

CHAPTER V.

FRENCH DEPARTMENT—LECTURERS—PROFESSOR COUSSIRAT.

On the 12th of May, 1869, the Presbytery of Montreal, on motion of Prof. MacVicar, resolved to overture the Synod in favor of the establishment of a French Theological Department in the College. The Board of Management cordially approved of the proposal; and the Professor and Mr. James Court presented it to the Synod, urging at length the necessity of training Ministers and Missionaries possessed of a knowledge of the French as well as the English language, in order to the maintenance of ordinances and the extension of the work of God within the bounds of the Presbytery. The prayer of the overture was unanimously agreed to, and the Board authorized to proceed in the matter by appointing a Lecturer whose salary the Synod guaranteed. Providentially the right man was at hand. Indeed from the first he was in the mind of the promoters of this movement. The Rev. D. Coussirat, a descendant from Huguenot stock, had a few years before finished his Ministerial education, having taken the degree of B.A. in the University of France, and of B.D. in the College of Montanban. After being licensed and ordained in connection with the National Presbyterian Church of France he came to the new world and was open for an engagement. The College Board gladly secured his services as a Lecturer, and he continued with much efficiency and success in this capacity till 1875, when family circumstances made it necessary for him to return for a time to his native country. During the five years of his absence the work of the French Department was well sustained by other Lecturers, chiefly by the Rev. Benj. Ourière, and for a shorter time by the Revs. C. Doudiet, C. E. Amaron, B.D., and A. B. Cruchet. In 1880 the General Assembly unanimously appointed Mr. Coussirat "French Professor of Theology," which position he accepted, and returned, as we trust, to remain permanently in Canada.

English students have, from time to time, availed themselves of his prelections; and the French class has numbered from twelve to seventeen, a fair proportion of whom have distinguished themselves both in Arts and Theology.

CHAPTER VI.THE STAFF—PRINCIPAL MACVICAR, PROFESSORS CAMPBELL, COUSSIRAT
AND SCRIMGER—LECTURERS.

In this chapter we avoid anticipating what will appropriately appear in the sketches of the lives of the Professors which are to be given in subsequent issues of the JOURNAL. There are upon the Staff, as now