

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

AUGUST, 1870.

WE congratulate the Synod on the decision arrived at in regard to the Temporalities' Fund and the future management of the Synod's Home Mission; not so much on account of the principle adopted—for we have already expressed preference for a slightly different mode of dealing with the revenues of the church, but, rather, because of the honest and manly tone of the debate, as well as for the manifestation of that, which is above all things necessary to useful legislation—a conciliatory spirit. The whole discussion was creditable to all who took part in it, and was happily free from the extravagances and acerbities, that too often find utterance, when money matters come under consideration in the courts of the Church. And, although, as the main principle involved gradually assumed definite form, no small diversity of opinion became apparent, there was yet enough of earnest desire on the part of all to reach some plan whereby the Church at large might be permanently benefited to lead the stoutest objectors to waive personal predilections, and to make common cause with the majority who advocate the immediate creation of a sustentation fund as the best remedy for the financial embarrassment that has been pressing heavily on the Church for some years past.

It was felt and acknowledged by all that, while the system under which the Synod's Home Mission Scheme has been sustained since the secularization of the Reserves, has been on the whole tolerably successful, the Church has now assumed dimensions requiring greater efforts, and financial ability to enter upon a work by which expression would be given to larger views respecting ministerial remuneration and support. It is not necessary that we here undertake to defend the sustentation principle, because that is the peculiar function of the Susten-

tation Board; enough that a distinct outline be given of the new system upon which the Church has entered. And, first, we would say, that the change involves consequences of vital moment. Upon the success or failure of the sustentation scheme now adopted depends, in a large measure, the future prosperity, if not, indeed, the existence of the Church. Having deliberately put our hand to the plough, there must be no looking back, save to learn from the past lessons of wisdom. With the current half-year the "contingent account" will be closed. On this account, at least, there will be no more *special appeals*, nor "spasmodic efforts." We have done with "Synodical deductions." The duties of the Temporalities' Board will henceforth be restricted solely to the management of the invested fund, and, whatever amount of revenue will remain at their disposal from year to year, after satisfying the claims of commuting and privileged ministers, will be employed in the payment of two hundred dollars a year to as many of the other ministers as this fund will allow. For the rest, we boldly, and trustfully, throw ourselves on the sympathies of the Church at large.

On the 31st of December next, there will be *forty* claimants for the commutation allowance of \$225 each, and *nine*, for the sum of \$200 each. Queen's College will expect the accustomed grant of \$1000 and the ordinary expenses of management may require \$300, making in all, \$12,100. Say that the revenue for the half-year from investments is \$15,000, there will remain \$2,900, a sum that will pay 29 ministers \$100 each. The whole number of non-privileged ministers at present on the roll is 79, leaving *fifty* to be provided for, and \$5000 to be raised for the half-year. Now the special work of the Sustentation Board is to provide this sum of \$5000 for the half-