

THE PRESBYTERIAN RECORD

FOR THE
DOMINION OF CANADA.

VOL. XII.

JUNE, 1887.

No. 6.

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The Strong and The Weak.

IT is well when churches are strong, wealthy and liberal, able not only to support themselves but to help others. Some congregations give more for the Lord's work beyond their own bounds, than they devote to self-support. Would that such congregations might be greatly multiplied! They would be a blessing to themselves and others.

It is the duty and privilege of the strong to help the weak. We may adapt the words of our Lord and say, "Ye have poor congregations always with you." We have them in considerable numbers, in all our Synods, almost in all our Presbyteries. It will not do to say to a poor man who needs help, "you have no right to live; take yourself off; we can do nothing for you!" Just as little will it do to say to a weak and dependent congregation, "Dissolve! Cease to exist! Vanish!" To support the weak is a Christian duty.

Of course there is no merit in multiplying weak charges where they are not needed. To do so is to waste our strength to little purpose. But weak, struggling, hard-working charges in the moral wastes of the country, or of our cities, deserve the most active sympathy and aid. They are entitled

to "augmentation," whether from the regular fund or from other sources. A station should not be given up, a church should not be closed, a district should not be relinquished, except under the pressure of absolute necessity, and at the plain dictate of duty. The minister who occupies a weak out-post, and whose congregation requires and receives outside aid, is apt to feel somewhat uncomfortable, as if he were in a dependent or inferior position. But the feeling is wrong, and quite unwarranted. He has a hard post; he has to work at a disadvantage. But then the harder the work, the higher the honour! He has the sympathy and prayers of all, as the pastor of a strong church has not.

Our Presbyterian system emphatically requires that the strong shall help the weak. We are all one body, and if one member, however humble, should suffer, the whole body must sympathize. Otherwise there is schism in the body. You occupy your lonely post at the behest of the whole church, in the name of the whole church, and the church is bound to stand by you to the utmost of her ability. The Augmentation Fund of our church is not in the most satisfactory condition,—though we have reason to believe that, on the whole, matters will be somewhat better than last year. In the Eastern Division there is no