

# THE PRESBYTERIAN.

OCTOBER, 1862.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have this month been favoured with a very large supply of correspondence, for which we record our thanks. Part of it, however, was sent too late for insertion, and a still larger part, we are sorry to say, being either in the shape of personal criticism or bitter controversy, must permanently lie over. We have in this number allowed our correspondents an unusual latitude, but we would again remind them that while we will gladly give attention to whatever of interest they may please to send, we can only promise to insert such articles as are expressed "concisely and in a Christian spirit." That some of the articles in our present number are not so expressed, is only too apparent; however, from the position which their writers occupy in the Church, and as the decision which we gave in our last number, and which we have repeated above, does not yet seem to have received sufficient publicity, we have felt constrained to admit them. We shall insert in our next an article which takes exception to the view on the early form of Church government, given in our September number, by the writer on Roman Catacombs; also, an obituary notice of the late James Fenwick, Esq., who was at the time of his death one of the oldest elders of our Church. The writers of the letters signed "One of the accused," and a "Highlander," will see that the Rev. John McMurchy has given expression to the very same sentiments which they hold, in a long letter which appears in our present number; thus rendering it unnecessary for us to insert their articles.

"There is not much to chronicle with regard to ecclesiastical matters in Canada," says our Nova Scotian contemporary, "save that some of the articles of our magazine have grieved and disappointed our readers there. While we are sorry that we have said, or allowed others to say, anything which should have produced such an effect on our friends in the Lower Province, we

may be allowed to remark that our sorrow is considerably alleviated by the circumstance that the circulation of our paper has of late considerably increased in *Canada*, thus showing that it is appreciated by those whose views we wish it to influence.

We would earnestly press on the attention of our readers an important Scheme of the Church, which at present meets with very far from sufficient support,—that of the Home Mission Fund. It was organized, as is well known, for the purpose of supplementing the salaries of those ministers who have not the advantage of the commutation of the Clergy Reserves. Of this fund the basis was generously formed by the noble sacrifice made by a number of the ministers of the Church, of a large portion of what they might fairly have claimed from the fund formed by the commutation. To this most useful scheme it is necessary that far more prompt and liberal support should be given, if the Temporalities Committee are to be enabled to give even a moderate advance to all new ministers from their funds. Already they have had to intimate retrenchment, a retrenchment which, if carried out, will be most unfortunate for the Church at large, as well as for individual congregations. We call then upon our brethren of the laity to follow the example their pastors have already set them, and pour in a liberal reinforcement to the funds of this important scheme. This year we were threatened with a long and ominous drought; misgivings of scarcity darkened our hearts, but God in his mercy sent us refreshing showers, and caused our land to yield up her increase. Shall we not then give a liberal thank offering for the bounteous harvest with which "God, even our God," is blessing us? Brethren of the laity, ye who give out of your abundance, and ye who, like the poor widow, give even out of your poverty, we appeal to you! Your offerings will strengthen the hands of many a toil-worn minister, labouring in the midst of many depressions and discouragements,