

Kingston, 15th January, 1861.

REV. AND DEAR SIR:—The Committee on the Bursary Scheme beg respectfully to remind the Church on the following deliverance adopted at last meeting of Synod and extracted from the Minutes.

The Annual Report of the Trustees of Queen's College having been read, it was *Resolved* inter alia :

2. "That the best hope of continued and enlarged success is, under God, in prayer, and the Synod therefore cordially recommend all Ministers to give increased attention to this subject in the devotions of the sanctuary."

3. "That all Ministers of this Church be earnestly recommended to preach on the second Sabbath of February in each year, or on the first convenient Sabbath thereafter, on the call to the Gospel Ministry, setting forth the wants of the Church, and the existing destitution of our land, and at the same time to hold-up for consideration such things as will recommend the Gospel Ministry as a calling, in order that parents and youth may give its claims respectful hearing; and the Synod further appoint the said Sabbath as a day of special prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the rising generation, and upon the Officers and Students of Queen's College."

4. "That this Synod earnestly and affectionately recommend parents to lend their children to the Lord, and to dedicate such of them as in their judgment possess the requisite qualifications to the office of the Holy Ministry."

5. "That the Synod earnestly urge Presbyteries to guard with a becoming caution and a firm vigilance the door to the holy office of the Ministry, so as not to admit to the sacred calling men wanting in mental or moral qualifications for its high and holy functions."

The Report of the Committee on the Bursary Scheme having been read, it was *Resolved* inter alia :

"That the Synod have heard with satisfaction the Report of the Bursary Committee, and again record their sense of the importance and usefulness of this Scheme. That the Synod, having appointed the second Sabbath of February as a day of special prayer for Queen's College, and for bringing the claims of the College under the notice of their congregations, do earnestly recommend that upon the said day, or upon such other Sabbath as may be more convenient, a collection be taken up in aid of Queen's College Bursary Fund"

The Sabbath appointed as above is the 10th February, and the Committee venture to express the earnest hope that on this day, or as soon as possible thereafter, you will carry out the instructions of our Synod. The number of Students requiring aid from the Bursary Fund is upwards of 20, there being this year a larger number of young men studying for the Ministry—the class to whom the benefits of the Scheme are confined. In addition to the sums already received \$600 are now urgently needed by the Committee, and for this amount small in comparison with the wealth and resources of our Church, they confidently appeal to the liberality of Congregations and individuals.

Full information as to this Scheme will be found in the Report appended to the Minutes of last Synod, and the Committee feel that they need not add more to enforce its claims, or to show the important relation which it bears to the prosperity and advancement of our Church.

Trusting that you will read this circular to your Congregation, and otherwise advocate the cause which it sets forth,

I remain,

Rev. and dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN MACHAR, D.D.,

Convener.

P.S.—Collections and contributions can be remitted to Andrew Drummond, Esq., Kingston, Treasurer of the Scheme, and will be promptly acknowledged.

#### ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, MARTINTOWN.

We have seen a very complete, neat and lucid statement, for the year ending 31st Dec. last, of the temporal affairs of this congregation. It is in a printed form of four pages, and is intended to be circulated among the members and adherents. It consists of a detailed statement of the charge and discharge by the Secretary of the Temporal Committee and the Session Clerk, each of whom appends to his statement a few judicious and pertinent observations. There is an appendix containing a complete list of the pews let, the pew holders, the rents charged, and the rents paid. This is the first year of the pew rent system in that congregation, and, considering that it was introduced at a time when the prospect of getting a minister was some what doubtful, it seems to have worked well. It is always a difficult and sometimes a dangerous thing to make changes in the management of the affairs of a corporate body such as every congregation is. Prejudices are sure to be excited and the company of objectors is frequently alarmingly large. We must judge this to have been to some extent the case in Martintown, for we learn from the Secretary that the pew list consists of 80 families while the congregation is composed of 201 families. But, if with this number of pew-holders the Committee are able to report a revenue sufficiently ample to meet the current expenditure and leave a balance of \$50 in the hands of the Treasurer, what may be expected when the majority of those who are not pewholders will make a demand for seats more than sufficient to take up the 30 or 40 unlet pews? This we doubt not will be the case before long.

Our chief object in referring to this statement is, however, to applaud the distribution of it throughout the congregation. The business like manner in which publicity is thus given to the matters with which it is concerned cannot fail to be productive of the most satisfactory results, as every member will see the exact state of affairs, and, it is to be hoped, will feel and act accordingly. This plan is not resorted to for ostentation's sake. The people of Martintown are not given to that, and they have no occasion. The sole purpose is the simple and laudable one of keeping the congregation thoroughly informed in what is purely their own business and concern. Every member, at least every paying member, has a right to know how matters stand from year to year, and it is the duty as it will prove itself to be greatly to the advantage of the Managers, who may be regarded as Trustees of the funds, to give the fullest information on the subject in the plainest manner to their constituents. A statement presented at an annual meeting

cannot have the same advantage, even if those who need most to be present were in the habit of attending. For every one can take this printed report to his home, and thoroughly digest its contents and govern himself accordingly, as he is bound to do. And this ought to have the effect of checking in a quiet way many improprieties and difficulties connected with the payment and receipt of Church dues, which, though apparently simple, as simple at least as settling one's newspaper bill or Insurance fees, while the motive and the duty are much greater, would seem to many a most incomprehensible matter. It ought to have the effect of leading the people to take a lively interest in the welfare of the congregation, of relieving the managers of much disagreeable and thankless trouble, and of enabling the minister to pursue his proper calling with undistracted attention, inasmuch as he will scarcely ever require to refer to the temporalities of the charge, except to express his gratitude for the easy and successful management of them, and to give a word of encouragement now and again to them intrusted therewith. Ignorance of the very matters submitted in this statement of the Martintown managers has often led to uncharitable, suspicious feelings, and most unseemly conduct, on the part of professing Christians. It has often disturbed the peace and harmony of congregations. It has even led to the vacating of the pulpit by faithful ministers. We sincerely hope the people and office-bearers of the congregation of Martintown will find that they have taken a step in the right direction, both by the introduction of the pew-rent system and the circulation of a printed annual statement. There are people in every community who will not be satisfied with anything, unfortunate malcontents who would die but for the luxury of opposition; and there are people who will jabber on every conceivable subject except the state of the church or congregation, in regard to which they appear to have the profoundest and happiest ignorance; but that ought to be the most effective plan of preventing dissatisfaction which exhibits the whole affair to every eye in terms so plain that he who runs may read.

#### THE CHURCH IN CANADA.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH SOIREE,  
BELLEVILLE.

On Thursday evening, 3rd inst., the members of St. Andrew's Church, of which the Rev. A. Walker is the respected Pastor, held a Soiree or Tea meeting in the Athenaeum, a building admirably suited for social gatherings of this kind. At 7 o'clock, when Geo. Neilson, Esq., was called to the chair, the main room, which is one of the largest in Canada, was fully occupied, and by one of the most respectable and intelligent audiences ever assembled in this Town. In the body of the hall we observed many of our leading inhabitants, and on the platform the Rev. Messrs. Neil, of Seymour, Buchan and Gander of Rawdon, Grier,