

(CIRCULAR)

HALIFAX, Dec'r. 4. 1847.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,

For several months I have had great desire to communicate with all the Clergy of the Diocese, and particularly in reference to King's College at Windsor. It was my wish to invite them to meet me at the College Encœnia, if sufficient accommodation could have been found at that place.

The essential importance of that Institution to the prosperity of the Church is known to all the Clergy, as have been also the difficulties through which it has been sustained on several trying occasions. Its usefulness must now be greatly abridged, perhaps its continuance will be impossible, unless some extraordinary efforts be made by its friends, to replace the income which has been withdrawn from it.

Despairing of attaining this object by any exertions that could be made in this poor Colony, the Revd. WM. GRAY, D. D., an Alumnus and Graduate of the College, was induced at much personal sacrifice, to visit the Parent Country in the last year, and endeavour to engage our benevolent brethren there on our behalf. It was a season of peculiar distress, and the bounty of the members of our Communion was taxed severely to meet the distress that surrounded them in their immediate neighbourhood. Dr. GRAY was kindly received by many, and he rendered important service to the College by making known its pressing wants in various quarters, and preparing for efforts like his own, when a season of less suffering and discouragement should happily arrive.

But Dr. GRAY had no convincing evidence to shew that sufficient feeling had been manifested among ourselves, for the security and prosperity of the College. Nor can such evidence be obtained but by liberal contributions here to sustain the Institution, in its present intimate connexion with the Church.

The Associated Alumni had made some good efforts upon hearing of the serious wants of the College, and had enabled the Governors to pay the Salary of Dr. Mantovani, without drawing upon their own reduced funds. I therefore ventured to suggest, that old as I am, and unequal as I may be to the successful discharge of the Office, I would proceed to England, and once more be the advocate of the College in that land of benevolence and bounty, if the Associated Alumni would raise £2000 as the commencement of a fund, from the interest of which the College might derive some good addition to its permanent income—and expressed an hope that I might obtain £4000 to be added to their £2000. The Governors of the College approved of the suggestion, and when they and the Alumni were assembled together, my proposal was very kindly received. Being anxious that no mistake should be made, I candidly stated that whatever application I should make for assistance, would be grounded upon a full understanding that benefactions so obtained should be placed in trust with the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, to be applied by them, to the support of King's College, so long as it should retain its present connection with the Established Church: so long as the Archbishop of Canterbury should be the Patron, with the powers which have been given to him: so long as the Bishop of the Diocese shall continue to be the Visitor: so long as the President must be in full Orders: so long as the internal Government of the College shall be vested, as it now is, in Members of the Established Church. And if in time to come this connexion between the College and the Church should be severed, the fund should be applied by the Trustees to some object as similar as possible to King's College, under its present Constitution. Well knowing that this plan would commend itself to the warm regard of all in England from whom I hope for any assistance, and that my hands would be strengthened, if all the contributions here could be carried into the same fund, I stated this advantage for the consideration of the Governors and the Alumni. The Alumni after due deliberation, unanimously passed a Resolution, which was read on the following day at a second joint meeting of Governors and Alumni,—“That the Managing Committee be requested to take immediate steps to raise the sum of Two Thousand Pounds, in such manner as they deem best, to be invested for the benefit of King's College, so long as it shall continue in connection with the Church of England, and to meet the proposition submitted to the Incorporated Alumni by the Visitor.”

I readily agreed upon this Resolution, though short of my proposal, to proceed to England at the proper time, and offered my best wishes for the success of the Alumni in their undertaking; but I stated that I should endeavour to raise money for the College here, as well as in England, and that all should increase the fund to be entrusted to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.