

a mount of money appropriated for labor, and also to decline an entrance into new and inviting fields. The Board thinks now of restoring the appropriations to the former scale, and also of extending their operations. And still they have some fears. During the months of Summer and early Autumn, their receipts have usually been small; but their confidence in the church is such, that they will risk the incurring of some little debt during the dry season.

The work of the Board is now carried on with great economy, as well as efficiency. No paid travelling agents are employed. The Western Agency at Louisville is abolished. The South Western Advisory Committee, at New Orleans, is dispensed with. One Secretary attends to the work of the Board. The expenses of the Office at Philadelphia have been reduced upwards of \$3,000. The Board is now in a condition in which it can be commended most heartily to the churches. It is no more a leaky conduit, wasting your gratuities in their passage to the needy. It conveys them without extravagant absorptions.

Make it then the channel of your rich liberality. Show that your complaints of waste, were not excuses for parsimony. The receipts, at all the Treasuries, during the year, March 1, 1861 to March 1, 1862 were \$101,126.83; and the Payments, \$100,526.23. The falling off from the previous year was owing to the rebellion in the South, and the trouble in the border States.

The resolutions passed by the Assembly, highly approve of the Board's operations. The Assembly abolishes the Agencies and Committees at Louisville, New Orleans, and San Francisco. It also strongly recommends an increase in the number of itinerating missionaries, and the arranging, by Presbyteries, of circuits for itineraries within their own bounds. Almost all our Presbyteries have some very feeble churches, and some neighborhoods remote from places of worship, where the people should be cared for, and where churches might soon be formed. To properly attend to these, such Presbyteries need an itinerating missionary, and some Presbyteries need even two or more such laborers. This is a feature of the work of preaching the Gospel to the poor, which we already see in some Presbyteries (Huntingdon, for example) and which we hope may become common. Preach the Gospel to every creature; and by all means, to those whom God has made your fellow-citizens and near neighbors.

## EDUCATION.

The business of the Board of Education excited a very deep interest in the Assembly. In its bearing upon Zion's character and enlargement, it is inferior to no department of our Church polity. Without men we can have no missionaries, no pastors and teachers, no defenders of the faith, and not even books to read. We must have men; consecrated men; men called of God, well trained, and imbued with his Spirit. The called and the imputed are found, partly, in the poorer walks of life. The training of such for the work of the ministry, requires not only Schools, Colleges, and Seminaries. It requires, also, the means of sustentation. To bear this burden requires united effort. It is to be done by the many; by the Church; and to accomplish it, is the aim of our Board of Education.

This Board, in common with the others, was pressed with difficulties during the last year. For a time it was much in debt. At the close of its last year it was relieved in part, but not entirely, from this burden. The falling off in the Board's receipts for the Candidates' fund, has been \$6,209.51. This decrease caused great anxiety. Why do the churches diminish their contributions? The troublous times does not fully account for it. And what shall the Board do? What shall the Assembly direct?

Under the apprehension that possibly all the candidates do not come up to the expectations of the Church, the Assembly devoted much time to the consideration of measures by which the standard might be raised. The last Assembly had directed recommendations of the candidates, by the Presbyteries, from year to year, in order to a continuance of aid. This Assembly has enjoined the forwarding to the Presbyteries, yearly, of certificates from teachers and Professors, stating the candidates' progress, piety, habits of industry, &c. These measures will do much, not only to the stimulating of young men to growing attainment; in whatever is good; it will also lead to the detection and dismissal of the unworthy.

The Secretary, Dr. CHESTER, said, that as was the Board's anxiety for funds, it was vastly deeper for the character of its candidates. And well might he say so. The importance of having good men, and only good men, in the ministry, cannot be duly estimated. And the Boards success before the churches depends upon the character of those who are under its care. Its cause is sadly damaged by even a few defections. A thousand stars may deck the firmament, each shining in brilliancy, and none be the subjects of notice. It is the falling star which attracts the eye. So the erring candidate is seen and remarked upon, when a score of the most worthy are unnoticed.

The burden of remark in the Assembly, was the neglect of Presbyteries to attend duly to the introduction of young men, and to a wholesome supervision of their progress. The Board receives none but those whom the Presbyteries recommend, and will continue none on its funds without duly renewed recommendations. The responsibility rests in the proper place.

The number of candidates the past year, was three hundred and seventy-five, being one hundred and thirty less than the previous year. This reduction was owing to the withdrawal of the South, to the fact that a portion of our young men volunteered

in their country's service, and to the knowledge that the Board was straitened for funds.

UNION OF OLD AND NEW-SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES.

This subject was brought up by overtures from the Presbyteries of Ogdensburg, San Francisco, Oxford, and Madison. It had, however, no ardent advocate. And still they have some fears.

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