

and strict adherence to, the voluntary principle. It has worked wonders in the Mother Country, and in the United States,—and in our beloved Canada it may, and should have full scope. We are not burdened with poor laws and other heavy taxes, nor oppressed with a State Church ; so that we have good opportunities of developing the power and excellence of this God-like principle. We live in a land abounding with all good things. God has graciously given us fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. Trade and commerce is in a thrifty state ; and the labourer is well remunerated for his daily toil. The Father of Lights is pouring His gifts into your laps, and increasing your wealth, and thereby increasing your responsibility ; therefore, as stewards of the manifold gifts of God, contribute freely of your substance to the support of your Ministers and of the Missionary cause, and of every other good institution designed to better the state of the world. What is appropriated to winning souls to Christ and the enlargement of his Church, and thereby helping to people heaven, is treasure that shall abide, and afford you endless satisfaction in glory, when houses and landed estates, and all earthly goods, shall have passed into oblivion. Come then, dear Brethren, “give as the Lord hath prospered you.” Let not the subscriptions of by-gone years, when provisions were cheap, and you were in more humble circumstances than you now are, be the rule of your giving : but as God hath abounded toward you in all goodness, may you abound in gratitude and gifts to Him,—

“To whom our more than all is due.”

The necessary advance of your Ministers' salaries call for enlarged contributions at your hands ; and no doubt you will cheerfully respond unto this claim. It was found by calculation that, if *five shillings* per member per quarter could be raised by public collections, quarterage, &c., we should have ample funds to meet every demand, and to carry on the work of God with increased vigour. Many of our members far exceed that sum, while others are much below it. But let us all do what we can, that it may be said to us in the last Day, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” Brethren, the time is short, “the Judge is at the door.” Our Fathers and Brethren are passing away from our midst. Two of our worthy ministers, viz., Brother M. Nicholls and Brother J. R. Stephenson, were suddenly called from us during the past year, beside 34 Church Members, whom we hope ere long to meet in heaven,—

“Our change will soon come.”

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