

grey in the service, it behoves the Church to watch them prayerfully and tenderly, that they may have all possible encouragement to pursue their duties humbly and dependently until years of consecrated service have brought with them the experience so necessary in the model minister.

So much of the ministers success depends on the character and position of the Theological Seminary in which he has studied that from the graduate to the college is but a step. In Principal MacVicar's interesting review of the college work at Montreal will be found many facts upon which to frame congratulations. It is indeed a pleasure to glance at the history of the year's work and to observe the steady progress, the results achieved and the happy prosperity which reigns all around. May the worthy Principal and his able staff have many such facts to relate in long years to come and may they have much comfort and joy in their great work. Nor was Principal Caven without an excellent record to place before the people gathered together at Knox College. "Old Knox" as it is affectionately called never fails to attract its friends in large numbers to Convocation. The unveiling of the late Professor Thomson's portrait—a successful effort of the artist—was a very pleasing feature of the proceedings. It was a timely and appropriate gift to the college by the Alumni and its place on the college walls will be honored highly by generations of students, by whom the memory of the late Professor will be kept green. Dr. Caven's appeal will be listened to throughout the Church. Let it be carefully pondered. Need of a Library or Convocation Building apart from the College but near it is very clear to those aware of the necessities of this institution. The statement as to the finances leaves nothing to be desired in the way of explicitness. As put by the Board it ought to elicit a prompt and liberal return. We repeat the main clause of the statement in which the claims of the College are put with great force: "The desire of the Board is to make the College in every way worthy of the support of the Presbyterian Church. Knox College has been honored in educating a large percentage of the ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The position of the College, in close proximity to and in affiliation with the university, renders it a matter of necessity that the College should be maintained in a high state of efficiency. The depression in business, the reduction in the rate of interest, and other things have resulted in a great reduction in the annual income of the College, and an effort is being made to meet the deficiency. The Western section of Ontario, and very specially the City of Toronto, should be interested in maintaining this valued institution in such a position as will render it worthy of the Church. A meeting will be held ere long to consider a proposition to be made to relieve the College of its present embarrassment and establish it upon a firmer financial basis. Meantime the friends of Knox should take account of the necessities of the College in their arrangement of contributions for the year."

Rev. John McNeill's Work. of late in the press of Rev. John McNeill's movements, he has been busily and successfully engaged in evangelistic work in Australia and we have an interesting account of a typical experience

related by him, of a trip on a bicycle to the mining locations far from the centres of civilization in the great colony, which we may give to our readers when space is a little easier than at present. From Australia he went to India and is holding forth there. A Calcutta paper thus describes his preaching: Mr. McNeill preaches the undiluted Gospel; after his departure the city pastors will have no need to purge the minds of their hearers from unsound doctrine, gleaned from ignorant preachers of crude theology.

The Celts of Wales A contemporary says: "A writer in *and Scotland*. the *British Weekly* calls attention to the different treatment that the Welsh have received at the hands of the Church of England from that which the Highlanders of Scotland have received from the Presbyterian establishment. In Wales the preferments have always been of English clergymen who understood not a word of Welsh; in Scotland there has never been but one presentation of a minister who could not preach in Gaelic, and that early in the present century, and then the communicants refused to sign the call. The matter was appealed from Presbytery to synod and from synod to General Assembly; and from that time to this the principle has been universally accepted. The comparison is scarcely fair. Without in any way minimizing the hardship entailed by the practice in Wales, it must be borne in mind that in Scotland, the Presbyterians elect their own ministers, even in the Established Church. Since the abolition of patronage and prior to that, back to 1843 the bulk of the Highland people were of the Free Church with perfect freedom in the choice of their pastors. In the Church of England ministers are appointed, not elected by the people.

The Freewill Offering. Two facts, not creditable to those concerned, are related by a correspondent from Moore, Ont., in the *Montreal Witness*. "Some time ago" he says "I sent out collectors for the Upper Canada Bible Society. The district gone over was in length over six and a half miles, and embraced over six thousand nine hundred acres, all owned by parties who are in most comfortable positions, many wealthy, with their tens of thousands. In this fine tract of country the Bible Society reaped six dollars. . . . The other instance is the case of an anniversary service. At the services on Sunday no less than three hundred persons were present. The collection at both services was under nine dollars. The following evening there was an entertainment in the same place, and a five cent admittance—result, over fifty dollars; the first amount given for listening to the gospel, the second for the privilege of eating, drinking and being merry. The correspondent draws attention to a very serious state of affairs in the church. "Free will offerings," he continues, "Such as God requires are almost unknown, in this community, at least. Collectors are looked upon as intruders, and often treated as such, being met with the rebuff, 'Why don't you get up an entertainment, that's the way to make money, if it is money you are after.'"

In another column will be found the annual statement of the Standard Life Assurance Co. The company was established in 1825 it is still vigorous, and continues to do a safe and increasing business. The Standard has 11,000,000 of dollars invested in Canadian securities, and has returned to its policy holders in the shape of bonus additions, \$27,000,000. The rates are as low as any other first class company, and offers good means for investment. Liberal terms to clergymen. Toronto offices, Bank of Commerce Building, King St. J. W. KERR, Cashier.