

considerably in advance of the number who attended in Halifax last winter. There were three studying at Princeton and three at Edinburgh. Mr. Robert Cumming and Mr. Samuel Archibald have returned, being licentiates of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, New Jersey, and are both under appointments. Mr. Chase has returned from Edinburgh and has received subjects of trial from the Presbytery of Halifax.

The occasional departure of a student to enjoy the advantages of travel with the benefit of a course of theology and cognate branches in the institutions of Britain or America, is not a thing in itself to be deplored. And yet on the other hand the church cannot be contented while so large a proportion of our young men absent themselves to such an extent from our own institution supported at so great a cost.—The diminishing numbers in actual attendance seem to call for inquiry into the whole question of our theological school, and to invest with peculiar interest the pending procedure and report of the committee on the theological curriculum.

The Board feel constrained to speak on the financial part of this subject with great plainness of speech. Some three years ago the Education Board gave notice in their annual report that the capital funds of the church were being drawn upon to an extent which caused that Board serious fears as to the result. About the same time the Board of Superintendence made a careful examination of their revenues and liabilities, informed the church that \$1200 per annum, about the average amount of salary of *one* out of the five Professors supported by the church require to be raised annually, and yet the amount of collections by churches are falling off rather than rising. On the year before last \$1118.02 were raised while only \$900.77 were received during the closing year, and that the deficiency for the year is therefore large. Last year it amounted to \$8; notwithstanding the receipt of over \$300 from the Governors of Dalhousie College, being interest of *three* years on a debt due by the Governors of that Institution. During the last season they received only one third of that sum,

and had by direction of Synod to appropriate \$60 to aid students of theology, so that the deficiency for the present year amounts to over \$300. And what is the explanation? It is simply this that one half of the congregations of the Synod have given within the year **NOTHING AT ALL**.—They do not complain that with a very few exceptions the appropriations made are very small comparatively because the whole sum to be raised is not large, but they are persuaded that the Synod will hear with surprise and sorrow, that their Educational funds accumulated by devoted and liberal men and women who have departed this life are being gradually disintegrated and diminished because so many of our congregations decline, or our sessions neglect to see that a collection is made annually for ministerial education.

Are we then, as a church, to fall from or to follow the example of our forefathers in the cause of ministerial education? Shall we look to the disruption or Free church fathers, and were their efforts in this great cause feeble or fitful? Shall we look farther, to the secession fathers, or yet farther back, to the founders of the church of Scotland, were they not all like the earlier reformers, zealous educationists, and anxious for a learned as well as a pious ministry? We look to a higher model. We consider the example of Christ Himself, for before He sent forth His disciples he took care that they should be with him during three years, receiving light from Himself. They were called His disciples. They were His students—and were getting ready to go forth as apostles.

Our American Presbyterian brethren give most liberally to furnish and to uphold their theological schools, and set apart a day for special prayer for the power of the spirit to rest upon Professors, and on the young men, who must leave their mark for good or evil on the church, and on their country. What theme more fitting for prayer and counsel?—for the assembled eldership!

There are a few matters of business which may be glanced at in passing. The school premises in Gerrish Street continue