

hesitatingly anticipate the upspringing of the sluggard or the rake. The formation of habits is a most deceptive thing. An act is performed once or twice. The man, fondly supposing he can stop when he likes, proceeds. He will not be fettered by any pledges. He is master of himself. He sips; at first it is disagreeable; but the taste is acquired; by degrees the habit is formed. The serpent coils around him, and under the influence of his fatal poison, he reels along the street a bloated drunkard. An oath at first grates on his ear. Gradually he becomes accustomed to it. The moral sense is benumbed. His tongue is set on fire of hell. It is just like the stone set in motion at the top of the hill—as it runs, its impetuosity is increased till it rushes with a force which nothing can arrest. With what emphasis do these considerations invest the language before us. When the powers are fresh, when the soul is susceptible, when the character is in process of formation, in this morning season, in the dawning of your youth “sow thy seed.” Let furrows deep and broad be constructed for the reception of the incorruptible seed. “He that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption. He that soweth to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting.”

R. F. B.

KINGSTON.

*All communications connected with the Record and the General Agency of the Church, to be addressed to “Rev. W. Reid, OFFICE OF THE MISSIONARY AND ECCLESIASTICAL RECORD,” Toronto.*

*Remittances in behalf of the Widows' Fund, and Communications connected with that Scheme and the Home Mission, to be addressed to “Rev. Alex. Gale,” Mount Albion P.O., C.W.*

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications intended for the *Record* should be in the Editor's hands by the 15th of the month.

THE RECORD.—Should any irregularity occur in any quarter, in the receipt of the *Record*, intimation should be sent at once to this office, in order that the irregularity may be remedied.

## The Record.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1853.

### THE TIMES IN WHICH WE LIVE—CALLS TO PRAYER AND MISSIONARY EFFORT.

The events which are taking place in our day, and the changes which are, in the course of Divine Providence, being effected in the condition of various nations and communities, are fitted to arrest the attention and awaken the interest not merely of statesmen and men of science, but of Christians also. In one quarter we find Mahometanism waxing decrepid and effete, and the Turkish Empire, heretofore the stronghold of this delusion, unable to maintain its independence, and relying entirely on the protection of its allies. It is most earnestly to be hoped, that Turkey will not be abandoned to the crafty and aggrandizing policy of Russia, and allowed to be swallowed up by that ambitious and unscrupulous power. But to all human appearance, Turkey must, ere long, experience some remarkable change, and pass into some new state of national and political existence.

Then in another quarter we find a mighty

revolution sweeping throughout the vast extent of the Chinese Empire—a revolution, the issues of which we cannot pretend to predict, but which, in all probability, will tend to open up that extensive and populous country still more widely to the commerce and to the Christianity of England and America, and to assimilate the Chinese to those hitherto regarded as “outside barbarians.”

Christians cannot look on such movements without the deepest interest in their future issues. And assuredly such movements should call forth the earnest prayers of the people of God, and stimulate their efforts for the dissemination of God's blessed word. The Bible alone can be the foundation of a nation's true happiness, and greatness, and prosperity. Not merely the moral and spiritual, but even the intellectual and social well-being of a community, must be based on pure and scriptural Christianity. And hence it must be of the very greatest importance that the Christian element should be largely infused into those nations and communities which are at present in a transition state. If we are to see Turkey awakened from the slumber of ages, and renovated nationally and morally—if we are to see China regenerated, and taking among the nations of the earth that place in the march of improvement and progress, which, from her extent and population, she is entitled to occupy, these results can only be produced through the influence of a pure and living Christianity. And the prayers and efforts of true Christians should unitedly be called forth for the spreading abroad of such a beneficial influence. Let present calls then be listened to—let present openings be taken advantage of—let the Bible be disseminated in Turkey, China, and other lands; and when the next Jubilee of the Bible Society comes round, it may be joyfully and gratefully celebrated throughout regions now covered with gross darkness.

### OPENING OF KNOX'S COLLEGE.

According to the intimation given in our last number, this Institution was opened on Thursday, 12th ult. Besides the students, there was a large company of ladies and gentlemen present, including a considerable number of the ministers of the Synod, not a few of whom had formerly been students of this College. It was pleasing also to see several ministers and members of other Protestant churches, among whom were Rev. Dr. Taylor, Rev. Professor Lillie, Rev. John Jennings, Professor Buckland, and John Scoble, Esq. A few verses having been sung, the Rev. Alexander Gale, Moderator of Synod, offered up prayer, after which the Rev. Dr. Willis delivered the introductory lecture with his usual ability. After a happy allusion to the recent Jubilee of the Bible Society, Dr. Willis pointed out the connection between the written and spoken word; the importance and necessity of a standing ministry in the Church; and what constitutes a true call to the work of the ministry. He farther directed the attention of his audience to the various branches of learning, with which it becomes the student of Theology to be acquainted,

in order that he may be fitted for the great work in which he is engaged, mentioning among other subjects, the importance in the present day of an acquaintance with physical science, and dwelling especially on the essential necessity of an intimate knowledge of the word of God, which is the armoury whence the minister of the Gospel must obtain his weapons, the tower of his strength, and the source of his encouragements and consolations. In the close of his lecture, Dr. Willis paid an eloquent and affectionate tribute to the memory of his late colleague, Mr. Eason. Dr. Willis concluded his lecture, by pressing on the attention of the students the importance of personal religion, and the necessity of daily communion with God. He warned them against allowing any study whatever, or the reading of the Bible itself as students professionally, to displace from their daily habit communion with the Bible as Christian disciples. Having before spoken of it as the armoury of ministers of the Gospel, the source of their materials in their work, he would finally recommend it to their daily use, as the aliment of their souls, and their solace amidst the cares and perplexities of life.

The lecture was an able and eloquent one, and presented to the minds of the students sound and most important principles. Had not our available space been filled up, we should have given a more full report of it.

The number of students entering college this year, is greater than usual, being fifteen. The following are their names:—D. Fraser from Red River; W. Mackey, N. Gower; N. McKinnon, Brock; W. Millican, Galt; Donald McVicar, Chatham; James Greenfield, Montreal; James Robertson, Quebec; D. Clarke, Port Dover; Thomas Fenwick, Toronto; James Thom, Toronto; Jas. Campbell, Williams; Robert Leask, Brock; and Messrs. McLean, Milloy and Siowwright, from Scotland. In addition to these, we might mention Mr. James Ross, from Red River, at present studying at the University.

While the Church has had to mourn the removal of one noted for his earnestness and zeal in the work of education, there is great cause of thankfulness that his place has been so well filled up by the appointment of Professor Young, from whose talents and zeal, and peculiar adaptation to the work assigned to him, we anticipate the happiest results. The classical department is, as last year, under the charge of the Rev. John Laing.

Our College is, under God, the mainstay of our Church. Let ministers and others look out for pious and promising young men to enter its classes; and let congregations bear in mind, that if this institution is to be really useful, it must be adequately sustained. Let means then be early adopted for submitting its claims to the consideration of the people. So far as students are concerned, the prospect is in the meantime highly encouraging. For while the number of students entering College is greater than usual, all who had to take any part in their examination, were led to regard them as most promising young men. We trust that a liberal support for