

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

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“ATTENTION!” The burden of the pastoral address recently issued by the Moderator of Synod to the Kirk Sessions and Congregations was, “the *DUTY* of adequately providing for the support of ordinances.” What we have now to consider is, *the best practicable mode of doing this.*

We take it to have been clearly demonstrated that it is as much the *duty* of professing Christians to provide suitable maintenance for the ministers of the Gospel, as that they should feed and clothe their own children, or that they should dedicate them to God in adoption, or that they should make a profession of their faith at the Communion Table. This phase of the subject, then does not require to be argued. But, *HOW* to provide the ways and means for carrying on Christ's work by the Church? This is the question.

From the inception of the Temporalities Fund, its revenues have been inadequate to meet the claims of the Church extension consequent upon a rapid increase of population. Nor has the original intention of the Synod in regard to this partial Endowment Fund ever been realized. In 1856 it was agreed that the interest accruing from the Commutation Fund should be applied in the following manner:—1st, for the payment of £112 10s per annum, to each of the commuting ministers; 2ndly, of £100 a year to eleven ministers who were refused commutation, and, 3rdly, of £100 a year to all ministers not so provided for—if the funds admit of it: it being understood that such annual subscriptions as may be received for the sustentation of the Church should be applied to this last mentioned purpose; and, further, that if the sum thus annually provided should at any time be insufficient to give £100 a year, that the whole sum be divided among the claimants, but, that the division should not be continued after the allowance to each minister has fallen to

£50.” This may be considered the final direct deliverance of the Synod with reference to the administration of the Temporalities' Fund. In 1858 the Temporalities' Board were incorporated, and we find them re-affirming this principal by by-law. But, from the first it was foreseen that even the smaller sum of £50 could not be guaranteed to each minister unless a large supplementary fund were created. The attempt was made in 1860, '61 and '62, to increase the capital, but the total result of that effort was the addition of about \$28,000, the interest of which, at 6 per cent., was barely enough to provide for the payment of £50 each to eight ministers, while the actual number added to the roll during these years was double that number.

In 1863 it was resolved by the Temporalities' Board, “that it shall be a condition of any minister, other than those privileged by or at the time of commutation receiving £50 per annum from the Fund at the disposal of the Board, that he shall obtain from *his* congregation, or otherwise, a subscription to the Fund of \$50 per annum, and that, in any case in which such subscription has not been sent, the Chairman and Secretary be authorized to retain \$25 of the allowance half-yearly.”

This course was approved by the Synod, and has since been followed. It is one of those sort of things we suppose in regard to which it is *allowable* for a minority to hold and express an independent opinion, and we must say that we never thought it was the right thing to do, for it amounted in point of fact to this; it legalized the evasion of a fundamental principle, the departure from which has proved of doubtful expediency. Still, the expedient met in some degree the difficulty of the time, and might have continued for several years more to do so, had it not been for the *unfortunate failure of the Commercial Bank* in October, 1867. This involved an actual