

assured him will incapacitate him from public speaking. Mr. McQuarrie, in the most honourable manner, at once signified his intention of repaying to the Scheme all that he had received from it, only asking that he should be allowed to repay it in the same gradual way in which it had been received.

The great cause of complaint at the Synod this year was that so many congregations had neglected to make the collections enjoined, and that therefore all our schemes were in a low financial state. Such conduct must prove ruinous, for willing congregations will not suffer much longer the grievous inequality of burden under which they now struggle. How can ministers, sessions, or people excuse themselves from the support of the general burdens of the Church, on the plea of local difficulties or peculiarities, when it must be well known that every congregation has its own trials, debts, and troubles, and that therefore such a plea could serve all, and resolve us into independency at once. Those schemes were agreed on by all as essential to the being or well-being of the Church; the end of them cannot be attained except by united, harmonious action, and it is most selfish and cruel for any to forget or forswear the brotherly covenant, and to save himself at the expense of others. The most stringent measures must be adopted towards defaulting congregations, or we must renounce general schemes, and the name of Presbyterians altogether. It is unpleasant to name particular congregations, but we beg the readers of the *Record* to read the Treasurer's Accounts and to "mark" for themselves the places omitted, and then to ask if such neglect of duty is consistent with Baptism or Elder or Ordination vows.

The Cape Breton Mission was brought before the Synod in a clear and eloquent manner by Mr. Brodie. There is cause for regret that there was no other Gaelic missionary who could be sent at once to that interesting island; but we learn that the Colonial Committee have secured the services of one who will probably be sent, and next year we expect Mr. Fraser from Scotland, one of our own young men, whose Gaelic was learned on the East River of Pictou. Our mission to Cape Breton has given occasion to some of the United Presbyterians to indulge in a good deal of unreasonable clamour, and charges of the gravest kind have been freely made against our ministers, though proof has not been offered in a single case. What can be the use of such acrimony, or is it an axiom with our brethren that Cape Breton is a preserve of theirs, not to be entered upon by us on any account? They are increasing the number of their ministers there. Dr. McLeod assures his Synod that more labourers are still needed. Why, then, may we not take part in the good work, especially when the people are anxious to have services from our ministers! The answer of our brethren sub-

stantially is, "Oh we represent common Presbyterianism, while you represent only a single Church or sect"—a convenient line of argument, certainly, which might just as easily be reversed, and therefore our brethren had better banish it from their minds, or there can be little use in "fraternal greetings."

An interesting discussion took place on Sabbath Schools, which brought to light the fact that those valuable nurseries of the Church in almost every district of the country were not denominational, but "mixed," i. e., taught and attended by persons of all the various bodies of Christians living in each settlement. Hence the difficulty of any one denomination taking the matter in hand, of appointing a committee to superintend, to gather statistics, to issue a scheme of lessons, or in fact to do anything that would not be misunderstood. Perhaps a conjoint action of the Churches may arise out of a state of affairs so peculiar, and, let us add, so desirable.

The Report on the Home Mission pointed out that whereas congregations were expected to make the enjoined collections in aid of the Synodical Fund, and to raise, by any other means, as much as possible for the support of weak congregations and stations within the bounds of their own Presbytery, there was no return for either purpose from not a few of our most important places. The Home Mission Board is to go into this matter more fully at the next Synod, and every defaulting congregation must then expect something more than severest criticism.

On the whole, the last meeting of the Synod was all that could be desired, as far as the importance and practical utility of the measures discussed, and the Christian zeal and harmony of all the members present, were concerned. Next year we meet at New Glasgow, and on the last Tuesday, instead of the last Wednesday of June, that the sermon may be preached and the court constituted on the Tuesday evening, so that business may be proceeded with at once on the Wednesday forenoon. For five successive years we have met at the same places as the sister Synod. Now, as they are to unite with the Free Church of New Brunswick, we diverge, and it may be years before we again meet in the same town. But, present or absent, we wish them well, and we pray for peace. As for our own dear Church, God's blessing is upon her, and we must be true to her. In these Lower Provinces we have not numerical strength, but nevertheless we are strong:

G. M. G.

Instrumental Music in Churches.

MR. EDITOR:—

THERE has lately been a great deal said on instrumental aid in public praise, in the *Record* of the Church. I did intend a piece for insertion in March number, but, owing to circum-