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**THE RECORD.**

**PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.**—The Clerk requests us to intimate that the next ordinary Meeting of this Presbytery, will be holden at Hamilton on the 2d Wednesday of May, at noon.

A Meeting of the Synod's Educational Committee, (as also of the Home Mission Committee,) will be holden at Toronto on the 26th inst. at 10 o'clock, A. M., preparatory to the close of the Theological Session.

We present in this No. of the Record a variety of important documents connected with the interests of our Church, and besides excluding many additional interesting articles, which we had prepared, we find we have scarcely left ourselves room here either to notice what seems to us specially requiring the attention of our readers, or to refer to what has been omitted. A report of the proceedings taken at the late adjourned Meeting of Commission, will be found in our columns, which, although necessarily brief, shews substantially all that was said and done on the occasion. Some discussion was introduced at this Meeting on the subject of the Deaconship—respecting which office not a little misapprehension seems to exist. We beg our readers to peruse carefully the extracts we have given in this number on that subject.—They exhibit the views which have all along been held in the Church of Scotland, and so far as we know, in all sound Presbyterian Churches, in regard to this divinely appointed office of the Christian Church. In present circumstances a precious opportunity is given to the Presbyterian Church of Canada to investigate every part of her economy, and to bring it, practically, in all respects, into strict accordance with the Scriptural model, and the venerable Standards which we inherit from our wise and pious ancestors. In no respect, perhaps, has there been a wider or more manifest deviation from these, than in the matter of the Deaconship, and the duties pertaining to that office; and in the confusion, negligence, and inefficiency, which has so generally characterised the management of the pecuniary affairs of our Churches, and which, in not a few instances, has actually caused the removal of the stated ministrations of the Gospel from among large congregations, we see some of the consequences of disregarding or overlooking the appointments of the Great Head of the Church, and of substituting human device and expediency, for Divine wisdom. We trust that whatever farther discussion the subject may undergo, will be conducted with christian moderation and candour, and with a single hearted desire to ascertain and conform to the mind of God, so far as it may have been made known to us in this respect, by His Word. We only subjoin two questions, which, we think, if carefully considered and followed out, may help our readers to just and safe conclusions, in regard to the matter in hand. 1st. Has Christ or His Apostles furnished the Church with anything in the way of precept or precedent, as to the management of her pecuniary and other secular matters? If this be answered in the affirmative, the duty of the Church is obvious. But 2d. Assuming that the Deacon's office is a standing one in the Church, we ask, what would you give Deacons to do? While no one ventures to denounce the Deaconship, there are not a few who advocate principles which would

leave the Deacon nothing to do, and thus virtually annihilate the office. It seems clear that we must either abrogate the office, regardless of its Divine authority, or else we must leave the Deacon in the exercise of his functions, subject to the responsibilities under which every other ordained office-bearer of the Church acts. This, at least, is Presbyterianism. But we cannot prosecute the subject at present. We have no doubt, however, that not only our Church Courts, but the Christian people generally, will soon arrive at a sound, Scriptural and thoroughly Presbyterian conclusion in regard to it.

We would direct the attention of Presbyteries to the suggestions prepared by the Synod's Committee, in regard to our Home Missionary operations, and in connection with this important matter, we would remind Presbyteries, that several of the Theological Students, though not yet ready for License, may be employed as Catechists, during the recess, with much advantage to the Church and themselves: and that Presbyteries desiring to avail themselves of the services of the Students in this capacity, should immediately forward applications to this effect, stating the fields of labour designed for them, and the amount of salary which would be provided. It will be observed that the Synod's H. M. Committee is to meet at Toronto, on the 26th instant.

At a meeting of the Synod's Educational Committee, on the 26th ult., John M'Murrich, Esq., of Toronto, was appointed General Treasurer of their funds, Mr. Shaw having found it necessary to resign the office, on account of the multiplicity of other duties to the Church which he has to perform. Congregations which have not yet been able to make collections in behalf of the Theological Institute, are requested to do so without delay, remitting through the nearest local Treasurer to Mr. M'Murrich. We rejoice to say that the Seminary goes on most prosperously. Two additional Students of much promise, and already well advanced in general education, were admitted at last meeting of the Committee, to the literary and scientific classes, and the Professors report in the most satisfactory terms respecting the diligence, progress, and whole deportment of the Students. It will be gratifying to most of our readers to know, that there are now fourteen young men, having views to the Ministry, in actual attendance, exclusively of the two who have been presented from enrolling themselves this session. Mr. Esson, aided by some of the Students, has undertaken the instruction of a few junior pupils, at the earnest request of some families in Toronto. This beginning will, we think, ripen at no distant day, into an important preparatory School.

We have now the pleasure of announcing the final determination of Dr. Burns to accept of the call from Knox's Church, Toronto, and the charge of the Theological Institute of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. He is to sail early in May. We would willingly enrich our columns with extracts from his powerful address to the congregation of St. George's, Paisley, when they agreed to abstain from opposing his translation; as also from Mr. Macnaughtan's address, delivered at a meeting of upwards of 2000 persons, in Cannonmills Hall, Edinburgh, on his return from Canada; but we must reserve them for a future occasion.

It is with extreme regret that we find ourselves unable to make room for the circular of the Sustentation Board.

**ADJOURNED MEETING OF  
COMMISSION.**

The Commission of Synod met in Knox's Church, Toronto, pursuant to adjournment, on the 26th ult. With the Moderator, the Rev. Mark Y. Stark, of Dundas, there were present the Rev. Messrs. Esson, Harris, King, Rintoul, and Gale, Ministers, and Mr. Westland, Elder. The Commission having been constituted with prayer, and the minutes of last meeting read, the Moderator stated that the principal object of the adjournment was to afford Presbyteries an opportunity for taking the necessary steps, for explaining and recommending to congregations, the Sustentation Scheme, and to report the results of their diligence in the matter to this meeting; in order that the Sustentation Board might be enabled to enter on their duties with efficiency. From the shortness of the interval, several Presbyteries had been unable to accomplish the duties in question, in a regular way, or to prepare and forward full reports; but statements were received from each of them, which were communicated to the Commission. From these it appeared that the principle of the Scheme had been adopted and acted upon by all the congregations of the Presbytery of Hamilton, with the exception of Stratford and Tucker Smith, which had not yet been heard from, by the congregation of Streetsville, of the Presbytery of Toronto, the only one in that Presbytery which in circumstances to be placed on the Fund, with the exception of Knox's Church, by all the congregations of the Presbyteries of Cobourg, except Cayuga, which the Presbytery was about to visit; and by the congregation of Fenton, in the Presbytery of Kingston. The report from this Presbytery intimated that the chief difficulties hindering the general introduction of the Scheme, so far as its principle is concerned, were circumstances in the previous financial condition of most of the congregations. Only one of the congregations of the Presbytery of Montreal was heard from, viz., Lacoste, in which the principle of the Scheme had been cordially acceded to, and the adoption of it only delayed on account of previous difficulties in their finances. These reports and statements having been considered, the Commission resolved that the information thus obtained be communicated to the Sustentation Board, and that the recommendation be renewed to Presbyteries, to visit without delay those congregations, within their bounds respectively, which have not yet taken the necessary steps to place themselves on the general Sustentation Fund, and to report the results of such visitations to the Secretary of the Sustentation Board, on or before the 31st March. The Commission further recommended that Presbyteries forthwith take the various details of the Sustentation Scheme into consideration; ascertain as fully as possible, the obstacles and objections that may tend to hinder their general adoption, or their satisfactory working, and mature their views in regard to every part of these details, and report fully on the subject to the Synod, at next meeting thereof.

The Commission had next brought under their notice the contemplated measure for the re-modelling of King's College; and after some conversation agreed to a resolution instructing their Committee at Montreal to direct their particular attention to the conditions which the measure may impose on Christian bodies desiring to establish Theological Colleges in connexion with the University, and