

Mr. Samuel Reddy

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THE RECORD.

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION.—An adjourned meeting of the Commission of the Synod is to be holden at Toronto, on Wednesday, the 26th inst., at 7 o'clock, P. M.

MEETING OF THE SUSTENTATION BOARD.—A meeting of this Board has been called by the President, to be holden at Toronto, on Wednesday, the 26th instant, at 12 o'clock, noon.

COLLECTION FOR THE THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Sabbath the 2nd instant having been appointed for making a collection, in our congregations, in behalf of our Theological Institute, we hope to be able to communicate the results in our next number; and we trust that they will be found such as to prove that our people have duly estimated and felt the importance of the object to which their free-will offerings, on this occasion, are to be dedicated. Nor do we regard with less interest, the results of the special exercises of humiliation and prayer, to which the Church was called on Thursday last, in connexion with the object in question—remembering, on the one hand, as we ever desire to do, that

Except the Lord do build the house,
The builders lose their pain;

and on the other, how much we need, not only to have our zeal and liberality quickened, but to have our motives and aims purified and enlarged, so that whatever is done amongst us, may be done with a single eye to the glory of God in the extension of his Kingdom in this land, and not for any object of sectarian idolatry. It is of the last consequence that we estimate aright, the magnitude and excellence of the work to which we are manifestly called as a church, and for the accomplishment of which, our Theological Institute is, with the divine blessing, to furnish the chief instrumentality; even the gathering into one, the sound Presbyterianism of Canada, and the dispensation of the ordinances of the Gospel by a thoroughly qualified Ministry, throughout the length and breadth of the land. Let this large and generous aim be cherished by us; let it animate our prayers and direct our labours, and we shall be raised above the narrowness, meanness, and unfaithfulness of denominational zealotry, and maintain the spirit and character of genuine catholicity. Thus also, our people having constantly set before them a great and worthy object, will learn more and more fully to appreciate its magnitude; and will have their hearts enlarged, and their hands opened accordingly.

We omitted to mention in a former number, that the Committee on Theological Education have appointed the following gentlemen as local Treasurers to receive and transmit such donations as may be deposited with them for this object; viz.—Alex'r Fraser, Esq., London; James McIntyre, Esq., Hamilton; James Shaw, Esq., Toronto, (who also acts as general Treasurer.) Andrew Jeffray, Esq., Cobourg; William Gunn, Esq., Kingston; John Redpath, Esq., Montreal; James Gibb, Esq., Quebec. The contributions will be duly acknowledged in the Record, as they reach the General Treasurer, or are communicated by the local Treasurers. We are able to record only one congregational collection in the present number, and some individual donations of money and books. One of the donations, however, is so munificent,

that we feel it impossible to refrain from specially noticing it—it will readily attract the reader's eye, and we are sure it will call forth the gratitude of the whole Church, and will be valued, not merely for its amount, but for its seasonableness, and that not only with reference to the infant state of the Institution, but to the importance of the great christian principle, the assertion of which required its establishment. We have good reason to know the pure and patriotic motives which have prompted this, and many similar acts, on the part of Mr. Buchanan, during the recent trials of the Church, and the warm interest he feels in the extension of a sound and efficient Gospel Ministry, on Free Church principles, to his fellow countrymen and fellow Presbyterians in Canada: but we fear we have already said more than will be agreeable to his feelings, and will only add, that we hope to see many provoked to love and good works, by this example; and a more liberal style of giving to christian objects, prevalent in our church.

If it has been found impracticable in any of our congregations, to make this collection on the day appointed by the committee, the sessions, in such cases, will doubtless take care that the matter be attended to without delay, and that their congregations have an opportunity, according to the Committee's recommendation, of assembling for the special consideration of the object, and for special prayer in its behalf. We would also respectfully renew our recommendation of this object to the attention and liberal support of the numerous members and friends of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, who are unhappily unprovided with a settled Ministry. By them this Institution must be regarded with lively interest; on them it has certainly a peculiarly strong claim, and our Missionaries will surely not fail to bring that claim forward with suitable earnestness, at the various stations they visit. Collections and donations ought to be paid in to the nearest local Treasurer, or transmitted direct to the General Treasurer.

SUSTENTATION FUND.—We beg the particular attention of the Church generally, to the minute of the Commission of Synod on this subject, as also to the communications of the President of the Sustentation Board, which we insert at his request. We doubt not, but that the resolutions of the Commission, will at once remove the difficulties which seem to have been felt in some cases, in regard to the Scheme, and that at the approaching meeting of the Board and Commission on the 26th inst., satisfactory returns will be presented from all our congregations, and a perfect unanimity manifested in so far as the principle, deliberately, and after much and anxious consideration, but, as we think, most wisely, adopted by the Synod, viz., that all the Ministers of the Church should be placed for their support, upon a common Sustentation fund; and that the former local or congregational arrangements and engagements should be laid aside, in so far as they were found to interfere with the operation of this principle. That some difficulty would be found in the immediate and general introduction of a system completely new, both in its principle and in its details, was to be expected, and was actually so strongly anticipated by several members of the Synod, (especially those on whom, principally, the great and anxious labour of preparing the present scheme has been devolved,) that they felt and expressed considerable reluctance and hesitation in giving up the *Supplementary Fund*

Scheme, which had been previously drawn up, and partially put into operation. This reluctance was only overcome by the earnest, and, as we thought, cogent arguments and representations of the able and experienced Deputies of the Free Church of Scotland, who placed the utter insufficiency of the *Supplementary Scheme*, and the advantages of the *Sustentation Scheme*, in so clear a light, as to obtain the hearty concurrence of the great majority of the Synod, to the latter, and the acquiescence of all. They shewed, as we thought most conclusively, that the *Supplementary Fund* would prove a mere delusion, taking its place, in the estimate of the people generally, below the *Home Mission fund*, commanding no strong, or general, or steady interest, but as a mere subordinate object, drawing to it only a few uncertain and irregular contributions from the wealthier congregations, and gradually falling into abeyance. These considerations were drawn from very obvious principles, and were amply confirmed by facts, derived from various efforts of the same sort, made by several dissenting bodies in Scotland. Our own experience, indeed, of the feeble and inefficient support which has been obtained for the *Home Mission* in most of our congregations, furnishes a very strong confirmation of the views of these gentlemen. On the other hand, the great advantage of the general sustentation principle, is that the support of gospel ordinances in each locality is combined with their support over the whole Church and Province, presenting the object which he is called to sustain to each member and adherent of the Church, in its just proportions, and in its real magnitude and importance; and thereby raising and enlarging the view of duty and responsibility, so as to bring into exercise a suitable liberality, according to the measure of ability which the Lord has given to each. The healthful moral influence which will be exercised on both our masters and people, by the steady and universal operation of this system, is obvious, as contrasted with the former contributing, secret, and most inefficient, local arrangement, and will, of itself, commend it to the cordial approval and support of every intelligent and right-hearted friend of our cause; while its efficiency, for extending the means of grace by a stated ministry, through the operation of a uniform, permanent, and well understood principle, cannot be doubted. We entertain the confident expectation that as these advantages come to be more thoroughly understood and appreciated, and the practical management of the system, improved by experience—sufficient means will be placed at the disposal of the Church, to enable her to multiply tenfold her regular congregations, and extend the stated ministrations of the Gospel, to numerous settlements, which hitherto she has been hardly able to reach, with a missionary visit, once a year. By bending our energies as one man, on this great and worthy aim, we shall, with the blessing of the great Head of the Church, fulfill our high and proper mission in this land, and place Presbyterian Institutions in their right position, by saving them from the deformity and encumbering taint of a wretched sectarianism, and giving free scope to the capabilities which they possess, as modelled upon the word of God, for evangelizing this country. Regarding the scheme of general sustentation as having these important bearings, and discerning, as we do, its healthful operation in these ways on the Free Church of Scotland, we rejoice that the Synod was led to the adoption, at the very outset, of a prin-