

well pray that God would give our rulers eyes to see, and a heart to understand these lessons.

We do not think that, in studying prophecy, one is to go from the latest newspaper or telegraphic extra to the Book of Daniel, or that of the Apocalypse; yet, we may remark, that one impression made on us by the great events of 1848, is this, that the end of the 1260 years, the oft predicted period of the duration of the anti-Christian apostasy may be nearer than what many, less than a year ago, had supposed.

In the approaching dawn of a better day to the Church and the world, what encouragement may we not find for adopting the prayer of Moses, the man of God, "Let thy work appear unto thy servant, and thy glory unto their children?" and for acting in the spirit of that prayer. Every proper survey of the past tells on our conduct for the future. Has God exempted us from the calamities that are incidental to the most desirable national revolutions, and inseparable from all insurrections against established authority? Does He bless us with the most entire peace, and with a great measure of temporal abundance? Has He brought us to this late period of the gospel age, near, we may believe, to that time when the triumphs of his word and Spirit, shall be more glorious than were those of the apostolic age,—because they shall be more extensive and more durable? Then how great should be our gratitude, and with what alacrity should we hasten on—so far as prayer and devotedness to his service can hasten on that blissful period!

God sometimes so orders it with his people, that their principal duty lies in struggling for reformation, and in such cases their opponents are often found amongst those who are united with them in the same ecclesiastical fellowship. Our course is a more grateful one,—to strive for extension, rather than to conflict with fellow professors;—though, truly, we have great need of revival, and this is always the best earnest of spiritual enlargement, both to the individual and the Church. Let us then, with the year on which we are about to enter, as God may graciously spare us, seek to make a renewed dedication of ourselves to the Saviour—let us seek to attain to a deeper conviction of the honor and felicity of being connected with his kingdom, and of being privileged to help it forward—let us abound more in prayer for the coming of His kingdom, and with our varied gifts of personal service, or pecuniary offerings, our Christian example and profession, labour for its advancement.

Reader, the call of the Saviour is still addressed to us, "Surely I come quickly;" happy are you if you can intelligently respond with the Apostle, "Amen, even so come, Lord Jesus."

☞ We have been pleased to learn that the united congregation of Ingersoll and Beachville, have given a unanimous call to the Rev. Robert Wallace, to be their pastor. Mr. Wallace, who had been obliged to demit the charge of Otonabee from bad health, is so far recovered as to warrant the hope that he may, through the Divine blessing, be useful in this new field of labour.

#### ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RECORD FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

Without being able to give more time to the *Record*, the Editor hopes for more assistance in filling its pages with interesting and profitable matter. Presuming that its readers will value a lecture or discourse, he will occasionally insert a lecture, avoiding, however, what happens in the present number—the insertion of two together. Some deferred articles, which were in type, have excluded from the present number extracts from the *Missionary Record* of the Free Church of Scotland. In future, one gentleman will attend to selections from missionary papers, another to a monthly digest of interesting events, private and public; another has promised a series of short articles on the doctrines and discipline of the Church; and another occasional reviews.

#### COLLEGE COLLECTIONS.

These we are happy to announce are now in progress within the bounds of the Presbytery of Toronto. Knox's Church congregation, in this city, are proceeding in the work through a numerous Committee, appointed by themselves at a public meeting. Meetings have been held for the same object at King, Vaughan, Humber, Weston, York Mills, Scarborough, &c. We hope to be able to report more fully in our next.

Mr. Burns, Agent for the Committees, will have ready for our next publication a full account of the receipts and expenditure of the College for the past year.

#### GAELIC RECORD.

The Gaelic friends who were requested to report on this subject, do not recommend our undertaking such a publication.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A letter from Mr. FENY, in answer to a critical notice of his tract, entitled "A Hidden Gospel," may be expected in our next. We shall, in the meantime, hand it to the writer of the critique, who may have some remarks to make upon it, as he has on certain observations of the Toronto *Christian Guardian*, on the said critique. Indeed, we have excluded a reply to the *Christian Guardian* in this number, that it might appear with a notice of Mr. Peden's letter.

An address on the subject of the office-bearers of the Church,—Mr. Alexander's letter,—and other deferred articles, will appear in our next.—Some kind friends have furnished us with poetical pieces—some copied, some original. We reluctantly cast any of these aside; but, we trust, any who are disappointed at the non-appearance of what they have composed or copied for us, will give us credit for acting according to the best of our judgment in this matter.

☞ It is requested that all EXCHANGE PAPERS be addressed "To the Editor of the Record, Toronto."

#### SUSTENTATION FUND.

As much misapprehension still prevails in regard to the Sustentation Fund Scheme of our Church, I have thought that a brief statement respecting it, showing what it is, would neither be unprofitable nor unacceptable.

At the meeting of Synod, in Kingston, in 1844, the committee on a sustentation fund, gave in a report which was read and sustained, when it was agreed to refer the same to the Commission, with instructions to them to arrange a scheme for a common sustentation fund.

At the Synod in Toronto, in October, 1844, the Commission's Scheme was set aside, at the suggestion of the Rev. Messrs. King and McNaughten, deputies from the Free Church, as the fund proposed to be established, though called a sustentation fund, was properly only a supplementary fund, and "because a common fund, sustained by the exertions of all the congregations, and one on which all the ministers shall depend, is to be preferred to any merely supplementary fund." A committee was appointed to devise and arrange the details of a common fund. The committee reported progress, when it was resolved that they give in their report to the Commission who were authorised to adopt such a plan of a sustentation fund, in accordance with the general resolution of Synod, as to them might seem fit.

The Commission that met in Hamilton, in Nov. 1844, approved of that form of a sustentation scheme which was published in the *Record*, and recommended the same to the adoption of the congregations under the jurisdiction of the Synod. That scheme divested of the details that accompanied it, and which were merely its circumstances, such as Deacons' courts, allocation of seats, abolition of seat rents, &c., is substantially the same as that now before the Church, and is as follows:

First.—Arrangements as to the placing of Congregations upon the Sustentation Fund.

I. It is proposed that existing congregations shall be divided into classes,—those contributing a minimum *entitling them to come on the sustentation fund*, and those contributing less; and that the minimum required shall be a hundred pounds *cy. per annum*.

II. That the distribution committee shall be empowered to place on the fund by an act of *grace* existing congregations contributing less than the minimum; but that for the future, no congregation contributing less than the minimum; shall be put upon the fund, except by an act of *grace*, on the part of the Synod or Commission, founded upon the report and recommendation of Presbyteries.

III. That the mode of ascertaining the title of a congregation to come upon the fund, as contributing the minimum, shall be by requiring from existing, and also from new congregations, including under that term members and adherents, a written declaration of their intention to contribute to the fund not less than the minimum.

IV. That in the event of congregations, coming by right upon the fund, failing to contribute the minimum, or of congregations admitted by grace failing to contribute the amount which they have promised or which they have been accustomed to contribute, the distribution committee shall, if they find it impossible to remedy the evil, report the case of any such congregations to the Presbytery of the bounds, which shall examine into all the circumstances and report to the Synod, by which it may be struck off the fund,