

CHAPTER VIII.

FINANCE—SOURCES OF REVENUE—ENDOWMENTS.

Proverbially Church finance is not an easy or agreeable subject. Some call it a science, others prefer far less dignified names, while not a few ominously knit their brows, shake their heads, and refuse to open their mouths on the subject. We might easily make this a long and curious chapter in our history by giving the details of the efforts put forth; but, lest any should think that there is some mysterious secret in our possession which is kept back, we may frankly say that there is not, and that there has been a delightful naturalness and spontaneity in the manner in which our resources have come together. We are constrained to believe that a good cause, prayer, business energy and strong faith in God are the best means of getting a revenue. At first, as already intimated, the Presbytery of Montreal was charged with this work, and, again and again, the Synod and Assembly told them to push forward and get more money, a larger endowment. Slowly and cautiously the territory upon which they were to draw was enlarged, until, finally, the Presbyteries of Ottawa, Brockville and Kingston were united with that of Montreal in this form of Christian activity. But this state of things did not last long. Great constitutional changes emerged. The Presbyterian Churches of the Dominion drew near to each other after long years of separation, and were ready to unite. "The College question," as it was called, became a prominent factor in this movement; and this College at once expressed its willingness to unite with similar institutions upon equitable terms, and in a scheme to that effect, prepared and printed by the Union Committees acting jointly, the Principal yielded his position to another who was greatly his senior. The whole proposal was summarily rejected by the General Assembly of the Canada Presbyterian Church. Union came on, and was consummated in Montreal in June, 1875, and the Colleges entered into it, on the distinct conditions laid down in the basis of union, that they were to hold relations to the United Church similar to those which they then held to their respective churches; and to preserve their corporate existence, government and functions on terms and conditions like those under which they then existed. But what effect had these grand movements upon our College finance? The Board found itself, by steps which it is unnecessary for us to trace, practically limited almost to the City of Montreal for revenue. But it is time to say a word upon the methods pursued or the way in which an income was obtained. To begin with, *all* the friends of the College, rich and poor, were appealed to, and not in vain. Instructive examples of liberality appeared among all classes. Children gave their offerings, widows bestowed their mites, Sunday-schools and Bible Classes lent their aid, young men and young