

lessened but rather increased, we hope and pray that the change will be highly beneficial.

Two of the Professors are to be paid by us as a Church; one is to be paid by the Synod of the Church of Scotland in these Provinces; and three more are to be paid by the Governors of the institution. Our Synod must therefore pay £600 a year for the upholding of this College.

Our young men should come forward with more enthusiasm than ever before, and avail themselves of the advantages now within their reach. The winter session is to last about six months; and there is to be a summer session of four months. The announcement of the opening of the institution was so late this season that the number of students is not so large as it would otherwise have been. As it is there are some from all denominations, and from New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

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### LETTER FROM MR. GORDON.

TO ALL GOOD FRIENDS OF THE MISSIONARY ENTERPRISE IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

*My Christian Friends:—*

It is now by my watch 12 o'clock. Though I have a variety of duties to attend to in a very limited period of time (for according to announcement the *Dayspring* is to set sail for the distant islands after the day dawns and the shadows flee away) still I desire to address a few parting words to you, my dear friends. Receive, then, my midnight epistle kindly.

It was not my privilege to be present in many congregations; but with a brother Missionary, I may say, my flying visits to some were quite refreshing. Though the Board did not assign me any duties by way of congregational visitation, notwithstanding as opportunities occurred I did not feel it to be a transgression to look in on a few. For the indulgence, courtesy, and generous bearing of the Board, to offer my thanks would be but a feeble expression of my gratitude.

As age is honorable, it will not be considered invidious in me to speak of my visit to the congregation of Dr. Smith, by whom, need I say, I was received with much christian cordiality. Opportunely it happened to be his communion Sabbath, when I was present. The Action Sermon was preached by the Doctor himself from words in Eph. i. 13—"Scaled with the holy Spirit of promise." The main divisions of the discourse were, I. The nature of the salvation. II. The end or design of it. III. The channel through which it takes effect—Christ. The subdivisions we would give and indeed the gist of the sermon, but time forbids. Suffice it to say, that youthful preachers after listening to such men as the late Dr. Keir, Dr. Smith, and Professor King, old students of the Bible, may know themselves to be in divine things, but children beside those just mentioned. I listened as for the last time.

Since I am not going to have any footnotes, as this letter will be somewhat fragmentary, I may state here that the Doctor's churches, planned and superintended in reference to their construction by himself, (for the Doctor is a superior architect) are models, having been built on principles thoroughly acoustic, and also presenting the best view of the audience above and below, of any church in which I have spoken.

In reference to our destination I would offer a remark. No missionary leaving these shores knows positively where he may be located. It is commonly reported, and believed too, I think, that the writer of this letter is resolved to be located on a certain island and on no other.

A brother expressed it thus to me a few days ago: "We have heard that you are bent upon being settled on Erromanga, and nowhere else." "Though I have been asked all kinds of questions about missionary matters, and the one about destination among others, I think I invariably stated that that was decided after missionaries went to the field. Though, farther, brethren in Canada in the kind notices with which they honored me, mentioned my name in connection with a certain Island, it was not from anything advanced by me while in Canada that they did so. I presume it was taken