

They seldom hear of it ; seldom think of it ; and the benefits they receive from it, or expect their children to receive, come through a channel so remote and indirect that they lose all trace of the connexion. Then the nature of the work is not such as to excite surprise, or rouse enthusiasm. The history of one session is, with slight variations, the history of two, or ten, or twenty. And the details of class-work are, for the most part, unintelligible to the body of the people ; so that minute descriptions of College life would fail to interest them. Hence a lack of interest in the subject, or appreciation of its importance, is almost inevitable, if Ministers do not make concession of bringing its claims, from time to time, before their congregations.

The primary importance of this scheme is obvious, from the fact that on its successful operation depend the practicability and permanence of our other enterprises. What will it avail us to collect money for Home and Foreign Missions, if, with an overflowing treasury, we have no Missionaries to send, or none who are even tolerably qualified for the office ? Without a constant supply of young men duly trained for the Ministry even our existing congregations would ere long be scattered as sheep without a shepherd, and our very Presbyteries would become defunct within a quarter of a century. As arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are the youthful aspirants to the ministry, for whose training our Colleges exist ; happy the Church that hath its quiver full of them.

A brief abstract will suffice to shew the liabilities of the Church for the current year.

In the Philosophical Department there are three Professors and one Teacher. Assuming that the salary of the Teacher and miscellaneous contingencies will be met by the amount of fees exacted from the Students, and omitting these items, the account will stand thus :—

Salaries of Professors,	£750
Deduct interest of invested funds, say	300
To be provided,	£450

In the Theological Department there are also three Professors. As there are no class fees, miscellaneous expenses have to be provided for as well as salaries.

Salaries and contingencies, say	£650
Deduct interest of invested funds, say	400
	£250

Making in all £700 to be provided this year from the contributions of the Church.

From this statement it will appear that the sum of £600 named by the Synod in instructing the Board to issue this appeal, is rather an under estimate of the actual necessities of the current year.

It is proper to state, however, that the amount required for this year is larger than usual. The withdrawal of £375 per annum hitherto contributed by the Free Church of Scotland, necessitates a measure of exertion in this matter which may be within our reach, but which certainly calls for the full development of our resources as a Church. In future years the amount required will probably be somewhat less, as arrangements are in progress, which, if carried into effect, will relieve the Church of the salary of one Professor. But for the present year an expenditure of £600 or £700 in addition to the revenue derived from invested funds is inevitable.