

## The Presbyterian Review.

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY, from the office of the Publishers, Rooms No. 20, 21, 23, 25 Aberdeen Block, South-East corner Adelaide and Victoria Streets, Toronto.

TERMS, \$1.50 per annum.

All communications for either Business or Editorial Departments should be addressed PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2464, Toronto, Ont.

ADVERTISING RATES.—Under 3 months, 15 cents per line per insertion; 3 months, \$1.00 per line; 6 months, \$1.75 per line; 1 year, \$3.00. No advertisement charged at less than five lines. None others than unobjectionable advertisements taken.

Toronto, Sept. 24, 1896.

### The Colleges.

THE time has come again when the church is called upon by congregational collections, to contribute to the College funds. The Colleges of the Church are very justly held in the highest esteem; they are one and all of them, institutions of which any Church might well be proud. They accomplish most admirable work, and when it is remembered that they do so under many serious difficulties and disadvantages, there is all the more reason for thankfulness at the results they achieve. What the Canadian ministry is to-day is greatly due to the Colleges, and that ministry is on an eminently high plane. It meets the necessities of Canada admirably—an exceedingly difficult task—and it reaches a high average in ability, zeal and spirituality.

The Alma Mater must not be forgotten. From Winnipeg to Halifax the Colleges have their strong claims. Queen's and Knox, Montreal and Morin—each and all of them—are looking forward with no small anxiety to the collection on the 27th inst., and it is to be hoped their expectations will be fulfilled.

A statement issued by Knox College places the condition of that institution very clearly before the Church, and we draw special attention to it on account of the exceptionally strong case made out for unwonted liberality at the hands of congregations. The shrinkage is thus explained: "From the fall in the rate of interest on investments and the decrease of congregational subscriptions, owing, in the latter case, to a misapprehension as to the financial condition of the College, the revenue has for some time fallen short of the expenditure, and additional contributions will therefore be required to maintain the College, even with its former staff. The Assembly has, however, increased the faculty of the College by the appointment of two new Professors, both of whom will undoubtedly add great additional strength to the institution. The additional outlay which will be unnecessarily incurred to meet the salaries of these gentlemen can only be met by increased congregational subscriptions, as no addition has been made to the Endowment Fund for some years.

"From the careful estimate of the requirements of the College for the current year, prepared by Rev. Dr. Warden, the Treasurer, it appears that at least \$18,500, which includes the deficit reported to the Assembly in June, must be provided for by the congregations of the Church. Only \$6,864 was obtained from congregational contributions last year."

### A Professor and his Students in Aberdeen.

Some time during last session difficulties in the class room of Mr. Johnston, Professor of Biblical Criticism in Aberdeen University, attracted public attention and led to charges of incompetency being preferred against him by his students. They alleged that he was

wholly ignorant of the recent literature of his subject and strenuously maintained views which were now regarded as obsolete. The professor retorted with charges that the students were insubordinate ill-mannered and ungodly. A committee was appointed to make an investigation, and this committee has now reported. They find after prolonged inquiry that the charge against the students of ungodliness is not proved, and in view of all the circumstances recommend that Mr. Johnston should be required to resign with a retiring allowance,—a recommendation which is likely to be adopted.

The Edinburgh *Scotsman* comments on the action and represents it as the dismissal of a professor on the ground of being too orthodox, showing the marked change that has come over the theological atmosphere of Scotland during recent years. Such a conclusion, however, does not seem to be borne out by the facts of the case. It is quite possible that considerable change has taken place since Robertson Smith, for example, was removed from his chair by the Free Church Assembly, but it would not be fair to take this as decisive evidence. The fact is that Mr. Johnston's appointments in the first place was made wholly on political grounds by Sir George Trevelyan when secretary for Scotland in Mr. Gladstone's Government, as being the only available candidate of Gladstone principles, and he seems to have been altogether unfitted to occupy any such position. All the evidence went to show that both intellectually and personally he was quite unable to hold the respect of the students, being destitute alike of ability, tact and dignity. Even theological students will sometimes commit pranks that if taken too seriously might be characterized by strong terms, but it may safely be said that when there is frequent disorder such as seems to have obtained in this class-room the professor is largely responsible for it. Youth is of course naturally favorable to advanced and radical views, but if the professor had so mastered his subject as to be able to give rational grounds for his conservative opinions whether the students adopted them or not, they would have respected his judgment sufficiently to listen to them in silence. And the new critical views are very far, as yet, from being so clearly established and so generally accepted that the governing body of any university in the world would be likely to dismiss a professor because he argued against them. The real reason for his removal is not his orthodoxy in matters of criticism but his unsuitability for any professional position whatever. It is not improbable that his successor may hold substantially the same views as he.

### A Roman Catholic College for Oxford.

It is stated that the Duke of Norfolk has purchased a site at Oxford on which it is proposed to erect a Roman Catholic College. This is the revival of an old scheme of Cardinal Newman's which at the time was defeated by the opposition of Cardinal Manning. Cardinal Vaughan now seems to be favorable to the project and it is likely to be carried out. We do not know what the professed aim of the scheme is at the present time, but one of the chief supporters of the earlier attempt did not hesitate to write regarding it, "Let me have a Catholic College in Oxford and I will unprotestantise the whole University." As that was a time when many Oxford men were going over to Rome anyway such a result must have seemed probable enough to a sanguine disposition. But even though the object in view may be now the same there is no particular reason to think that the danger is at all a real one to the University. The Oxford movement, as