

PRAYER FOR KNOX COLLEGE.

About the time these lines come before our readers, another session of Knox College will have commenced; the young men will have returned from the various mission fields in which they have been usefully employed during the summer months, to resume their studies in Theology, joined by others who are only entering on this part of their course. The Synod has deemed the time a suitable one for calling on the congregations of the Church to unite in prayer to God on behalf of the College, naming the second Sabbath of October for the purpose. A simple notice of the fact will be sufficient, we feel assured, to secure a general compliance with this call. If considerations tending to enforce it were needed, they would not be far to seek. The College has conferred important advantages on the Church, in the past, contributing largely to its growth and vigour. For the time to come it would appear we must be still more dependent on it, and institutions of a kindred nature that may be called into existence among us. It will be admitted by most thoughtful persons, that the future of our Church in this Province is, under God, bound up, to a large extent, in the ministry with which it may be favoured—in the number of those who enter the sacred office, and their general qualifications for the discharge of its duties. There is as little reason to doubt, on the other hand, that the ministry must be in a great measure, reared and educated in our midst. It must come more than ever from the christian homes of our own people, and be trained in their own Colleges—Literary and Theological. All who are interested, therefore, in the welfare of our church—who are earnestly seeking its increased efficiency and extension, will regard these colleges with deep interest; and where this interest is felt, the call to prayer on their behalf will meet a cordial response.

The institution especially commended to the Church's prayers, on this occasion, is the one, in which in the mean time the Theological studies of all the candidates for the ministry are pursued. Let general, earnest, believing supplication, therefore, be made to God in behalf of the students attending, and in behalf of those who have been called to superintend their studies. The latter—those placed, whether permanently or for a limited period, at the head of the institution, may well claim a frequent place in the public prayers of the church. *The amount of speculation on christian topics, by which the age in which we live is characterized; the unsettled state of opinion in wide and influential circles, in regard to many points of doctrine, and the boldness with which fundamental, or what we have been accustomed to regard fundamental truths have been assailed, tend to render the position of the Theological Professor in our day one of great difficulty and responsibility. Doubtless those who occupy this position among ourselves, will feel themselves strengthened for their arduous work by the church's prayers to God on their behalf—will be the last to count them vain. To the Students, again, the season of preparatory study is one of real danger—danger to that very piety, which, it is to be hoped, has led them to the position of students of Theology, and to the cultivation of which their life is to be devoted. Only the Spirit of God, graciously imparted, can prevent the daily and hourly dealing with divine truth, in its theoretical aspects, becoming positively hurtful to that inner life, on which more than all else the minister's usefulness is conditioned, and in the growth of which, accordingly, in these young men, the Church has so deep and vital an interest. But that Spirit is bestowed in answer to prayer. Let all, then, who desire to see the honour of the Saviour advanced in our church, and through its instrumentality, unite in supplicating His gracious presence and influence for those attending our school of Theology.*

This call, however, on the members of the church, to unite in prayer in behalf of Knox College, brings up the whole question of our future ministerial