

successor to the Theological Chair, until a suitable man had first been sought for among the ranks of our Canadian brethren ; but it was considered better not to hamper the Committee by such instruction, and the motion was lost by a very decided majority.

The remainder of the Report was concurred in. The Board was also authorized to employ a collector for the Lillie Memorial Fund.

The Rev. T. Baker then led in prayer, and the meeting terminated, at nearly midnight.

CHARITY BALLS AND THEATRICALS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE POOR.

An Amateur Dramatic Association recently formed in a certain thriving town in the Province of Ontario, including in its membership, we are sorry to say, several young men connected with one of the churches, finding themselves much in need of funds with which to procure costumes and scenery, and wishing also to gain the patronage of the *religious* public, advertised two performances of "Grand Moral Dramas" for the benefit of the poor. Professional stage-players "from the principal theatres of the United States and the Provinces" were engaged to put them through their facings, and to take the heavier parts of the performances, and all promised finely until the week before the entertainments were given, when a firm, but kindly, remonstrance appeared in one of the local papers against such amusements, and especially against such a method of raising funds for benevolent purposes, signed by nearly all the ministers of the place.

The protest fell like a bomb-shell into the camp of the embryonic dramatists, and great was their wrath at the ministers who had signed the document. The old cry of *fanaticism* was raised, and for a time the wordy war grew lively. There were some christians even who were not as pronounced against such entertainments as they probably will be some day, if they should live to see their sons and daughters fonder of the theatre and the ball-room than of the house of God. But the general sentiment of the church-going community was on the side of the ministers.

The dramatists, however, kept up their courage as well as they could, and asserted that the protest was as good as an advertisement, declaring that the sale of their tickets had been greatly increased by it. Perhaps it was so ; and in that case, all parties have reason to be satisfied with the result, except the Ladies' Aid Society, which got as the net proceeds of the two entertainments—*nothing!* How much was spent upon costumes and scenery to set them up in business, the Association has not condescended to inform the public but it has leaked out that each member has had to be assessed in a considerable sum to meet the expenses! How much more it might have cost them had the ministers not *helped* them, as they affirm, by their opposition, it is impossible to conjecture.

The MORAL of all which is:—1st. To Amateur Dramatic Associations and Charity Ball Committees—Hoist your own flag, and don't serve the devil under false pretences! And 2nd. To the Benevolent and Chris-