

It is well known that the Presbyterian Church in this Dominion has never manifested a proselytizing spirit. Indeed, it has been reproached for the want of this as implying disloyalty to its standards. We are fully persuaded that the proselytizing spirit referred to is gradually growing weaker; and we consider the fraternal greetings between church courts last June an evidence of this and also a condition of its continuance.

Without mentioning names of denominations, it must be admitted that we are much nearer to some than to others. With some we could co-operate to the extent above referred to without any sacrifice of principle, with others co-operation is out of the question without compromising our views of the Gospel of Christ. There is no doubt that fraternal greetings, co-operation as far as practicable, and abstaining from uncalled for interference, will bring evangelical Churches more closely together, and promote mutual esteem and affection. But even this will require time; and it cannot be hastened by appeals to general principles or to consistency.

Of two things we are fully persuaded. One is that denominationalism is not an unmitigated evil. It has many disadvantages; but it is conservative of religious liberty, and also of sound doctrine. It affords scope for the exercise of charity; while it excites to laudable emulation in carrying on the Church's work, both at home and abroad. When there was only one Church in Europe, it became spiritually dead and fearfully corrupt in both doctrine and morals. To the revolution and disintegration which took place in the sixteenth century, we are, under God, indebted for the civil and religious liberty which we enjoy. Dr. Hodge says: "It is not the existence of sects, for that, perhaps, is unavoidable, but it is the refusal to recognize as brethren those who really love and serve Christ, that is to be condemned and deplored."

The other thing of which we are assured that is if a general, desirable and permanent union among Christian Churches is to be effected it will not be by the sacrifice of truth, or by latitudinarianism. Churches united by the compromise of Scripture truth would resemble the kingdom represented by an image "whose head was of fine gold, his breast and arms of silver, his belly and thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay." The fate of which was to be dashed in pieces. Let the Churches strive without prejudice to conform their doctrine and polity as closely as possible to the Word of God, which is the only infallible standard, and they will approach proportionately to one another. The great progress in Scriptural exegesis and knowledge, which is everywhere manifest, will greatly facilitate this; and the time will come when "Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim."

#### FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

MR. EDITOR,—As the Executive of the Board of French Evangelization are preparing an official reply to Mr. W. S. Ball's strictures on the work, I desire now simply to notice his personal attack on myself; and here let me state that about two years ago I wished to withdraw from the work but, at the urgent solicitation of brethren, was induced to continue my services. At its first meeting after the last General Assembly I intimated to the Board my intention of withdrawing at the close of the current year, as did also the Chairman. Though urged by the brethren to alter our decision, we did not see our way clear to do so; and, on motion of Rev. C. A. Tanner, the following resolution was adopted: "It is with much regret that the Board learns that its Chairman and Secretary-treasurer intend tendering their resignation to the next General Assembly as officers of this Board, and the Board hereby records its unabated confidence in these officers, and its hearty approval of the efficient and successful way in which they have been enabled to do the important work entrusted to them by the Church; at the same time expressing the earnest hope that both these gentlemen may reconsider their decision before the meeting of the next General Assembly."

Mr. Ball says: "The rent of that office in Montreal is greater than our office in Toronto, where more than six times the amount of business is transacted. The management of the fund last year in one way or other cost \$3,669.12, or sixteen per cent. of the whole sum, while moneys are handled in the office at Toronto for at the utmost one-fourteenth part of that cost."

It is not easy to write calmly concerning such statements as these,—statements thoroughly incorrect in figures and percentages and in every other respect. Apart from this, any comparison between the two offices is most unfair, as every one who is acquainted with the facts knows. The efficient agent of the Church in Toronto receives and disburses moneys,

but he does not act as Convener or Secretary, he does not administer any of the Mission Schemes, as is the case in the Montreal office; and therefore no fair comparison can be drawn between the two. The question of the cost of administration is one in regard to which our people are most sensitive, and Mr. Ball seizes on this and by a most unfair comparison, as well as by incorrect figures—as any one can ascertain for himself—he seeks to accomplish his purpose. Had he sought information where he knew it could be found or had he even read carefully the report which he criticizes he would not have fallen into so many inaccuracies of statement, nor would he have drawn so many false conclusions as he has done. Now what are some of the facts of the case? 1. Immediately upon Union being consummated the General Assembly in June, 1875, instituted the Board of French Evangelization and appointed an agent to supervise its work. Besides this agent the Board secured the services of another gentleman as Treasurer. In the following year the Board represented to the General Assembly that the work required an additional agent and I was appointed to the position. At this time there were two Committees, taking charge respectively of the Eastern and Western Sections. A few weeks after I entered upon the work the agent appointed in 1875 resigned to accept another position and no other permanent agent has since been appointed in his stead, though from time to time, as occasion required, the services of a collecting agent have been employed. Three months later the Treasurer retired and I was asked and agreed to take his work in addition to my own. About a year afterwards the Eastern Committee was merged into the Western, and on it the care of the whole work has since devolved. These changes all helped very considerably to increase my duties. The expansion of the work and especially the transfer of the Pointe-aux Trembles' schools to the Board, upward of four years ago, necessarily entailed additional labour and responsibility. The correspondence with Sabbath schools and private individuals to secure the \$6,000 or \$7,000 additional annual revenue required for the maintenance of these mission schools is in itself alone no sinecure. In the eight years of my connection with the work we have never reported a deficit to the General Assembly, the receipts always meeting the expenditure. The regular income of the Board has very greatly increased during these years, (nearly doubled) till it is now (not \$24,000 but) upwards of \$30,000 per annum. On the other hand the expense of administering the work has greatly diminished, being much less now than in 1876, the year of my appointment.

2. In addition to the duties of the position above referred to, I have acted since the union of 1875 as Secretary of the Assembly's Home Mission Committee, a position, as my brethren know, involving considerable labour.

3. Upon the inauguration of the Scheme for the Augmentation of Ministers' Stipends, I was appointed Secretary of this committee, and have aided in an humble way to further the interests of the movement and to attain the measure of success thus far achieved.

4. When the General Assembly, three or four years ago, instituted this Union Fund for the support of the Theological Colleges of the Western Section of the Church I was appointed agent and joint-treasurer of the fund, and have given some time and labour to the furtherance of this scheme.

5. In 1877 I was appointed Treasurer of the Presbyterian College, Montreal. During these past eight years the annual income of the college has nearly doubled; its Endowment Fund has increased from \$25,000 to upwards of \$160,000, and its assets have swollen from \$70,000 to \$300,000. Some idea may be formed of the labour involved in collecting its Annual Revenue and in looking after the investment of its moneys, when it is remembered that its Endowment Fund is now nearly as large as the paid up capital of some of our Canadian Joint Stock Loan Companies, which have the services of a paid Manager and Valuator and Board of Directors in the conduct of their business, and many of which do not pay a larger annual dividend to their shareholders than the Endowment Fund of this college yields, notwithstanding the lower rate of interest and the greater risk with mortgage investments in the Province of Quebec, owing to the peculiarities of the French law governing such matters in that province.

6. I have for the last seven or eight years acted as Convener of the Home Mission Committee and Treasurer of the Presbytery of Montreal, and have ever sought to do a fair share of other church work.

7. In addition to the duties above referred to, I very frequently take pulpit work. With the exception of five Sabbaths I have preached every Lord's Day in the last eighteen months, and that generally in the interest of some department of the Church's work.

During these eight years I have received for church purposes upwards of \$590,000, and during these years my entire salary from all church sources, together with office rent, assessments, lighting, heating and other incidental office expenses, have not averaged quite \$2,250 per annum, or about three per cent. on the contributions passing through my hands; and, I may add, fully \$1,250 per annum less than the actual cost of maintaining my family during these eight years. And yet Mr. Ball insinuates that I eat the bread of idleness

by affirming that "more than six times the amount of business is transacted" in another office of the Church than in mine, and that "at the utmost one fourteenth part of the cost" If an average of at least thirteen hours' work daily is eating the bread of idleness, then I plead guilty.

I feel pained to write thus of myself, and did the personal attack of Mr. Ball affect only myself I would treat it as it deserves. The interests, however, of an important scheme of the Church are so affected by this personal attack that a sense of duty constrains me to write as I have done.

I conclude with the expression of my earnest personal conviction, that, notwithstanding difficulties and discouragements not a few, the French Evangelization Scheme is as deserving to-day, as at any former period, of the confidence and sympathy and liberality of the Church.

Montreal, Nov. 5th, 1884.

ROBERT H. WARDEN.

#### AUGMENTATION OF STIPENDS.

ANNUAL COLLECTION, SABBATH, 16TH NOVEMBER, 1884.

The following circular has been forwarded for publication: REV. AND DEAR SIR,—The third Sabbath of November is the day appointed by the General Assembly for a Special Collection in aid of the Augmentation Fund. It is earnestly hoped that in all Congregations and Mission Stations which have not adopted some other method of raising funds for this object, the collection will be made on the day appointed, or on some other convenient Sabbath.

The attempt to raise the stipends of the ministers, in the Western section of the Church, to a minimum of \$750 and manse, was successful last year to this extent, that payments were made on the increased scale for the six months ended in April, 1884, (grants having been made on the old basis for the six months preceding,) and a reserve fund of \$17,000 was secured, which has made it easy to meet the payments due in October without borrowing money.

When the movement was set on foot a year ago, there were 256 Congregations in the Western section of the Church, including thirty-three vacant charges, giving less than the proposed minimum. Of these seventy-eight made no claim on the Augmentation Fund, coming up in nearly all cases to the standard required. The number of Congregations at present on the Augmentation list is 163, of which 141 have settled ministers. The amount required to secure the minimum stipend for the current year to these ministers is about \$30,000. Some small proportion of this amount may be received from the assisted Congregations, but the stronger Congregations of the Church will have about the same burden to bear as last year.

According to the regulations of the General Assembly, supplements should be paid semi-annually, so as to make the stipend "in the first place" only \$600 and manse, the income which remains at the disposal of the Committee when the Treasurer's books are made up at the end of the ecclesiastical year, (April 30th) being distributed so as to secure to each minister, if possible, \$750 and manse. In view, however, of the heartiness with which the matter was taken up last year, and in the faith that there will be such a general and liberal response throughout the Church this year to the appeal for funds as will justify the Committee in going beyond the letter of the Assembly's regulations, the Committee resolved, at the meeting held last week, to pay the supplements at the full rate of \$750 and manse for the past half year. The Committee are confident that the Church does not intend to take a backward step in this matter, and they have no fear, therefore, of being obliged to reduce the grants in April. It must be borne in mind, however, that a good many special contributions were given last year, which may not be repeated, and, consequently, there is need of increased liberality on the part of the Congregations of the Church generally.

The General Assembly has resolved that the funds for Home Mission Work proper, and for Augmentation of Stipends, shall be kept distinct. It is particularly requested that Congregations contribute separately to these two objects. If money be remitted for both objects combined, it should be distinctly stated how it is to be divided.

Envelopes, specially prepared, will be supplied to Congregations. They may be distributed on the Sabbath preceding that on which the collection is to be made, or used in any other way that may seem good to the office-bearers. Such envelopes were used last year in many cases with good results.

The Committee commend this object to the earnest consideration of ministers and people, confident that continued success in securing a decent maintenance for ministers in needy districts will tell favourably on every department of the work of the Lord committed to us.

On behalf of the Sub-Committee on Augmentation.

D. J. MACDONNELL, Convener.

ROBT. H. WARDEN, Secretary.

Toronto, 30th October, 1884.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—Rev. Dr. Reid has received the following contributions for schemes of the Church, viz.: A. R. F., Montreal, for Foreign Missions, Formosa, \$5; O. A. W., Montreal, for Foreign Mission, \$2; "Anonymous" 20c; do, \$2; do \$1; a Debtor, 50c; Mrs. Kelligan, \$5; Miss Thomson, \$2; Winnipeg, J. W. Wardrop, For William, \$5; Knox Church, Winnipeg, \$9; Knox at St Andrew's Sunday school, Winnipeg Union meeting for Foreign Mission, \$30.85; Per Rev. J. Finser Campbell A lady in Halifax for Foreign Mission, Zenana Work, \$10; Anonymous for French Evangelization \$3.