

## THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1879.

## ANNUAL COLLECTIONS FOR CHURCH SCHEMES.

THE General Assembly at its recent meeting appointed certain Sabbaths on which collections for the several schemes shall be taken in those congregations in which there are no Missionary Associations, and it is of the utmost importance that Sessions should see that the collections are made on the Sabbaths appointed.

It too often happens that some of the collections are omitted altogether because of inattention to this, and thus it is that year after year we hear complaints of a want of money with which to carry on the work of the Church.

It cannot for a moment be doubted that one principal cause of deficits at the end of the year arises from the failure of many congregations to contribute to some one or other of the schemes. We believe we are correct in saying that last year no scheme received contributions from more than seventy-five per cent. of the congregations of the Church. Had the other twenty-five per cent. contributed every one of the schemes would probably have been free from debt when the year closed, instead of being burdened with large deficits as was the case with several of them.

Some of the collections were omitted to be taken at the proper time, and as the end of the year approached it was felt to be undesirable to crowd two or three into the last month, or two and thus one or more were omitted entirely, to the great injury of the Church's work.

To obviate a repetition of this we trust that all the collections will be made this year at the time fixed by the Assembly in every one of the congregations and mission stations of the Church. We purpose keeping this matter from time to time before our readers, giving due notice of the dates appointed by the General Assembly for the several collections. The first of these this year is that on behalf of French Evangelization, which falls to be made on Sabbath 20th July. We hope that in the interests of this scheme, as well as in

the interests of all the others, the collection will be taken up on that Sabbath throughout the entire Church. Nothing should be allowed to interfere with this. No minister or session has any right to deny their congregation the opportunity to contribute to the several departments of the Church's work, and no minister or session truly loyal to the Assembly or to their congregation's highest interests will fail to afford their people such an opportunity. Sometimes we hear of ministers and others foolishly objecting to give, to French Evangelization because an ex-priest is received, not by the laity, but by the Assembly without re-ordination,—or to Home Missions, because some congregations receive a larger supplement than a certain other,—to Foreign Missions because such and such a missionary has not in their estimation been treated well,—or to colleges because they have a personal pique at some professor or lecturer; but such persons, we fear, when they thus speak have not the mind of Christ, and assuredly they fail in loyalty to the Church and to the Church's work. Perfection belongs not to any Board or Committee. It is the easiest thing in the world to grumble and to criticize adversely and to point out flaws in the work of others. It requires neither superhuman intelligence nor superhuman grace to fit a man for such work. We believe that our Church has great reason for heartfelt thanksgiving in connection with the administration of every department of her work, and it is the duty, as it should be the delight, of every one of her loyal sons and especially of every one of her office-bearers to give a loyal, hearty, generous support to all her schemes. We trust that all congregations and mission stations will contribute during the current ecclesiastical year to every one of the schemes on the days appointed by the Assembly beginning with French Evangelization on Sabbath 20th July.

## FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

In another column will be found a circular from the Board of French Evangelization in reference to the annual collection on the 20th instant for this scheme. The report presented by the Board to the General Assembly was a most encouraging one, affording abundant evidence of the success of the work during the past year, and auguring well for the future of French Evangelization.

At present thirty-nine missionaries are engaged under the auspices of the Board. Several other denominations have Missions among the French Canadians, but such have been the energy and enthusiasm with which our own Church has carried on the work, that we now have more missionaries and far more converts than all the others combined. God has signally honoured our Church in this respect, in raising up men qualified to undertake the work, in opening up doors of entrance for the Gospel among the French Catholics, and in drawing out the liberality of our Christian people in support of this most important scheme.

The Board estimate that at least \$25,000 will be required to carry on the work effi-

ciently during the current year, and we are confident that this amount will be obtained. In the circular just issued reference is made to the influence of ministers and missionaries in the matter of contributions to Church schemes.

This can scarcely be over-estimated. Where the minister is indifferent as to any scheme the contributions of his people are generally small, whereas on the other hand if the minister is in earnest, and both by precept and example brings the claims of the scheme before his congregation, the result is almost invariably seen in the amount contributed.

The Board of French Evangelization have, we are glad to learn, adopted the true policy in advertising this scheme, viz.: That of depending only what the Church provides and keeping free from debt.

We earnestly hope that the collection on the 20th instant will be such as to warrant them in enlarging the work and increasing their staff of labourers. To render successful the policy adopted of keeping free from debt it is necessary that the collection be made *on the Sabbath named* in all the congregations and mission stations of the Church, for if only a few respond at that time the Board may be constrained to contract the work from lack of funds with which to carry it on. We trust that the ministers and office-bearers of our Church will show their appreciation of the wise policy of the Board by having the collection made on the Sabbath appointed by the Assembly, and that from all our people liberal contributions may be obtained on behalf of this deeply important work of French Evangelization.

## HOME MISSION GRANTS—IMPORTANT RESOLUTION.

THE following is one of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly in connection with the future conduct of the Home Mission work of the Church:

"That it be an instruction to the Home Mission Committee to entertain no applications for new grants or for the continuance of old ones for either supplemented congregations or mission stations, unless there be laid on the table of the Committee an extract minute of the Presbytery making the application, showing that the grants have been revised since the meeting of Assembly, and that deputies have visited the supplemented congregations and mission stations within the bounds with a view to the reduction of the grants."

In the present state of the Home Mission Fund it is of the utmost importance that the expenditure be reduced to the lowest possible point consistent with a due regard to the efficiency of the work. With this end in view the Assembly has very properly re-enacted the above regulation, and that in a more stringent form than heretofore.

Formerly, Presbyteries were required annually to revise the list of applications for grants; now, it is necessary that they should visit *by deputy* every supplemented congregation and mission station with a view to the reduction of the grants, and furnish the Home