

# The Presbyterian Review

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## The Presbyterian Review.

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### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We learn that the Augmentation Fund is at present in a somewhat critical position. To enable the Committee Augmentation of to pay in full the half-yearly grants Stipends. due at the end of this month there is still required about \$6,000. The Committee began the year with a balance on hand of \$2,000. They asked from the Church a revenue of \$5,000 in excess of last year to enable them to take over from the Home Mission list a number of Missions that have become sufficiently strong to meet the requirements of the Augmentation Scheme. The several Synods pledged additional contributions to aid in making up the extra \$5,000 so that the Committee were justified in believing that it would be forthcoming. Instead of receiving an additional \$5,000 the receipts are likely to be \$2,000 less than those of last year, so that instead of expanding the work the Committee may be under the necessity of reducing the promised grants. The policy they have adopted is to expend the money the Church provides and end each year free from debt. The future prosperity of the Church is largely bound up in the success of this Scheme. It has in the last fifteen years helped some 250 congregations to self support, and has very strong claims upon these congregations as well as upon the whole Church. There is still a fortnight before the ecclesiastical year ends. It is earnestly hoped that every congregation that has not yet contributed will at once do so and that many others will add to the amount already sent, so as to render unnecessary the reduction of the grants for the half year now ending. It is equally appropriate that Sabbath Schools and Christian Endea-

your Societies help this as well as the other Schemes of the Church, Will not many of these come to the aid of the Committee and forward a generous contribution before the close of this month?

There has long been a romantic interest in the Protestant Missions carried on in Madagascar by the London Mission- Protestant Missions ary Society owing to the heroic endur- in Madagascar. ance of persecution and numerous martyrdoms at the hand of a cruel native heathen sovereign. This interest was heightened if anything by the unusual favor shown to Christianity by the native Government under succeeding queens. It was a cause of widespread grief and indignation that when the island was occupied by the French these Protestant missions, churches and schools alike, should have been harrassed in every possible way under Jesuit influence and their buildings in many cases handed over to the Roman Catholics. It will be a matter for satisfaction to many to know that under the newly appointed French governor all this has been changed, the Jesuit aggression has been checked and the Protestant missions are to be protected. A deputation sent out from London by the Society was well satisfied with the reception accorded by the governor and with the assurances given as to their treatment in the future. Steps are being taken to interest the French Reformed church in the work, and they will be given as large a share in its management as they are prepared to take.

The Waldensian Church in Italy has just been celebrat- ing the fiftieth anniversary of the Edict of King Charles Waldensian Albert which gave them religious Celebration. toleration and freedom from persecut- ion. At that time confined entirely to the Piedmont Valleys, they are now represented at all leading points throughout Italy, and occupy substantial Church premises in the very heart of Rome not far from the Royal Palace. In honor of the occasion Dr. Prochet, the pastor of the Church there, was given a special audience by King Humbert who on more than one occasion has expressed his interest in the Waldensian Church. It seems incredible that it is only since 1870 that Protestants of any sort have had the privilege of conducting worship in Rome. One would think the memory of this fact would moderate the clamor of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, not for equal rights but for special privileges in Protestant countries. But they seem to have no sense of shame.

The Presbytery of Lanark and Refrew, owing to the diffi- culty of knowing men with the necessary qualifications for Knox Collogo the vacant chair, refer the matter to the Vacancy. Board with the suggestion that if no suitable Canadian be found Principal Caven and some others be sent abroad to look for a suitable Professor. . . . By an oversight, it was not stated in last week's paragraph that the Rev. Fulton J. Coffin Ph D, who has been named in connection with the vacant Professorship, fills the position of Fellow and Instructor in the Depart- ment of Semitics, Ancient History and Comparative