

ple so generous and so essentially christian, and we trust, that whatever local difficulties may be felt, no individual or congregation will do ought to damage or depreciate it, or hinder the early introduction of it, into the youthful Canadian Church. It may seem to bear hard on the congregations in towns, where the expense of living is comparatively great, and where efforts will naturally and properly be made to secure the services of eminent Ministers: but we are persuaded, that under proper management, the resources of such congregations will be found, after a little time, fully equal to the requirements of the scheme—and if they should temporarily fall short in some small degree, no Minister will allow his personal interest to stand in the way of so great a public benefit. If this self-denying principle is not to have free course amongst us, from first to last, we may at once make up our minds to divide into a mere sect, renounce our designation, as identifying us with the length and breadth of Canada, and cease to claim kindred and fellowship with those devoted, self-denying, large-minded, and large-hearted men, who are stamping so noble a character on the Free Church of Scotland. In regard to any peculiar case, it is obvious, that the Sustentation Board will be quite able and willing to adapt its arrangements, for the present, to its circumstances, without injury to the general system. As to the details of management, which the Commission issued on its own responsibility, in connexion with the Sustentation Scheme—it will now be made plain, as it might have been to all from the beginning, that their adoption is in no way essential to the working out of the Scheme itself, and that they were merely intended as recommendations, or useful suggestions to congregations. We trust, therefore, that no congregation will conceive it necessary to decide on the merit of each or all of these details, before adopting and acting on the principle of the Scheme,—all that is essentially requisite, is to resolve that whatever they can raise for the support of the Ministry, be placed periodically in the Sustentation Fund, whether it is obtained by pew rents, termly contributions, or collections, or in all these ways, and whether by the agency of Deacons, Trustees, Managers, or otherwise; all this, however important in itself, is really quite immaterial to the working out of the Sustentation principle. The details will, of course, come up for discussion in the Synod, with all the advantage of the intermediate experience and consideration in the various congregations: but it would be worse than useless, to make any present discussion of them a plea for the postponement of a general and hearty concurrence in the great christian undertaking, to which they relate.

We shall endeavour, in future numbers, to put our readers in possession of such information as may enable them to form a sound judgement in regard to the details, especially on the subject of the Deaconship, in regard to which, it will appear, that we have need to commit ourselves, in this department of the Church's organization, to the Divine authority and wisdom of the Bible, instead of trusting, as hitherto, to mere human ingenuity, or a carnal expediency, which can only be satisfied by casting into abeyance and neglect, a scriptural office in the Church of Christ.

The deputations, appointed by the Presbytery of Hamilton, to visit their extensive bounds, have commenced their important work. Their commission is to preach the Gospel: to explain the position and principles of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and the reasons of her separation from the Scottish establishment; as also to remove the difficulties experienced, in any congregation, in regard to the Sustentation Scheme. With respect to this last object, we are happy to say that nothing now remains to be done; inasmuch as the large and intelligent congregation at Galt, in which alone any hesitation was manifested, entered, not only with unanimity, but with the most manifest cordiality, into the Scheme, when they found that

the adoption of its various details was not indispensable. We believe that every congregation on the Roll of the Presbytery of Hamilton, has now adopted the Scheme. This Presbytery is availing itself of the assistance of laymen in their visitations. The President of the Sustentation Board accompanied the deputation to Galt, in accordance with the Commission's recommendation.

We see it stated in the newspapers, that we may speedily expect another Deputation from the Free Church of Scotland—consisting of the Rev. Messrs. BAGO, of Libberton, and BONAR, of Larbert—who were to set out on their mission sometime in the present month. It is also stated, that several Ministers intend coming out to settle permanently, in Canada and Nova Scotia. It is impossible for us to express the gratification we experience at this announcement, which will diffuse joy throughout the borders of our infant Church.—May the Lord prosper these devoted and eminent servants on their journey, and bring them to our shores in safety and comfort. We trust the explanations which the Moderator of the Synod has transmitted to Dr. Burns, will remove every obstacle out of his way, and that we soon may be able to announce the period fixed for his removal to Toronto.

Want of room prevents us from making any observations on the proceedings of the Commission in regard to the contemplated measure for the remodelling of King's College constitution. The interests of the Presbyterian Church will, however, be carefully attended to by the gentlemen composing the committee to which this matter has been referred, and we are sure the Church generally will be ready to second them in any step they may deem advisable to recommend in regard to it.

We feel interested to refer our readers to the letter of the settlers at Owen's Sound, addressed to Mr. Bayne, of Galt. By a statistical account of that recent settlement, we find that it already contains 652 Presbyterians, who have united in this application to the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

We hope to have some interesting accounts to lay before our readers in our next number from our missionaries—as also to find room for the committee's report on Home Missionary operations. Mr. Leishman is now laboring in Lower Canada.

TESTIMONIAL.

A deputation from the united congregation of Knox's Church, Toronto, presented, on New Year's Day, to the Rev. James Harris, for many years pastor of the First Presbyterian congregation, a handsome gold watch, with the following inscription:—

“Presented, to the Rev. James Harris, by members of the First Presbyterian Church of York, and others, late of St. Andrew's Church, now united with them, and jointly forming the congregation of Knox's Church, Toronto, in token of the high esteem in which he is held by them.
Toronto, 1st January, 1845.”

At the same time, an elegant gold watch was presented to Mrs. Harris, being the gift of the ladies of the same connexion.

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF SYNOD.

The Commission of the Presbyterian Church of Canada met at Hamilton, pursuant to the Synod's appointment, on the evening of the 15th ult.—the Rev. Mr. Stark of Dundas in the chair. After the devotional exercises, and some conversation and arrangement respecting the matters requiring the attention of the Commission, it was agreed to adjourn the meeting till the succeeding day. The Commission accordingly met on the morning of the 16th, and was closely engaged until a late hour in the afternoon.

The Moderator gave in a communication from the Government Office intimating that those

Ministers who had withdrawn from connexion with the established Church of Scotland could, in the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, no longer receive their allowances.

The Commission proceeded to consider the following applications by Presbyteries for leave to receive Ministers of other Churches applying for admission into the Presbyterian Church of Canada, viz.: that of the Presbytery of Toronto, in behalf of the Rev. William Howden, of the Associate Reformed Church, in the State of New York; that of the Presbytery of Kingston in behalf of the Rev. Alexander Luke, Licentiate of the Scottish Relief Church, and recently connected with the Associate Reformed Church; and that of the Presbytery of Hamilton in behalf of the Rev. Thomas Scott, a Licentiate of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, ordained in June last, a few weeks before the disruption, as minister of the congregation at Simcoe, in the Talbot District, by the Presbytery of Hamilton, and remaining hitherto in the Presbytery connected with the Scottish establishment. The Act of Synod “respecting the admission of Preachers and Ministers of other Churches,” (see Record for November,) and the documents transmitted by the Presbyteries respecting their applications having been read, it was found that the requirements of the Act had been in all respects fulfilled in the case of Mr. Howden; and the Presbytery of Toronto was authorised to admit him as a Minister of this Church. In the cases of Messrs. Luke and Scott, it was found that while the Presbyteries of Kingston and Hamilton had substantial evidence before them of the good standing of these parties respectively, in the bodies with which they were previously connected, they had not been furnished with the usual Presbyterial certificates, which, according to the Act of Synod, are indispensable to the reception of such applicants. These Presbyteries were accordingly instructed to require the production of such certificates, and were authorised, in the event of their being found satisfactory, to admit Messrs. Luke and Scott as Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

The Commission then proceeded to consider the progress of the Sustentation Fund Scheme, the arrangements respecting which were devolved on them by the Synod; and the members present were called on in order by the Moderator to state the steps which had been taken in their several congregations, in regard to the Scheme, or any authentic information on the same subject, as to the reception it had met with in other parts of the Church. These statements possessed considerable interest; so far as they went it appeared that the Scheme had been adopted in the great majority of congregations, and was likely to operate most satisfactorily; the sums subscribed, or likely to be subscribed, being greatly in advance of what had usually been contributed for the support of the Ministry under the old system. Difficulties and objections, of a somewhat conflicting character, respecting some of the details of the Scheme, as recommended by the Commission, seemed to have been felt in most congregations, but the general principle appeared to have commended itself to the cordial approval of all, with two exceptions, Toronto and Galt, and even in these cases, although it was reported that they had rejected the Scheme wholly, it did not appear whether this had been done on the ground of a disapproval of the principle, or merely of the details.

In the discussion which arose in reference to these statements, it was agreed on all hands that, as the details of the Scheme, not having the authority of the Synod, were merely intended as a model for the direction of congregations, in the new circumstances of the Church, and not authoritatively prescribed by the Commission; and as they would necessarily come up for consideration at the next meeting of the Synod, with the intermediate experience, and the fully reported views of the several congregations in regard to them, it was unnecessary and irregular to enter into further consideration of them; but it also seemed to be the