

# ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD,

For the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

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## The Record.

The Publisher particularly requests, that when money is transmitted to him on account of the Record—the names of the Subscribers to whose credit it is to be placed, be distinctly intimated.

The Commission of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada will meet by Synodical appointment, at Kingston, on the first day of October, at 12 o'clock, noon. As matters of much importance will come before the Commission, it is requested that members will make their arrangements to be in attendance. The Home Mission Committee of the Synod will meet at Kingston on the close of the Commission.

The Sustentation Board of the Presbyterian church will meet by adjournment in the Brick Chapel, John street, Hamilton, at 2 o'clock, on the 9th October. For list of members see last No. of Record.

The collections in aid of the Foreign Missions of the Free Church of Scotland, to be made by appointment of Synod on Sabbath the 7th September, are to be remitted to John Respath, Esq., Montreal, who was appointed by the Synod to receive and transmit them to Scotland.

**PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.**—The next ordinary Meeting of the Presbytery of Hamilton is to be holden at Hamilton, on the second Wednesday of October, at noon, in the brick chapel, John street.

**THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TORONTO.**—The winter session of this Institution will open, we understand, on the 1st November. Dr. Burns and Professor Essoon will be assisted by several Ministers in their respective departments—so as to render the course of instruction as complete as possible under existing circumstances.

Our columns contain several interesting communications this month, under the head of Home Missions, to which we would call the attention of our readers. The sketch by Dr. Burns, of his recent Missionary labors, communicated at our request, and to be concluded in our next, will be found well worthy of perusal. We would also solicit special attention to the extract from Mr. Gordon's letter. In our next No. we hope to be able to give notes by Mr. Stark of his visit to certain portions of the Presbytery of Kingston, as also similar communications by Messrs Bayne and Alexander, respecting the bounds of the Presbytery of Montreal.

Under the head of Foreign Missions, the intelligence from Calcutta will be found most interesting. It is condensed from the eloquent and graphic letters of Dr. Duff, which appear in the Missionary Record of the Free Church of Scotland for August, and which, had our limits at all permitted it, we

would willingly have given in full. We trust, however, that we have been able to give the leading particulars of his affecting narrative, and that the remarkable and hopeful movement which it describes will be joyfully pondered by the Church, and will stir up and encourage many wrestlers at the throne of Grace in behalf of the benighted millions of Hindostan—in behalf of those faithful missionary servants of the Lord, who stand in circumstances of great difficulty—and in behalf of their persecuted people.

We would now call the attention of parties more immediately concerned, to the meetings of the Commission and Sustentation Board, as above intimated. It both seems and is especially desirable that there be a full attendance. Several matters of importance to the Church will come before the Commission, and the adjournment of the Sustentation Board is resolved on with the view of affording an opportunity of attendance to as many as possible. It will be kept in mind that besides the Members of the Board named by the Synod, a representative from every Deacon's or Manager's Court is entitled to a seat. The minutes as furnished by the Secretary, will show the proceedings taken at the late meeting; but we may add, that it was very gratifying to witness the unity of sentiment which was manifested by the members present on that occasion, in regard to the importance of the scheme to the well being of the Church—and the cordial desire to carry it into effect throughout the Church. Most of them have been long and intimately acquainted with the working of the old system, or rather *no-system*, of leaving each congregation to bear its own burden as it best might, and know well how miserably it worked, and how deplorable were its consequences in many instances—and therefore they are prepared to appreciate the value of the new one. We are fully persuaded, notwithstanding all that has been done and said to mar it, that it will speedily commend itself to the universal adoption of the Church—as not only the most Christian-like, but the only efficient way of conducting this great department of the Church's affairs so as to promote her stability and extension—the usefulness of her ministers, the faithfulness of her people, and the honor of her blessed Head in all.

Under the head of Miscellaneous Intelligence will be found a report of the proceedings of the Presbytery of Glasgow, respecting the call to the Rev. Andrew King from the congregation at Kingston. For various obvious reasons we have thought it our duty to give this report in full as we find it in the Scottish Guardian, although it is with great pain that we do so. We feel that our infant church has been subjected to a severe stroke in being denied the services of a minister so respectable in his standing, and possessing qualifications peculiarly fitting him for usefulness in this country, and in the particular locality in which we had fondly hoped to see him settled. But we are still more deeply pained by the circumstances which have manifestly occasioned us this disappointment, and which Mr. K. with characteristic frankness and faithfulness seems

to have stated fully to the Presbytery. Until a few days before the meeting at which the case was disposed of, he informs us that, although personally preparing to continue his labors in Scotland, he had great freedom of mind in leaving the determination of his future sphere of action to the Presbytery—being ready to stay and willing to go, as his brethren might deem most conducive to God's glory and the good of his Church; but that after having read the accounts furnished by the public prints of the proceedings of our late meeting of Synod at Cobourg, that freedom of mind, and readiness to acquiesce, had been greatly impaired, by the strong impression made on him, that the Church here had intimated in their proceedings—bearing towards independence, or in other words we presume, an undue submission to popular influence as to the office and duties of Deacons, in regard to which he seems to understand the Synod has betrayed scriptural principle and order. Mr. King is certainly altogether at fault in this conclusion, in so far as the mind—the deliberate and decided opinion of nine tenths of the members of Synod are concerned—for we have the fullest reason to be assured that with very few if any exceptions, the views of the Synod on this important subject fully coincide with those which are entertained by the Free Church, and are set forth so unequivocally in the standards, and sustained by the word of God. Nay, more—we can also frankly declare our persuasion that the great bulk of our people here to these views as firmly and intelligently as their brethren in Scotland, and have not the slightest sympathy with the few who have attempted to gainsay them. In proof of this it is sufficient to state that the deaconship is in full operation in a great number of our congregations; and that in those cases in which it has not yet been introduced, the former system of administration by committees of managers or trustees has been retained, merely as a matter of local expediency, or because the more scriptural mode has not been proposed to the members of the Churches, and certainly not because they are opposed to it, or have, after deliberation, rejected it. We ought also to state that the subject of the deaconship was not at all discussed in the Synod; and that although the recommendations of the Commission respecting it in connection with the Sustentation fund scheme, were not formally adopted by the Synod, nothing whatever was done or could have been done, if it had been proposed—at variance with the doctrine and rules laid down in our standards in regard to this office, which have of course full authority amongst us, and are quite sufficient for our guidance.

While we make these statements, however, to shew that Mr. King's conclusion is unfounded in fact, we must at the same time admit that we are not greatly surprised that he should have been led to form it. During his residence at Toronto, he had ample opportunity of witnessing the persevering and unprincipled efforts which have been pursued by a portion of the newspaper press, to stir up and foster suspicion and distrust among the Presbyterian population, against the office bear-