

The Western Churchman

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN MANITOBA AND THE WEST

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PUBLISHERS' NOTICE

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ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE LIBRARY.

The students of St. John's have done a good work in resuscitating their College Magazine, even were it only to be the medium through which to voice the wants of the college. Mr J. L. W. Hewison, B.A., is editor-in-chief, and he has around him a staff of able and willing workers; and, if they are supported as they so well deserve to be, there will never again be any need for the college organ to hibernate. We wish the promoters of the Magazine all success.

In the January issue, there are many useful and interesting articles. Our space forbids us noticing these in detail; and so we confine our remarks to the sensible and fearless reference to the College library, made by the Editor in his introductory article. It reveals a state of things which is by no means creditable to the church in Rupert's Land. The library, although the finest room in the college, is entirely devoid of any means of heating; the books are not what they should be as regards quality; they stand sadly in need of arranging and cataloguing; and, there ought to be a better provision for their being kept clean and in order. Rather a long list of complaints, is it not? And, who is to blame? Doubtless there are some ready enough to exclaim, "Why, the college authorities, of course." But, is it so? We think not.

Have the church people of this Western land done their duty to St. John's College? Have they taken a real practical interest in its welfare? Have they put their hands into their pockets, and given of their substance to help our revered and venerable Primate in his noble, self-denying efforts for the higher education of their children? At the Diocesan Synod of 1895, many of us heard his statement about getting a mathematical lecturer, to relieve him of tutorial work, and give him more time for the duties which more directly belong to his important office. Everyone who knows anything at all of the college knows of the splendid work he has done as mathematical lecturer at St. John's: but, how have church people shown their appreciation of it? By stolid indifference. If St. John's is to hold its own with the other colleges of the University, the laity must take a lesson from the laity of other Christian bodies, and do something for the support of the college. See what Methodist laity have done for Wesley College, and Presbyterian laity for Manitoba College! Perhaps our readers will say, what has all this got to do with the College library? It has everything to do with it. The authorities of St. John's need funds to enable them to put the library into good order, to alter its construction so as to make it possible to heat it, and render it so that a student can sit and study, without having to wear furs; and, a member of the college staff must be so far lightened of his professorial duties that he can give up a certain amount of his time daily, to the care of the library. The college staff is already very much overworked. The men who lecture in Divinity to those who are preparing for Holy Orders have also to read with the students who are studying for the degree in Arts, and several of them have to teach in St. John's College school, besides having to do parochial work. None of the present staff can be expected to give the attention to the library that it requires.

The library of St. John's College ought to be so well equipped with good standard works as to be of real service, not only to the students in residence, but to the clergy of the Diocese, many of whom are unable to have a good library of their own. It ought to have several copies of such standard works as, The peaker's Commentary, Bishop Harold Browne on the