

COLONIAL CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE, KINGSTON, CANADA, TO THE COLONIAL COMMITTEE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, 31 March, 1857.

The period having arrived for transmitting to the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland the Annual Report of Queen's College, the Trustees beg again to acknowledge with gratitude the grant of £300 to their funds during the past year. In the accompanying brief statement the Trustees hope that they will be enabled to prove that this sum has been wisely bestowed, and that the institution in aid of which it was granted is proving more and more a blessing to the branch of the Church of Scotland in this Province.

Allusion has been made in former reports to the valuable buildings lately acquired for the use of the College, and which continue to prove admirably adapted for educational purposes. The healthy situation, the ample accommodation, and the imposing appearance of Summerhill—rendering our College an object of interest to all—these and other collateral advantages give cause for congratulation that the plan for purchasing the property was carried out upon terms so favourable. The Trustees regret, however, to state that their special efforts to raise the amount paid for the buildings by voluntary contributions have not been followed by that measure of success which they anticipated.

The amount paid to date for the buildings is (leaving £1000 yet to be paid).....	£5000
The amount contributed in aid of the special fund to defray this cost is.....	2746

Leaving a deficiency of..... £2254

It must be stated, however, that several of our largest congregations have not as yet been properly canvassed for subscriptions, and the Trustees hope that their next Annual Report will show a very much larger sum as the proceeds of this effort.

The Trustees have again the pleasure of reporting to the Committee a very gratifying increase in the number of students attending Queen's College.

In the Faculties of Arts and Theology have been matriculated this year.....	47 students.
Of whom are studying for the ministry.....	29 "
In medicine there are this session.....	57 "
And in attendance at the preparatory school.....	23 boys.

With respect to the number of boys in attendance at the preparatory school, the Trustees would explain that since last report they have been under the necessity of changing the headmaster, and that the circumstances attending the change have produced an unfavourable effect upon the school. Under the charge of an efficient graduate of the College this department is rapidly regaining its position of usefulness as an auxiliary to the College.

It may not be uninteresting here to state that the Synods of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are now exerting themselves on our behalf, and that they are giving the best proof of this by sending young men here to be educated for the ministry. Some little time since, the Rev. Dr. George, while on a deputation from the Synod of Canada to those in the Lower Provinces, took several opportunities of pressing upon the attention of the churches there the claims of Queen's College. The result of this effort, and of what had been done previously to bring the

subject under notice, has been very encouraging. We have several most promising students from these Synods upon our roll, and have also the prospect that, as additional facilities are afforded for speedy and economical communication between the British North American Provinces, their number will be greatly increased.

The usual bursaries have been granted during the past year, and, it is believed, have been a most valuable addition to the scanty resources of several most deserving theological students, who, but for this aid, would have experienced the greatest difficulty in maintaining themselves during their College course. In last Report allusion was made to the liberal proposal of the Ladies of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, to endow a permanent bursary. The Trustees have now to acknowledge from this benevolent source the sum of two hundred pounds currency, and they would express the hope that the good example thus shown may stir up many to go and do likewise.

Since last Annual Report the Trustees have had to lament the sudden death of the Rev. Professor Smith, a gentleman whose talents and learning have been widely appreciated on both sides of the Atlantic. Feeling the great responsibility which lay upon them in filling so important a chair as that of Hebrew, Biblical Criticism and Church History, the Trustees determined to spare no effort to secure the services of a well-qualified professor. With that object in view they have left the matter open until 1st May next, and in meantime are giving all publicity, both in Canada and at Home, to the vacancy. The Trustees take this opportunity of expressing their warm thanks to Rev. Dr. Fowler for the kind manner in which he has acceded to their request to aid them in this matter, and they hope that the other members of the Colonial Committee will also kindly lend a helping hand. With the aid of two gentlemen, to whom, from its very commencement, the College has lain under the deepest obligations, the duties of the vacant chair are being ably discharged. The Rev. Dr. Maclachlan has undertaken the classes in Hebrew and Biblical Criticism, and the Rev. Dr. Urquhart, of Cornwall, those in Church History.—in both cases at great personal sacrifice.

The experience of another year has confirmed the Trustees in the before-expressed opinion, that the condition of the Canadian Church and the number of students in the College loudly call for an increase to the staff of professors in this university. By dint of exertions on the part of the present professors, which are beyond all praise, but at the same time such as seriously to endanger their bodily health, a course of instruction is now imparted to students passing through Queen's College which places them on a par with their brethren in any of the Scottish Universities. This, however, cannot always be sustained, and, as the number of students increases, the effort will be altogether impossible. While burdened with the debt upon their buildings, the Trustees feel that an increase to the expenditure, such as must be entailed by adding to the staff of professors, would be unwise; but they earnestly trust, by the aid of your continued liberality, that the day is not far distant when the services of a principal, and possibly of one or more additional professors, will be secured for Queen's College.

And now it only remains for the Trustees, in closing this Annual Report, to express the hope that the Colonial Committee will continue their grant, and increase the amount, should they find that the claims of Queen's College upon the Church at Home are such as to enable them to do so. Rapid as has been the increase to the population of Canada in former years, it is believed that, under Providence, it has now only taken its first start, and that a future, brilliant be-

yond present imagination, awaits this noble colony. Countless acres of land, capable of speedy conversion into rich and valuable farms, and offered at prices so low as to be within the reach of all,—a climate deservedly ranked among the healthiest in the World,—unrivalled internal means of communication,—and facilities for emigration from Europe each year improved in speed and cheapness,—these are but a few of the inducements held out to the teeming population of the Old World to take up their abode in the New. In past years Scotchmen and their families have formed a very large proportion of the tide of emigration thus drawn to the shores of Canada, and we have every reason to believe that this proportion will be increased for the future. To the Christian, and especially to those who long to see our Zion lengthening her cords and strengthening her stakes, this prospect gives rise to the most anxious solicitude. However much the emigrant may be attached to the Church of his fathers in his far off Scottish home, experience has shown that, if no effort is made to place its hallowed ordinances within his reach in the New World, other, and it may be, less pure churches will step in to wean away his affections. We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that we have been behind other denominations in the race to go in and possess the land, and that in districts larger than many a Scottish Presbytery no minister of our Church is found among the Scottish population. We cannot shut our eyes to the equally painful fact that in such places the Episcopalians, and the various bodies of dissenters, are drawing their very bone and sinew from the former members of the Church of Scotland. In view of these facts, and since we can find but few to respond to our Macedonian cry to come over and help us, we can appear before the Colonial Committee respectfully to ask for their continued liberal aid. Canada must endeavour to find her own ministers, and Queen's College lacks but the means to be enabled to draw out young men and afford them training for their ministerial work.

We further crave a continued interest in your prayers, and in those of the Church at large. The difficulties before the Canadian Church are such as no human strength can encounter with a hope of success. In the name of our God would we set up our banner. May He fulfill all petitions for the advancement of His kingdom.

JOHN PATON,
Secretary to the Trustees.

We would urgently call the attention of Presbyteries to the injunction of Synod to prepare a statement of the vacancies and openings for missionary labour within their bounds, in order that a summary of the whole may be transmitted to the Colonial Committee.

THE MEETING OF SYNOD.

N.B. The Minutes of last meeting of Synod are printed in the following pages in full. As a little time must elapse before they can be re-printed in the usual pamphlet form, all Presbyteries, Presbytery Clerks, members and other individuals, Kirk Sessions, committees and boards, are requested to take notice of their instructions, and govern themselves accordingly; so that the several duties entrusted to them, and requiring immediate attention, may not in the meantime be overlooked or delayed.

W. SNODGRASS,
Synod-Clerk.