

question. I have heard it insinuated, that as the city congregations can easily provide for their own ministers, they care not to trouble themselves about their brethren. Some go the length of saying that they will not even allow the question to be stirred again, in order to avoid being called upon to extend pecuniary aid to the weaker congregations. Others, who profess to have enquired into the matter more closely, inform us that the great obstacle to any movement, in the view of such men as I have referred to, is either the danger of attracting unworthy ministers into the Church, by securing a regular and general provision for ministerial support, or the other danger, of allowing the courts of the Church to meddle in any way with money matters, the regulation of which matters, it is whispered, some of them hold to be altogether beyond the province of Presbyteries, Synods, and General Assemblies, and to lie wholly and unalienably in the people. One other explanation was on a certain occasion brought forward by a shrewd Irishman, but I suspect, in joke.—“After all I have heard about this business,” said he, “my honest belief is, that these great merchants and town’s gentlemen you speak of are every man of them in favour of the establishment principle, and they are leaving our ministers to starve just to prove that the voluntaries are wrong.” All these insinuations and suggestions I repudiate as unjust and uncharitable, and still cling to the hope that some measure is in progress of being devised, which, by introducing a well regulated system of finance, will mightily strengthen and extend the Church, and save many congregations from ruin. Let me just add, that it is not so much your money we want as the benefit of your business knowledge and habits, to put us and keep us on the right way of providing for our own occasions.

Yours truly,
Q.

A movement was made in Toronto, in reference to the Finances of the Church, and especially with the view of providing for ministerial support on some general and comprehensive system. The gentlemen who took the lead in this most important matter, desirous of bringing forward a scheme that would embrace and secure the confidence and co-operation of the whole Church, sent, through the Agency Committee, a series of queries on the subject of Finance, in order to ascertain the views held in the several Presbyteries and congregations, or what to them appeared of vital importance. The Rev. Mr. Rintoul has sent a general reply on behalf of the Presbytery of Montreal, but with that single exception, the Committee are without any suggestions or information from those who have the means of assisting them, and for whose benefit they undertook the task.

Having noticed, in another column, the need of system and congregational organization, we refer to that article.

The Synod is approaching. If any general measure for the support of the ministry is to be submitted, the Committee would be encouraged to proceed in maturing a plan, if full information were given in reply to the queries in the circular. We have to request that those who have it in their power will enable the Committee to report progress.

THE PAPAL AGGRESSION.

The agitation occasioned by the Popish assumption in Britain still continues. The Queen’s Speech at the opening of Parliament contained a

slight allusion to “the aggressive proceedings on the part of the head of the Roman Catholic Church, who, without seeking or obtaining permission, presumed to bestow aatorial titles on Ecclesiastics, and to distribute the country into dioceses,” and recommended to Parliament immediate attention to the subject, and the passing of such law as would vindicate Her Majesty’s prerogative. Lord John Russell shortly afterwards brought the matter before Parliament, reviewed the Papal policy in the appointment of an Irish Roman Catholic Archbishop, and the denunciation of the Irish Colleges.

These were symptoms of the intended encroachments; and although the authority assumed could not be enforced, it was enough for him that there had been such an assumption. The Government had resolved to appeal, not to the law, but to the Legislature, and he proposed “that all gifts and bequests made to Roman Catholic Prelates should be null and void, that any act done by them in their official capacities should be null and void, that property so bequeathed should at once pass to the Crown, and that all Catholic functionaries should be prohibited from assuming titles derived not only from Anglican dioceses, but from any district or place in the United Kingdom.” Many of the more zealous Protestants “cannot think that the ministerial measure is adequate to what the emergency requires, and the opinions of England demand.”

THE HOME MISSION COMMITTEE OF THE SYNOD.—We beg to invite attention to the advertisement on our first page, calling a meeting of the Committee on the 15th instant. It is of the greatest importance that Presbyteries, as far as practicable, attend to the requirement of that notice, giving the fullest information in regard to the state of the field within their bounds. The Committee, in allocating the supply at their disposal must, in the absence of any general superintendence, be very much governed by the information thus communicated, and be better able to judge of the adaptation of the missionaries and catechists to the several vacant districts, and of the wants and claims of the unsupplied congregations and stations.

COLLECTION FOR THE FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—The Synod has appointed this collection, the fourth and last for the Synodical year, to be made in all the congregations and mission stations of the Church on the first Sabbath in June.

John Redpath, Esq., Terrace Bank, Montreal, is Treasurer. For the accommodation of those who can more conveniently communicate with Toronto, contributions may be transmitted to John Burns, Esq., at the Agency Office of the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY OF CANADA.—A public meeting for organizing the Society, was held in the City Hall, Toronto, on the 26th February, 1851. The Mayor in the chair. Appropriate resolutions were adopted, which, together with the rules of the Society, have been printed and circulated. The payment of 2s. 6d. entitles to

membership. The office-bearers for the current year are—

President—Rev. M. Wallis, D.D.
Secretary—Rev. Wm. McClure.
Corresponding Secretaries—Thomas Henning and Capt. C. Stuart.
Treasurer—Andrew Hamilton.
With a Committee of 29 gentlemen.

THE RECORD.—We beg to thank those friends, by whose exertions very considerable additions have been made to the subscription list; and to inform those who may wish to patronise the publication, that we can supply complete sets of the current volume, and also a few sets from number 5, of the sixth volume, as well as detached numbers from the beginning. The present number contains more than the usual amount of Canadian intelligence. For this we are grateful. Every thing pertaining to the extension of the Church, is eagerly read by our own people, and copied into other papers. We are anxious to chronicle interesting events that mark our progress—Ordinations, inductions, opening of churches, organizing new stations, missionary meetings, &c.

THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.—We congratulate our readers on the step which has been taken to reform the unreasonable and pernicious system of high postages. From and after the 5th inst., the postage of letters from any part of this or the other British North American Colonies, will be 3d. per half ounce—pre-payment optional.—Postages to Britain not changed.—Postage stamps to be prepared.—Postages on newspapers not altered, but may be reduced.—Exchanges and other printed papers free to publishers. A system of money orders is to be established.

DILLING.—A writer in *Blackwood’s Magazine* says—“There is growing up a spirit of dignified submission to the law of man, based as it is upon the law of God, which totally prohibits these unworthy exhibitions of murderous malevolence. A truer estimate is formed of the nature of honour,—one which forbids alike the offering and the receiving of insults.”

A rigid enforcement of the law in enlightened communities would do much to banish the practice from the world.

The only duel ever fought in Illinois was in 1830. One of the combatants was killed, and the survivor was tried, convicted, and hanged for the murder. Petitions were presented to the Governor to pardon him, but he would not yield, and the hanging of the offender made duelling discredit and unpopular. Thus the firmness of the chief magistrate has probably saved the lives of thousands, besides forestalling a barbarous practice.

KNOX’S CHURCH, TORONTO.—On Sabbath, the 23rd March, Mr. John Burns, an ordained elder, was received into the Session, and Messrs. J. McMurich, James Shaw, and T. Henning, were ordained to the Eldership in the congregation.

The Rev. Dr. Burns on the occasion illustrated with his usual vigour, the Headship of Christ in his own house, the right of the people to choose their office-bearers, and set forth the Scripture warrant for ruling elders, as well as the duties and responsibilities of the office.