

the Rev. Dr. Burns of Paisley, for the liberal donation of Books which he himself has sent, and for the promptness, with which, he acted on some hints thrown out I believe, Mr. Editor, in your journal, in originating contributions for a Library for the church here.—If his eye see these lines, he may perhaps be satisfied with the explanation here given for the want of any formal acknowledgment hitherto from the church for his benefaction. And, it is fondly hoped that the use which may be made of the Books already received, and especially the exertions that may be called forth to obtain a large addition to these Books will prove to him that his liberality has been well bestowed.

The commission would probably also have instructed the brethren now in Great Britain, to use their best exertions towards procuring donations of Books for the Library. And, of these lines meet the eye of any such, they may be reminded of the duty of pleading our cause with Booksellers, and Book collectors clerical and laical; and of visiting the dusky *reynolds* of Edinburgh, and Glasgow, so rich in Literary treasures, to adventure some purchases on our behalf.

We all admit, that a theological college for the training of ministers is indispensable towards the efficiency of our church in these Provinces. and, we are pretty well agreed too, I believe in thinking, that, such an institution ought to be commenced without delay. Now a Library is an indispensable appendage to such an institution: and, while the collecting of it, may be immediately begun, immediate advantages result from it. There are many Books not ordinarily found in a minister's Library to which he yet occasionally desires to have access. He is sometimes led to explore the doctrine and external form and condition of the church in different periods and he wishes to discover these not in the narrations of historians only, but also in the writings of the men of those times; and so, to acquaint himself with the external relations of the church, he covets access to the writings of the annalists and memoir writers of the period which he is studying. as in the interpretation of scripture, he may often sigh for access to the fountains of criticism from which Lexicographers and Translators themselves have drawn. Now, it is really an object for a minister to know where an apparatus for enabling him to solve controverted matters of history, or of interpretation is to be found; and, it is a still higher object for him to have access to such an apparatus. So that, in the present destitution of public Libraries in these provinces, it would be a boon to the ministers even in the remotest extremes of the colony—such as Quebec, and Amherstburg, to have a well furnished theological Library established in some central place, such a Library should contain chiefly those works which from their scarcity or great price are found in the Libraries of few ministers. To this class, belong such Books as the following:

The early Greek and Latin Fathers. The works of the Reformers. Histories, Memoirs, and Biographies, that illustrate the Reformation. The Acts of the General Assembly from the Reformation until the present time. The Edinburgh Christian Instructor from its commencement. And the principal commentaries and bodies of divinity of the Dutch and German theological schools. But it is unnecessary to swell this index of *Books desired*. Donations of any kind at present are not likely to be slighted: and, while private individuals amongst ourselves are invited to exercise liberality in this way, Presbyteries are respectfully recommended to take the subject into consideration, to devise such measures as they may deem most conducive for furthering through the establishment of one or more Libraries the literature of the church. From the minutes of the Library committee printed on the cover of the Examiner, it will be seen, that the Rev. W. T. LEACH of Toronto is INTERIM LIBRARIAN, and that he is empowered to receive donations for the Library and to announce the same through the Examiner.

Allow me, Mr. Editor, to make one other suggestion on this subject. Dr. Burns, it is well known, has been honorably distinguished amongst the ministers of the church of Scotland, for his zeal in planting the church in these cis-atlantic regions, and we may say of him in truth, that he has been the earliest, most laborious, and most constant friend of our church. His services in the Saviour's cause, will we trust have an enduring memorial, apart from any efforts of ours to commemorate them. Yet, it is respectfully suggested to the brethren, whether it might not be a proper mark of our esteem for his services, to give his name to the Library which we are about to found, or rather, which he has already founded for us. The name of Archbishop Leighton, dear to all the lovers of Evangelical Truth from the writings which he left behind him, is yet more especially remembered in the Presbytery of Dunblane in Scotland, from the Library they possess—it having been bequeathed by him, to the clergy of what had once been his diocese: and, methinks, the Presbyterian church of Canada has very powerful reasons for remembering with gratitude the name of Robert Burns of Paisley, apart from the consideration of the hundred volumes of Books which he has sent to the Synod as the nucleus of a Library—so that, it would be no improper, nor perhaps to him, unwelcome expression of our gratitude, if we should call our Synod, or College Library, as it may be, THE BURNS LIBRARY.

I remain,

Yours &c.

A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION.

S.

March, 28th 1838.