

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Financial Agency.

DEAR EDITOR,—Very much to the regret of all at the last General Assembly the venerable Dr. Reid who has served the Church so long and faithfully as General Financial Agent fell under the painful necessity of asking to be relieved of his duties in the near future. After such consideration as it was possible to give the matter during the meeting, the Assembly appointed Dr. Warden, of Montreal as his successor. Dr. Warden very naturally could not see his way clear to give an immediate answer but pledged himself to see that the interests of the Church did not suffer until the next Assembly. It may be assumed, therefore, that the matter is being taken by him into full consideration and that some time before the end of the Church year he will in some way indicate his mind. He will no doubt find the decision somewhat difficult to make. Such a call from the highest court of the Church is not to be regarded lightly, and no one will question Dr. Warden's pre-eminent fitness for any such position. But, as was pointed out by Dr. MacVicar on the floor of the Assembly, his present position is one of very great importance, and it would be exceedingly difficult to replace him. It has to be borne in mind that he is something more than Treasurer of the College and of the French Board. He has also the chief responsibility for two important institutions of the Church, viz., the Pointe-aux Trembles Schools and Colligny College. The interests under his care are of very great moment, and such as call for the very experience which he has now acquired. He might well hesitate, therefore, about making a change which would to some extent necessarily disarrange all these unless there is a pressing necessity for it. How many fail to see any necessity for removing him from his present position in order to meet the real desire of the Church as expressed in the General Assembly. If the Church wishes to have him as her chief financial agent, as seems to be the case, there ought to be no difficulty about transferring most of the funds of a general character to Montreal and having them administered from there, without at all interfering with his present position. There certainly ought to be a financial agent in Toronto. The treasurership of Knox College alone would require that, and it is too important a centre to leave without some official representative. The work in Toronto at the present time, however, really occupies two agents, and it would not be difficult at any time to assign enough for one. But it is by no means necessary that all the business hitherto transacted in Toronto should continue to be done here. Correspondence is as easy with one point as with another and necessarily most of the work has to be done in that way. Montreal is undoubtedly the financial capital of the Dominion and financial affairs of a national character can be as well if not better directed from that point than from any other. The experience of the American Church in this respect is instructive. New York is far from being the strongest centre of Presbyterianism in the United States, but almost of necessity it has had to be made the headquarters of all the great financial boards of the Church. Sooner or later a similar course will be found necessary in Canada, and it may as well be taken now as at any future time. Such an opportunity for a statesmanlike policy may not occur again for many years and sectional feeling may well be set aside in the interest of the Church as a whole. It is to be hoped that Dr. Warden will delay his decision until there has been opportunity for fuller discussion and more mature consideration of the matter from all sides.—ELDER.

Constitution for Presbyterian Young People's Society.

The following Constitution was adopted, at its meeting on the 14th inst., by the Presbyterian Young People's Society of the Presbytery of Whitby. The recommendation of the General Assembly's Committee was kept in view, that the Constitution should be simple and comprehensive and should provide for close connection with the Presbytery.

I. NAME.—The Presbyterian Young People's Society of the Presbytery of Whitby.

II. OBJECT.—To promote the welfare and the usefulness of the Church of the young people of the Presbytery, by uniting them in friendly intercourse, the cultivation of their spiritual life, the study of the doctrines, history and work of the Church, and the support of its missionary, educational and benevolent schemes.

III. MEMBERSHIP.—The various Young People's Societies within the Presbytery under the oversight of Sessions; each Society to be represented by its President and one delegate for every seven members. In congregations where no Young People's organization

exists, Sessions may appoint delegates in the proportion of one to each twenty names on the Communion Roll.

IV. MEETINGS.—(1) An Annual meeting in connection with the fall meeting of Presbytery;

(2) Such special meetings as the Executive may call; notice of such special meetings to be given to Societies at least a fortnight in advance;

The Annual Meeting to receive report from the Societies, decide upon plans of work, and control expenditures; the discussion of topics to be open, but the voting power to be restricted to members as described above.

IV. EXECUTIVE.—To be appointed at the Annual Meeting, and to consist of an Honorary President, who shall be the Moderator of Presbytery for the time being, a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Recording-Secretary, a Corresponding-Secretary (who, for convenience in corresponding, should not be frequently changed), a Treasurer, and a Committee of five; together with the Convenor of the Presbytery's Committees in Young People's Societies and two others named by the Presbytery.

The Executive shall prepare each year a report of the operations of the Society, which, after adoption by the annual meeting, shall be forwarded to the Presbytery through its Committee on Young People's Societies.

VI. CHANGES.—Changes in the Constitution to be made only at the Annual Meeting, by a two-thirds vote of the members present, and after notice of the proposed change given at the previous Annual Meeting, or sent to each Society at least one month before the meeting at which such change is to be considered.

THOUGHTS BY THE WAY.

FOR THE ABSENT.

God, Who led'st the man of Ur
From the land of gold and myrrh,
From between the rivers twain,
Through the danger-haunted plain—
By Thy watchful care, we pray,
Guard our loved ones far away!

Thou Who erst at Bethel's stone
Comforted'st a traveller lone,
And didst fill the darkened sky
With angelic paup'ry—
God of wanderers, we pray,
Guard our loved ones far away!

Thou Who in the wilderness
Didst Thy wandering people bless,
As a shepherd leads his sheep
Didst Thy flock in safety keep—
Through the night and through the day,
Guard our loved ones far away!

Thou on Whom in infant years
Fell Thy Mother's anxious tears,
When to Father's land she sped,
By the pious Joseph led—
By Thy wand'ring, Lord, we pray,
Guard our loved ones far away!

Holy Spirit, Paraclete,
Who dost guide Thy servants' feet,
Where'er beneath the sky,
Sons of men are born and die—
Guide our loved ones on their way,
Lead them safely home, we pray!

B. R.

It is said of the Venerable Bede that besides his regular exercises of devotion he made it his pleasure every day "either to learn or to teach or to write something."

"RESTS."

"God sends a time of forced leisure, sickness, disappointed plans, frustrated efforts, and makes a sudden pause in the choral hymn of our lives and we lament that our voices must be silent, our part missing in the music which ever goes up to the ear of the Creator.

"How does the musician read the rest?" See him beat the time with unerring count, and catch up the next note, true and steady, as if no breaking place had come between. "Not without design does God write the music of our lives. Be it ours to learn the tune, and not be dismayed at the "rests." They are not to be eluded over, not to be omitted, not to destroy the melody, not to change the keynote. If we look up, God Himself will beat the time for us.

With the eye on Him, we shall strike the next note full and clear. If we say sadly "there is no music in the rest," let us not forget, there is the "making of music, in it. The making of music is often a slow and painful process in this life. "How patiently God works to teach us! How long He waits for us to learn the lesson!"