

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

FEBRUARY, 1863.

We rejoice to learn from the report of Dr. Cook, which will be found in another column, that the plan pointed out in the circular, which appeared in our last number, is already a real success. In the short space of six weeks funds enough (no less than \$2490.46) have been realized from its working, to enable the board to pay the whole of the ministers on the roll, the half year's stipend. This is a hopeful augury for the future. It speaks well for the energy and vitality of our church, and rebukes the envious and contemptible spirit displayed in a recent article in a Free Church contemporary, which gloated over our supposed misfortunes. But, while enough has been accomplished to shew what can be done, patient work will be required from the Committee, and a steady and generous support must be accorded to them by the whole church. If all our congregations, rich and poor, strong and weak, adopt the plan and give according to their ability, the Home Mission Scheme will be placed on a sound and substantial basis, and the extension of the Church will be secured. An annual sum of £1,200 from our whole Church is after all but a comparatively small amount, and will by a little system be easily raised. We have confidence in the energy and ability of the Committee charged with the prosecution of the Scheme, and we have faith in the zeal and Christian liberality of our people. And they will, we are assured, respond heartily to the appeals that will require from time to time to be made to them to support this effort, which will, as the Committee well observes, be in its practical results equal, if successful, to an additional permanent endowment of £20,000.

Let us then, as a Church, work heartily for this Scheme, feeling that it is worthy of all our efforts and calculated to accomplish a large measure of real good. But let us also bear in mind, that mere fitful efforts will not suffice, but that steady,

united, vigorous action will alone meet the necessities of our advancing and steadily extending Church.

We have a work to do in this land—a work that others less happily situated, cannot so successfully perform. Let us then evince a real appreciation of the nature of that work, and as real a willingness to discharge its duties, in order that we may exert our proper influence in shaping the character of the people of this young country.

In another part of this number will be found a letter from the Rev. James Mair, M. A., of Martintown, in answer to the article in our last number. In his former letter, in this letter he complains that an imaginary party to whom he credits the authorship has sadly perverted his words. That a person who has set about combating a mythical existence should make such a complaint is nothing to be wondered at; but that the person who has reduced himself to this position, should be the Minister of one of our leading country congregations, the whole church, we are sure, will join with us in deploring. But apart from the antecedents and consequents of the complaint, let us look at its actual merits.

"In my first letter then," says Mr. Mair, "two conditions are mentioned, subject to which I hold the Synod legally indebted to pay me year by year the sum of £50; and the most important is expressed in these words,"—and, though we printed his letter in the same number as that in which our article was written, and exactly as it appeared in the *Toronto Globe*, in the *Free Church Organ*, and as it was sent to Dr. Cook—he complains that "these words" are withheld. However, as "these words" express reasoning perfectly unique and such as our readers may not have been accustomed to, we shall give them again. Here they are—"But I distinctly assert that so long as the remainder of the fund continues to be divided among the forty-two twenty-one, I