

## The Record.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1859.

### COLLECTION FOR MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

By appointment of Synod the Collection for the Widows' Fund, the last Synodical Collection for the year, will be made on the third Sabbath of March. It is not considered necessary to say anything to enforce the claims of this object. The Fund has been well sustained hitherto, and is in a prosperous state, the accumulated amount being now considerably upwards of six thousand pounds. Seven widows of ministers, some of them with families, receive annuities from the fund, and the number may be expected to increase every year. It should be borne in mind that at present this is the only way in which the congregations of the Church generally are called upon to contribute for the aid or advantage of other ministers besides their own. There is no general sustentation fund; there is no supplementary fund, although in many quarters of the church something of the kind is needed. But at present the only collection having reference to the general body of the Ministry, is the collection for the Widows' Fund, towards which Fund, Ministers themselves have also to make a yearly payment. But in reality, such a collection is as much for the benefit of the people as for that of the Minister and his family; for if his cares and anxieties in reference to those near and dear to him are in any degree lessened, his people assuredly will reap the benefit, in enjoying the results of his free and unburdened mental efforts. It is hoped, therefore, that the collection will be, as formerly, general throughout the Church, and liberal in its amount.

### THE WORLD'S CONCERN FOR PRAYER

Never, we believe, in the history of the Church, has an invitation to united prayer been so extensively responded to, as the invitation which was issued by the Presbyterian Missionaries at Louisiana, in India. In every land it has called forth a response, it has encircled the globe with a streak of light, it has aroused the people of God throughout Christendom. It has brought together thousands to hear of God's doings, and to listen to earnest appeals on the subject of their own personal salvation. We believe never before have spiritual and divine things engaged so much attention. We trust great results may follow the prayers which have been presented, and the meetings that have been held.

We know that throughout Canada, the united meetings which have been held, have been peculiarly interesting and edifying. In Toronto, for four or five weeks, meetings were held every night, attended by five hundred and sometimes more. The number of meetings is now reduced, but the interest still continues. In other parts of the country we have had accounts of the most pleasing kind. In several congregations a very decided awakening has taken place. We earnestly trust that there will be no reaction, no period of chill succeeding the season of interest and fervour which we have experienced.

From American and European papers we observe that the concert for prayer was observed generally with great earnestness and unanimity, and with most happy results. We have before us an account of the observance of the week of prayer at Geneva. Deep interest was awakened. Large halls were crowded to excess, and the ministers of the national church united with Drs. Malan, D'Aubigne, La Harpe and others, in conducting the exercises. Among the special subjects of prayer was the state of the Church of the Waldenses.

In London, the invitation to united prayer has been most heartily responded to. A special correspondent of *The Presbyterian* gives such an interesting account of the meetings which were held, and of the religious movement that is going there, that we feel constrained to transfer the greater part of it to our columns, for the information of our readers:—

"It was my deliberate conviction that last week was the most wonderful week that has occurred in London for the last hundred years. You know our brethren in Louisiana appointed the second week in January of this year as a day of special prayer for the conversion of the whole world, and invited Christians on every continent and island to observe the season. Accordingly, the circular of the Louisiana brethren was printed in London, with an earnest recommendation, signed by forty-four ministers of all the Evangelical Churches, including many of the Established Church, and at least one Bishop, that the season should be observed throughout the whole of England. Arrangements were accordingly made in every part of this great metropolis, by the ministers of different denominations, to hold *union meetings* for prayer once each day, and in many places twice; one day in a Baptist Church, one in an Independent, and so on throughout the week. I presume in this city alone there were five hundred meetings last week. In every place of which I heard were crowded and most deeply solemn and interesting meetings.

On Thursday, about five hundred Independent clergymen met in one of the chapels, the whole body of that chapel being filled with clergymen, the galleries with the people, when the Lord's Supper was administered. In another part of London over one hundred Evangelical Church of England clergymen met for prayer and conference. A number of the friends of the Evangelical Alliance engaged the large and elegant Freemasons' Hall for the week

in which union prayer meetings were held daily at eleven o'clock, A. M., and half past seven o'clock, P. M., in all of which Evangelical Churchmen, Baptists, Independents, Wesleyans, Presbyterians, and Moravians participated. These were the most interesting meetings I ever attended.

Numerous requests for prayer were made at each meeting, and some of the meetings were awfully solemn. The hall holds about fifteen hundred. I suppose twenty-five hundred can be crowded into it. It is the same hall in which the British and Foreign Bible Society hold their annual meetings. It was crowded to excess at every meeting last week, hundreds of ladies and gentlemen standing the whole time in the passage ways and around the doors, and people of all ranks from nobles down to the humblest. A member of Parliament and his wife were the most active in everything connected with the meetings.

On Sabbath day, at three o'clock, the communion was administered in this hall. There Churchmen and Dissenters sweetly mingled over the emblems of a Saviour's body broken, and blood shed. It was a blessed season—at least fifteen hundred communicants. A Church of England minister prayed (extempore) before the distribution of the elements in a most earnest and acceptable manner. Baptist Noel, Dr. Hamiton, and Wesleyans, Moravians, and congregationalists took part. It was a precious season, and I believe will be followed with great results. The gentlemen at the head of these services were so encouraged that they have determined to continue the union prayer meetings once or twice a week, and have engaged the large room in Exeter Hall, which will hold four thousand people, and the first meeting is to be held on Friday of this week, at two o'clock.

The union for prayer last week, as I learn, was very general all over England. There are extensive awakenings in London, and great numbers are converted in this city every day, and the interest seems manifestly widening and deepening, and I believe the impressions of judicious men here is that such indications have not been known in London for the last century.

The peculiarity of the time is, let any man get up in church, chapel, theatre, or the street, and preach Christ simply and plainly, and the people will hear. At least three large theatres have been opened for preaching within the last three weeks and they are crowded. I do believe God is about to work wonders in London Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's, and St. James' Hall are all open every Sabbath evening, for preaching to the working classes, and are crowded. In the large room of Exeter Hall, last Sabbath evening, after service and a sermon by a Church of England minister, there was a prayer-meeting, and a Presbyterian was the first person called on to pray. In some of the provincial towns in England precious revivals are now in progress.

### THE CARDROSS CASE.

This case came before the special meeting of Commission on the 18th ult. The attendance of members, both Ministers and Elders was large, and embraced representatives from all parts of the country. The public interest in the case was shown by the large numbers that crowded the Assembly Hall. The Rev. Dr. Cunningham, Principal of the New College occupied the chair. Dr. Candlish was absent in consequence of indisposition.

After the opening exercises, the Rev. Dr.