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The Presbyterian Printing & Publishing Co.,
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TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1st, 1896.

THE old-time missionary speech used to end with a request for men, money, and prayer. The men are here, and the women, too, ready to go to any part of the world. There is a good deal of prayer. The money is the thing that does not come as freely as we would like.

PARTLY because there are no two men head and shoulders over the others; partly because the Ontario part of the Presbyterian Church is very democratic; and partly on account of the mode of election, the nomination of two professors for Knox College has developed more diversity of opinion than any other question the Church has in recent years tried to settle.

LARGE as are the requirements for our Home Mission work now, the circumstances of our country are such as to make it evident to all intelligent and thoughtful Christians, that as time goes on the requirements will only become greater, and yet greater. If the Church will only rise up to meet the claims and calls God is making upon us, He will undoubtedly put into our hands continually increasing ability to do the work which He is setting before us to do.

WE must ask the forbearance of clerks and members of Presbyteries if minutes of their meetings should not always appear so soon as desirable. There are now on hand nearly thirty such reports and as only a comparatively small part of the paper is available for them, it must be evident that even after remorseless cutting down, it must be some time before the last to come in can appear in the paper. They will be published as fast and as fully as our space will allow.

IT is very probable that when the accounts of the Church for the year are closed, there will be no part of all her work which will exhibit greater inequality between income and expenditure than our College Funds. Every year shows a greater tendency for this state to become chronic. Some strong measures ought to be adopted to avoid this state of things. It is discouraging to all connected with the educational work of our colleges, it causes it to be carried on at a great disadvantage, and this at a time when, as never before, there is a demand and need for a ministry thoroughly equipped in every way to defend and expound the Word of God and the great truths which it teaches. Presbyterians insist upon an educated ministry, will be satisfied with no other, and yet they decline to furnish the means by which alone this requirement which they insist upon can be met. It is not fair in the Church, it is unreasonable to call upon our professors and College Boards to equip and maintain college buildings, libraries, a properly qualified teaching staff, and yet withhold the money, without which this cannot be done.

ONE hundred and sixty students and others entering upon six months work in our great Home Mission field with all that this work implies, of vast consequence to those who go forth and to those reached by them, surely makes to the whole Church a loud call to prayer, constant and earnest, that God would favor with his rich blessing the labors of all its servants whom the Church is now sending forth in His name. Let prayer be made continually to God for them in all our churches, and at family altars, and in the closet, to the end that their work may be abundantly blessed to the building up of God's people, and to the conversion and salvation of very many who are now without God and without hope in the world.

ONE of the most important arms of service of our Home Mission work is the Augmentation Fund for the helping of churches to sustain a settled minister when they have outgrown the mission station stage of their existence. From two to three hundred churches are now not only strong and self-sustaining through the aid of the Augmentation Fund, which might never have reached this state; but are now liberally and powerfully assisting, both to maintain other weak churches, our mission stations at home, and are also largely assisting the work of the Church in foreign lands. The benefit rendered by this fund can only be called in question by those who do not know the facts of the case. Help our weak churches.

THE Statistical Report for the General Assembly involves an immense amount of work, and to be of any real value it should be, to the utmost degree possible, accurate in every detail. To secure this, Rev. Dr. Torrance, who has in this department especially, rendered invaluable service to the Church, must be provided with all the materials necessary to make up his report, and that in good time, as the work is of a kind that cannot be hurriedly done. He wishes therefore now urgently to remind Presbytery Clerks that the date has passed for returning the Statistical Reports of congregations and stations. Only a few of these have reached him. Presbytery sheets must be in the hands of the printer by the 20th of April. He asks prompt attention on the part of those in default.

THE Theological colleges of the Church will be much in evidence this week. That of Montreal closes to-day, when, among other degrees to be conferred will be that of Doctor in Divinity upon one of our ministers down by the sea, but formerly of Montreal. The closing exercises of Knox College will take place to-morrow in Convocation Hall at 3 p.m., when the standing of students will be announced, scholarships awarded, and the other usual academic services observed. On the same evening in St. James' Square Church another meeting will be held in connection with the close of the college, when the Rev. Dr. Maclaren, Rev. R. D. Fraser, M.A., of Bowmanville, and Rev. W. A. J. Martin, of this city, will give addresses. No doubt all these meetings will be largely attended. The Theological hall of Queen's College closes at a somewhat later date.

THE fact that one hundred and fourteen students failed to get appointments from the Home Mission Committee in a church that a few years ago could scarcely find a sufficient number of Home Missionaries to do its work suggests some important questions. Are we training too many young men for the ministry? Is the increase in the number of theological students larger in proportion than the increase of the population of the Dominion? Why do so many students seek mission work before they enter upon the study of theology? Has student preaching been too much encouraged by the Church? The Home Mission Committee—Dr. Robertson in particular—seems to have about as much to do with students every spring as the senates of the colleges to which the students belong. Does not the impression prevail among too many students that "getting work" in the mission fields in summer is as important as doing work in the college in winter? Have not the conditions that made student preaching necessary to the prosperity, if not to the life of the Church, changed to a considerable extent? These and many other questions suggested by the failure of the hundred and fourteen to get work will stand some serious examination.

IT ought to be borne in mind by all minister Church Sessions and Boards of Managers that the financial accounts of the Church for all the schemes close this month. All are very greatly needing help, and the money which it is known lying in the hands of treasurers should be promptly forwarded to Rev. Dr. Warden. Every office-bearer of the Church with money in his hands can greatly expedite business by remitting at once. Let every one lend his assistance in this simple way.

THE full triumph of our French Evangelization Committee and that of others engaged in the same work, in making Quebec into a Protestant province, would at once solve some of the most difficult problems with which the Canadian statesman has to deal, and remove some of the dangers which at times appear to threaten the very existence of the Confederation. Never were the prospects of that Committee more bright and promising than at the present in every respect except that of funds. The Committee has a good record for its administration in the past. The utmost care and economy are exercised, and yet in spite of this it is threatened with a deficit at the close of the year of upwards of \$3,000, and by the first of May \$11,200 are needed to meet its claims. Many are very deeply interested in this work, and now is the time to show it by prompt and liberal assistance.

THE Toronto Presbyterian Council, a body composed of all the ministers and delegates appointed by Sessions, held its last meeting in the lecture room of Knox Church, on the evening of the 26th ult. The president, Mr. J. A. Paterson, M.A., occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance. The Rev. John Mutch, M.A., of Chalmers Church, read an able and valuable paper on "The Old Testament Canon," and after a short discussion on it, on motion of Rev. J. G. Potter, seconded by Mr. W. Galbraith, a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Mutch for his excellent address. The following were appointed a committee to make arrangements for the meeting of the General Assembly, viz.: Rev. Dr. McTavish, Rev. W. Burns, Messrs. J. A. Paterson, J. Knowles, Jr., J. K. Macdonald, and John Harvie. At the April meeting it is expected that the president will give a paper on "The Training of Sabbath School Teachers."

HAD the resolution of the Home Mission Committee, elsewhere referred to in this issue, giving hereafter the preference for appointments in the mission field to theological students after the first year been passed at the beginning of the meeting, and acted upon in the making of appointments, a large number of theological students who have failed to get work for the summer months, would now be on the way to their mission field. It is quite true that an occasional student in his literary course may be a better preacher than some theological students, but the line must be drawn somewhere. The literary or arts man should be encouraged to go on with his studies. The more he does in the student line the better he can preach when the time for preaching comes. In fact this whole question of student-preaching needs revision by the proper authorities; and perhaps the action of the Home Mission Committee may lead to something further.

THAT is a good idea which we understand the General Assembly's Committee having charge of Y. P. S. and C. E. S. are now at work upon, to suggest suitable books for a profitable course of reading for young people. Scarcely could a greater service in many ways be rendered to the youth of the Church than this. It appears to us that this is a matter in which this committee and the Sabbath School Committee could well co-operate, and care should be taken lest between the two our young people may find themselves at a loss just what to do. Although it will involve eventually no little work, and also some expense, it would be well, in order to secure that any course of reading be thoroughly done, that it should be accompanied by some system of examinations upon the books read, and if prizes are not awarded, that some standing or certificates or diplomas be given in connection with it, both that those who have taken this course may have something to show for it, and also to act as a stimulus to undertake it and carry it through.