the day when he was expected to be at St. Pauls, whereas he was several hundreds of miles from it. Several letters, however, had been despatched from Toronto previous to the 25th of July, announcing the steps taken for pro-

curring a missionary, and two of these stated the fact of a missionary being on his way. It is to be hoped therefore that Mr. Ross and his party, from the Selkirk Settlement will be in waiting for Mr. Black on his arrival, which could not be later than Monday, August 11th. We may hear of the issue before the publication of this number of the *Record*, and will duly announce it.

In the meantime, we give the following notices regarding the settlement, extracted principally from the *North Western Gazette*, a Galena weekly paper, with which Mr. Black has favoured us:—

The following notices are from a Church of England Missionary among the Indians:—

The Missionary station of which I had charge, one of those belonging to the Church of England Missionary Society, was commenced in 1832. During the first seven years it was in charge of a native schoolmaster, and under the superintendence of a clergyman living at a distance of fourteen miles. In 1839, it was deemed necessary that there should be a resident missionary, and I was appointed. I found about 350 baptized Indians, of whom one-third were Chippewas, and two-thirds Crows. There were forty-four communicants at the Church, and about sixty children in the day school. The Indians were mostly living in small cottages, with each a plot of ground varying from one to five acres, upon which they grow wheat, barley, and potatoes.—Such was the state in which I found things in 1839.

During the twelve years of my residence I have baptized somewhere about three hundred, and the communicants now number one hundred and twenty one. The school has also increased in proportion to the population. The houses and farms have been a good deal improved, but not to the extent of my wishes. In order to encourage agriculture, I had a large farm on which I employed all the elder school children, and gave them such instructions as become requisite to fit them for managing their own farms. In dealing with the Indians we have not only to evangelize but to civilize, and agriculture becomes indispensably necessary in effecting the latter object. Such, however, is the want of energy and forethought of the Indian, that he does not get on as white men would do in the same circumstances. Instead of trying to accumulate property he is satisfied if he can barely keep starvation from his door; but between indolence and mismanagement, very frequently fails in attaining even that. The Christian Indians of my charge, were, I believe, most of them sincere in their religious profession, and wished to live in accordance with the same, but their temporal affairs, were both to themselves and to me, a source of continual difficulty. If, however, the Indians of my charge were not all I could have wished, there was much cause for thankfulness on account of the progress which had been made, and we may hope that the good work will, though slowly, advance steadily.

The Church and station of which I have the charge, is the most northern one in the Red River Colony, and is situated a few miles above where the river empties itself into Lake Winnipeg. The congregation was entirely Indian, two thirds of whom, however, can speak English, having been educated in the Missionary school. The Sunday morning service was always in English, and the afternoon service in Indian. The population is about 600.

There are three other churches belonging to the Church of England, in the Red River Colony, the congregations at which are all European, or half-bred and speak English. The Bishop of Rupert's Land resides at one of the three—namely, that in the Selkirk district. A fifth English Church is on the point of being erected; at