

CHURCH SUSTENTATION.

To the Editor of the Canadian U. P. Magazine.

SIR,—I am sorry to understand that our Church is getting into a state of pecuniary embarrassment. May I be allowed a very small portion of your space for saying a word on the subject? Better times, I hope, will soon come; and the means used for extricating us, I trust, will be successful. It is my humble opinion, that many of our congregations—some of them neither small nor poor—have not been doing their duty, and I cordially approve of the efforts made to stir them up. But excuse me for saying that there is room for improvement on both sides. The labourer is worthy of his hire; but observe, it is the *labourer*. Of what is a self-conceited, trifling loiterer worthy? Or, supposing a well-meaning man to be destitute of skill or capacity for labour, he is certainly not to be blamed, but should meet with sympathy and kindness; still it will not do to put him forward as a *labourer*, and expect that he is to receive *hire*. Nothing can be more just than a fair day's wages; but it should be for a fair day's work. It used to be a common saying, that if a man could do nothing else, he might teach a school. I hope this enlightened age is not going to bounce on the discovery that there is a still lower depth, and that if a man cannot even teach a school, he may still earn his bread as a preacher. Presbyteries have great responsibility in the matter. They admit young men to the Hall; they examine, and license, and receive those licensed elsewhere; and if there be not great caution observed, the whole blame of failure must not be thrown on the congregations. Some of our Presbyteries are very small. Several preachers, who have done great damage to the Church, have been received by a Presbytery consisting of scarcely more than a Moderator and a Clerk; or perhaps I should have named the Clerk first. The Synod, I think, should make some new law on the subject. The substance of what I have to say is, let the congregations, by all means, be urged to pay handsomely, but give them something deserving of handsome payment. Anything very fine is not wanted; but let us have a plain, common-sense exhibition of Christian truth and duty. Though I thus speak,

I am,

A FRIEND.

Reviews of Books.

POSTHUMOUS DISCOURSES OF THE LATE REV. JAMES STARK, D.D.,
with an Introductory Memoir under the care of the REV. WILLIAM STEVEN, Largs, and the REV. JOHN EDMOND, Glasgow. Edinburgh: A. Fullarton & Co., 1852.*

(Concluded from page 306.)

From the beautiful and correct sketch of Dr. Stark's character, given by his biographer, we make a very few extracts:—

* Errata in part first, page 302, line 16 from foot, for "eighteen" read "eight." Page 365, line 7 from top, for "1831" read "1841." Page 305, line 25 from top, for "late" read "last."