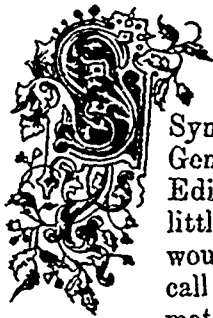


THE PRESBYTERIAN.

JULY, 1865.



SO much space has this month been devoted to the proceedings of the Synod at Ottawa, and of the General Assembly held at Edinburgh, that we have left little room for remarks. We would very briefly, therefore, call attention to one or two matters connected with the work of the Church, and its proper development, leaving more extended notice to a future time. As affecting the management of the various Schemes of the Church we gladly notice the recommendation of the Committee appointed to consider the overture from the Presbytery of Glengary on the subject of the appointment of a general agent to take charge of the Schemes of the Church. The Committee reported after careful consideration, and suggested, which was agreed to by the Synod, that a Committee be appointed to devise measures for advancing the Schemes of the Church, with authority to appoint an agent,—Mr. James Croil being recommended. We have often pointed out not merely the expediency but the necessity for such an appointment being made. Mr. Croil is a man of energy, a fluent speaker, a ready writer, and a man full of zeal for the Church. His duties for some time to come will be arduous, for he will have to labour to arouse the feeling that has been allowed to slumber, that of self-dependence on the part of our congregations; and not merely self-dependence, but a desire for extension, that longing to carry on, what Dr. Chalmers used to call the work of excavation, a willingness to help those more necessitous than themselves, to wage a war of aggression upon infidelity, indifference, irreligion, every form of vice, wherever found, and more particularly to lend their means and their support to carry on the work of the Gospel by well devised and well executed

efforts in the Home Mission field. Nor is this the most of the work. Systematic supervision must be carried on over every congregation, new sets of books must be arranged that shall give at a glance the position of each Scheme, and what each charge has contributed, so that while the willing may not be overlooked, the laggard may be stirred up to proper exertion. Connected with this subject, and contained in the same resolution, is the recommendation to the Committee to regard the payment of the regular allowance to every minister on the roll as the first object to be aimed at. We do not believe this is beyond the reach of the members of our Church. The Home Mission Fund has never been brought so prominently and persistently before our congregations as it should have been; and we do not believe, if a steady effort were made, that it would take many years to add from the contributions of the adherents of our Church, a sum at least equivalent to that so nobly handed over for their benefit by the ministers who might have used it themselves, and to whom it legally belonged.

The curriculum for students in Queen's College has been more closely assimilated to that of the Scotch Universities. The same length of time has now to be spent in preparing for the work of the ministry. Such being the case, it would be well to consider next, the propriety of taking steps to have our Canadian students received by the Church courts in Scotland, on an equal footing with Scotch students. We do not know that, practically, much inconvenience is now felt from the want of this recognition; but if we receive, our students ought also to be received; and, now that all reason for refusing this recognition has ceased, we have no doubt they will be so.

In the General Assembly it will be seen, by the extracts we give, that a very full and interesting debate took place on the