

there are five groups of stations, very hopeful, but requiring much attention. A missionary to the lumber regions of the Miramichi and the Restigouche is required. The Committee began the year with a debt of \$623, and closed it with a balance in hand of \$155. Receipts to May 1, 1882, \$4,652, expenditure (including adverse balance) \$4,497. No aid has been received from abroad. Henceforth our sole reliance must be on our own people whose hearts respond to the appeals made to them in the name of Him, to whom we and all we possess, belong. \$250 have been remitted to remitted to Manitoba College.

The Committee on Supplements report receipts, \$4,196, expenditure, \$4,065. The Committee explain that while their work is essentially home missionary, yet the aiding of the weak congregations became so important and the demand so great that a distinct fund had to be established. Grants had been received from parent churches, and the withdrawal of those grants has led to arrears and a debt now amounting to \$2,121. The sum of £100 stg. was received from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and found exceedingly helpful.

REV. A. J. MOWATT seconded the adoption of the Report. Having recently visited some of the mission stations in New Brunswick, he had been greatly impressed by the manner in which the visits of ministers and missionaries were appreciated by the settlers in the remote districts. To understand their destitute condition, and fully appreciate their longing desire for the stated ordinances of religion, one had to come into personal contact with them and visit them in their homes. After some touching illustrations, drawn from his own experience in the backwoods, Mr. Mowatt made an earnest appeal for continued and increased interest in the Home Mission work of the Church and for greater liberality in support of the Fund.

Fourth Day.

COLLEGES.

After the usual devotional exercises the consideration of College Reports was resumed. PRINCIPLE CAVEN gave in the report on *Knox College, Toronto*. Those among the audience who have not been in Toronto might have concluded, from the modest manner in which the learned principal introduced his subject, that Knox College was not of much account. He did not say much about his College building which is really one of the finest buildings in Toronto. He confined his remarks chiefly to the work which it had done and was still doing for the Church. He stated that since the institution was established, no less than 344 students had passed through

the whole theological course prescribed by the Church. He did not agree with those who said that we were educating too many men for the ministry. Comparing the number of students in the seminaries of the United States, and even in Scotland, he found that we had a smaller proportion in Canada. At all events he contended that we had not reached that point when it could be truthfully asserted that the supply of ministers in Canada was excessive. At this moment there lay on the table of the Assembly the applications of *eighteen* ministers of our Church asking leave to retire from the active duties of their office. Taking into account the number annually removed by death and otherwise, and the number of new congregations that are formed every year, he felt safe in saying that the Church would not be over supplied with ministers for some time to come. Referring to the *curriculum*, while he agreed with others as to the importance of having the highest possible standard of education, he was not prepared to say that the preparatory course of study in classics which had obtained in some of the colleges in the past had been a mistake. The circumstances of the country were such that if it was better that a competent number of fairly qualified men should be obtained as speedily as possible, than that the Church should have a totally insufficient number of ministers of the highest attainments. The principle referred to had served a good purpose and now that the circumstances of the country had changed he thought the time was not distant when a full University course should be required from every candidate for the ministry. Knox College now held property valued at about \$170,000, which had all been acquired since 1875. They have still a debt of \$25,000, which they hoped would soon disappear. The ordinary revenue of last year was \$1,000 less than the expenditure, which led him to express the hope that the congregations of the Church would appreciate the work done by the colleges as of equal importance with the mission work, and equally deserving, as it certainly requires, financial support.

MR. JOHN LAING, Dundas, seconded the adoption of the report. A discussion followed in regard to preparatory classes and other matters connected with theological training, in which Messrs. Tanner, of Scarboro, Wilson, of Kingston, Principal Grant and others took part. No further action, however, was taken in the premises.

DR. BRYCE'S MISSION TO SCOTLAND.

PROFESSOR BRYCE made a statement respecting the mission entrusted to him of obtaining assistance in Scotland for Manitoba College. Although precluded by the physicians from undertaking a series of public meetings throughout Scotland, he had