

but every church session, be required by the General Assembly to set on foot forthwith, and to earnestly prosecute, a plan that shall extend to every member of the congregation an opportunity of contributing to this cause, (and to all the Boards of the church) either by the envelope system or by collectors, reaching each in person, and that the Presbyteries be enjoined to see to it that this requirement be complied with.

Many of our churches give nothing to our great schemes of beneficence. Many, in our best churches, are not reached by the ordinary method. It is the plain duty of the officers to afford to each worshipper the opportunity to contribute; and every church has a right to this means of education and cultivation in the Divine life. And then, the mites are mighty. "*The power of the littles*," as Chalmers pleaded for it, wrought such distinguished success for his church schemes.

(VII.) To cultivate the principle of ministerial fraternity and sympathy, that each pastor shall aim to secure from his people an amount equal to at least one-twentieth, (and rather one-tenth,) of his own salary, annually, towards supplementing the salaries under this scheme.

(VIII.) That each church be required to report, through the Presbytery, to the General Assembly, the pastor's salary actually paid by them for the year, (and any arrearage, if there be any,) and that this be published in a separate column of the Assembly's minutes, year by year.

This is regarded as of great importance, in order thus to lay bare the whole subject to the eyes of the church at large, and of the individual churches, that so each church may compare what they are doing with the membership and with the average of other churches, so that the delinquent may be stimulated by such needful statistics to a higher aim.

(IX.) That each Presbytery shall appoint one efficient member, whose duty it shall be to examine every application for aid under this scheme, and to report to Presbytery full information as to the prospects of the church for usefulness and growth, and as to the possibility of consolidation, or association, with a neighboring church, and as to the amount of self-help, with other conditions, entitling it to aid under this scheme. Also, to receive moneys from the churches of the Presbytery, and to remit monthly to the Central Sustentation Committee.

(X.) That a Central Committee of Seven be annually appointed by the General Assembly, to supervise this work, having a Secretary to conduct the operations, and to keep accounts with the Presbyterial Treasurers of Sustentation, and in every way, and by all means, to further the great object in view.

## FREE CHURCH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Rev. Dr. Elder of Rothsay, was elected Moderator. The Union Question was debated with very great ability. The speeches of Drs. Buchanan, Candlish and Rainy, and Sir Henry Moncrieff, in favour of the Union and the speeches of Mr. Nixon and Dr. Begg against it, are especially notable. Dr. Candlish shewed the fire of earlier days. The resolution of the friends of Union was in effect as follows: Re-appoint the Committee and add to its numbers; and instead of proceeding to the further consideration of any of the matters outstanding in the programme of heads of inquiry, to direct their attention for the present to those measures which may seem best fitted to draw the negotiating Churches into closer and more friendly relations to one another, to encourage and facilitate their cordial co-operation, and thus, while allaying the heat and irritation of controversy, to cultivate that more intimate knowledge of each other, and to call forth and cherish those mutual sympathies and kindly feelings which cannot fail, under God, to promote that seeing of eye to eye and that coming to be of one heart and one soul which is the needful and fitting preparation for the more perfect Union, with a view to which those profoundly important negotiations have all along been carried on.

The resolution of Mr. Nixon was, that that the Committee be discharged and the negotiations stopped. The vote was—for the Union motion,—435; for the opposition, 165. Majority in favour of the resolution, 270. Dr. Begg and 52 others protested. Several dissented. The Sustentation Fund for the year amounted to £137,000.

Total amount of contributions for the	£	s.	d.
year ending May 15, 1871.....	137,034	14	5
Do. May 15, 1870.....	131,262	19	1

Net increase.....	£5,771	15	5
Associations, 1871.....	£127,441	8s.	2d.
Do. 1870....	126,218	5	11

Increase.....	4,548	13	2
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Net increase.....	£5,771	13	1
There are ministers not on the platform of the equal dividend.....	89		
Ministers on the said platform of the equal dividend who do not draw a full year's dividend.....	84		
Ministers on the platform drawing the full year's dividend.....	776		

Total ministers on the roll of Presbyteries.....	948
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