

under rent by the Commissioners of Schools for the city at \$240 per annum; and of this sum \$140 have been expended within the last two months on small repairs, fencing and painting. The Commissioners at one time evinced a desire to treat for the purchase of the building, but the Board, after consideration of the whole question, declined to make any offer, as they had no instructions from the Synod on the point, and were persuaded that any sum likely to be realized would fall far short of what would be necessary to provide a suitable substitute in the city. Both the Truro and Halifax buildings have been recently painted, and both are kept under insurance. The insurance policies on building and library in Gerrish Street amounts to \$6800, and on the Truro building to about \$5000.

The accounts of the committee superintending the erection of the Seminary in Truro have not yet been audited. After some delay they came to hand, and being sent to a financial committee were sent back for farther information, and remain still with Mr. R. Smith in Truro.

Another point remitted to the Board was the determination of amount of educational funds applicable, and designed by the donors to be applied to the aiding of students preparing for the ministry. The Board find that the sum of \$1000, given by the late Mrs. Matheson, was so designated, and in compliance with the directions of Synod they have set apart that sum and applied the interest for the current year to aid two students—one by a grant of \$40 and the other by a grant of \$20.

They have also, by direction of Synod, inquired into the standard of literary qualification considered necessary in this church in students prior to admission to the study of theology, and find that no written law, declaratory or otherwise, exists on the subject in the Synod of the Lower Provinces; and the answer to the inquiry, it is presumed, must therefore turn on the practice of the different bodies by whose union this Synod is constituted. The subject was under consideration while negotiations for union were going on in 1859-60, and it was found that in both, as respected the time

occupied in preparatory study and the branches to be studied, the difference was not great. For a long time in the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia a course of four years was required, embracing first year Latin, Greek and Mathematics; second, the same, with Logic and Rhetoric; third, Moral Philosophy; and fourth year, Natural Philosophy, the languages and Mathematics being continued. More recently the term of study had been reduced to three years, but without any reduction in the branches.

In the institution of the Free Synod there was some difference as respects the prominence given to particular subjects, but the same branches substantially were required, and the same length of preparatory study required, and in both cases the Presbyteries were the judges to decide on admissions; nor are the Board aware of any difference of view or practice in the church in New Brunswick.

As the Dalhousie course covers four years, except when the summer terms are taken throughout, the Board would recommend the adoption of that course, or an equivalent, at Fredericton, or any other well-furnished Collegiate Institution, as the standard of admission, reserving, in all cases, to Presbyteries the right of examination. They also recommend that Presbyteries be authorized to accept a degree of Dalhousie College, as in itself evidence of fitness, without further examination.

The Board have to remind the Synod of a vacancy in the Board of Governors of Dalhousie College, caused by the death of Andrew Mackinlay, Esq., whose sudden removal leaves a blank not only in that Board, but in many other public trusts, not easily filled. In his death, the church has lost a true and tried supporter of all its schemes; and common school and collegiate education a zealous and indefatigable friend and advocate. As he was a nominee and representative of this Synod, the appointment of a successor is a duty now to be discharged.

In conclusion, the Board would express the conviction that the efficiency of our collegiate and theological schools is closely