

LIBRARY.

The Library of Rev. Dr. King, which was received soon after the last meeting of Synod, has been shelved, arranged and catalogued, making a very large and valuable addition, the whole No. of volumes in the library now being about 5,000. Some of the more recently published works in various departments are still needed, in order that the Collection may meet all the requirements of the church and of the age.

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE.

The Synod will already have learned that the last Session of Dalhousie College has proved very successful. About 100 students were in attendance, three-fourths of the number in arts and the other fourth studying medicine. Ten young men graduated, and a few general students completed their course. Four graduates received the degree of A. M. The Board have information that a good proportion of the graduates intend entering our Theological Hall and studying for the ministry in this church.

PROSPECTS.

The Board has no wish to conceal the fact that the attendance in the Hall during the past Session has been so small as to prove discouraging to its Professors and friends; and though confident of some increase during the present year, still the accessions will not be so numerous as to produce a great change. While limitation of income is felt as a hindrance to progress, much more discouraging to the lovers of Zion is the fact that the number studying for the ministry in our Provinces is not sufficient to meet the wants of the church at home and abroad. And when the whole number is small, and the full half inclined to travel and study in the larger Institutions of Britain and the United States, the limited attendance leads many, on economical and other grounds, to agitate the question whether we are warranted and wise in maintaining our Divinity School.

On this question the Board is of one mind, that notwithstanding the present dearth of students, which will probably be found to be temporary and exceptional, the duty of the church is to conserve and, as soon as practicable, extend and improve her Theological School. First, because no church can be regarded as aggressive or progressive, unless she is furnished with a succession of qualified Pastors, and ample means of supplying all vacancies caused by death and missionary calls; and, secondly, because no church can be regarded as independent, or in a satisfactory condition, unless her Pastors are drawn from the families of her own members: and this question of the providing of ministers from our own youth has been determined in the

same way among the Presbyterians in the old American, and in the new Australian Colonies. It was determined half a century ago by our fathers in Nova Scotia and more recently, but still in the same way, by the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

And if our young men are to be trained for God's work in the Gospel ministry, is this the time, after a successful trial for nearly half a century, to relinquish the effort, on account of temporary difficulties and deficiency of students, which may continue only for a short time?

FINANCE.

While we would shrink from such a resolution, we would not conceal or diminish the greatness of the work before this church. The British, American, Canadian and Australian Churches have Universities and Colleges endowed, either by the State or by wealthy men and corporations, so that all they have to provide is the Theological training. But our smaller church in the Lower Provinces has to provide wholly for the latter, and partly for the former. Looking at the subject in this aspect, we have no word of reproach against our people for want of support: for, though some may not have contributed worthily, the main body has done well. We are now probably doing as much for Ministerial Education as any other religious body on either Continent, in proportion to our wealth and numbers. Still we must do more or be overshadowed by Institutions, having the favour of merchant princes, who delight in associating their names with Chairs and Bursaries, founded and upheld by their liberality. The American Seminaries are thus richly endowed by the voluntary contributions of the wealthy members of the church, and Melbourne and Montreal, Australia and Canada, are engaged by an effort, extending over several years, to provide for the permanent support of their Theological Institutions on a large and liberal scale. If this Synod should resolve to follow their example, they should resolve after full consideration, and with the greatest unanimity and, if possible, enthusiasm on the part of ministers and people.

WANT OF MEN.

But a greater want than that of funds is the want of men willing and anxious to become preachers of the Gospel. The fact is undeniable, that the ministry does not, in these Provinces, attract young men or promise as it does, or as it once did, in Scotland. Trade and Commerce, the arts, and even science and education present rival fields, which are more remunerative and, by the world accounted, more independent and honourable, and quite as in-