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FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1874.

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

The Synod of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland has resolved to make an effort to have £200 sterling the minimum stipend to be paid to any of her ministers. We are glad to see such a proposal made, and wish it all success. Few know all the worry and pinching experienced in many a minister's house, and how much that has to do with ministerial failure and an early, and in some cases dishonoured, graves. No wonder that the candidates for the ministry in Scotland are becoming fewer every year. No doubt a person ought not to enter the ministry in order to make money, but there is surely nothing wrong in expecting a decent competency, so that the minister may not be put out by the mere mention of a new book, which he dare not purchase, or clothes which, however needed, he cannot wear, because he cannot pay for them. Some movement to secure \$1,000 as minimum salary in Canada is very much needed, though some will allege that it is only folly to propose it as feasible, and as things go, in any way practicable. We can see no difficulty in the way but the stinginess of many who are ready to make motions on the subject in Church Courts, but not ready to follow them up till the offer comes to be a glorious reality, to the glory of God, the good of the Church, and the comfort of many a home.

PATRONAGE IN THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Thirty-one years exactly after the disruption of the Church of Scotland, the Duke of Richmond in the House of Lords introduced a measure for the total abolition of patronage, and for giving the right of electing a minister in each parish to the male communicants connected with the parish church. What is to be done in those cases where there are no communicants, seems to be rather a puzzle, but the Duke promises some satisfactory arrangement. No arrangement can be satisfactory that perpetuates the farce of a minister being ordained and inducted to the charge of two, three or ten individuals. The measure we speak of is a ministerial one, and is no doubt framed with a view to popularizing the Established Church, and staying thereby the demands for its abolition. That it will be unsuccessful in this we most strongly believe. The measure will be opposed by the overwhelming majority of all dissenters of every name in Scotland, and it is very likely, if it is actually passed, it will tend only to accelerate instead of retarding the much-decided catastrophe. Logically, those who propose such a measure should also endeavour to get all the Free Church ministers who came out at the disruption restored to their parishes, with all their arrears of stipend secured to them, and every reparation made for the cruel wrongs suffered by them from the perversity and folly of former rulers. There is no provision for anything of this kind in the Bill, and even if there were, the Free Church is not to be caught in any such way. In thirty years something has generally been learned, and some opinions discovered to have been false. Insensitively, the Free Church has advanced with the age, and now its ministers feel that what might have satisfied in '48 will be far from satisfying in '74. It is a risky business to try to patch up an old building, and not less risky will any attempt at popularizing the Church of Scotland without disestablishing and disestablishing it. No doubt the measure will cause keen debate through all its readings, and we more than doubt of its ultimate success.

THE POWER OF PRESBYTERIES.

A correspondent last week called attention to a proceeding of the Paris Presbytery which suggests very grave thoughts, and may give rise to very perplexing questions. We are no doubt aware that it was originally the plan in all Presbyterian Churches for the decision in reference to competing calls or translations to be given by Presbyteries or rather by the Supreme Courts. But we had thought that this was on all hands given up as untenable and upon the whole as not likely to be followed in many cases by good results. We can easily understand that in many instances the person called may be in such perplexity as to feel it a relief to lay the whole responsibility of the decision on the Presbytery. But to first give him an opportunity of expressing his mind on the subject and then for the Presbytery to go right in the face of that decision seems to us, to speak frankly, both high handed, absurd and untenable. It places all parties in an exceedingly awkward and unpleasant position, and whatever may have been either the practice or the rule in the Free Church branch of the Canada Presbyterian Church, it goes quite counter to what we know to both the practice and rule of the U. P. branch, and will, we have little doubt have to be given up both in theory and practice before many years pass by. Indeed the matter won't stand argument at all. There was a show of reason in the Supreme Church deciding such things, as it was to be presumed that it was equally interested in all the sections and congregations of that Church, and could take an enlarged, comprehensive and unprejudiced view of the relative needs of different congregations and the comparative usefulness of a minister in this position or in that. But how a Presbytery with all its localized feelings and prejudices and with the natural wish of retaining able or loved ministers within its own bounds can be thought able to completely judge of the relative needs of two congregations nearly five hundred miles apart is more than we can see. If it be right, deprive the person called of any say in the matter, but if he is consulted, and an expression of his wishes and preferences extracted from him, it is both cruel and absurd to go right in the teeth of what he wants to do. Indeed, we doubt if any Presbytery has in strict law such a right, if it has, we are quite sure it will not retain it long.

THE SWING CONTROVERSY.

Mr. Swing, the popular preacher of Chicago, has been acquitted on the charge of heresy, by the Presbytery of which he was a member, and has thereafter declared that he withdrew from the Presbyterian Church as he could not live in an atmosphere of contention. In taking this course, Mr. Swing has made a great mistake even in the estimation of his greatest admirers. Dr. Patton has appealed to the Synod and promises, if necessary to carry the matter to the Assembly. It would not at all surprise us that the issue of this case will be the rending asunder of the lately United Presbyterian Church. Mr. Swing claims that he holds exactly the opinions of the new school. Dr. R. Paterson the leading new school Presbyterian clergyman in Chicago, defended Mr. Swing with great earnestness, and on the same grounds. Dr. P. looks forward to possible disruption as the closing words of his speech in defence of Mr. S. show:—

"The interests of the Presbyterian Church are widely involved in the results of this trial. Young men are for war; but let them consider whereunto these things will grow before they carry the conflict further. Our beloved church may easily be riven again, and the next time it will be divided for all the future, or at least until a broader creed is formed in explicitness as a basis for reunion. I do not believe that our Confession is incapable of improvement as a bond of union. This conviction is gaining ground far and wide."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

This court met in Knox Church, Ottawa, on Tuesday last, at half-past seven, p.m. The retiring Moderator, Rev. W. Reid, M.A., preached from Phil. i 18, and afterwards took the chair till the roll was called, and the new Moderator chose. Rev. Thos. McPherson, M.A., of Stratford, was unanimously chosen, and upon taking the chair addressed the Assembly in appropriate terms. The Rev. Dr. Topp, seconded by Dr. Taylor, of Montreal, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Reid for his conduct in the chair. This was cordially agreed to and after some routine business the Assembly adjourned till Wednesday morning.

In Mr. Middlemiss letter in our last issue, a sentence near the first of the second column should read as follows: The Lord ordinary (Ardmillan, I believe, for I write from memory) before whom the case first came, refused—properly according to our view, but improperly according to Mr. Campbell's view, to entertain Mr. McMillan's application," &c.

THE "KIRK" SYNOD.

This court met in St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, on Tuesday last. The retiring Moderator, the Rev. Jas. Paterson, preached from 1st Cor. 4-5. There was some little diversity of opinion about the mode of choosing the Moderator, eventually the Rev. John Kenzie, M.A., of Chatham was chosen and took the chair.

Reports of some Committees were handed in and replies to addresses to the Queen and the Governor General were read. The Synod then adjourned to Wednesday morning.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD, SCOTLAND.

The U. P. Synod began its sittings this year on the 12th of May, and continued them for part of two weeks. The Rev. Dr. Brown, Moderator, preached the introductory sermon, after which Dr. A. Thomson, Edinburgh was unanimously chosen as his successor in the Moderator's chair.

Mr. Jas. Poddie, who has been treasurer to the Church since 1834, resigned that position, but agreed to continue to act till a Committee which was appointed should select a successor. Twenty students were reported to have entered the Divinity Hall, being 8 less than was last year, and the average scholarship was \$20, as compared with \$56 last year. It was agreed not to fill up the Chair of Church History, vacant by the death of Professor McMichael, till next year. It was reported that 48 out of 65 competitors had obtained scholarships of from £10 to £45, the amount distributed being £680. Dr. Somerville's resignation of the Lectureship of Missions and Evangelism, which he has held since 1838, was received. A long discussion took place on the subject of union between the United Presbyterian congregations in England and the English Presbyterian Church. Dr. Cairns moved that the Synod agree to the consummation of the union in October, which was seconded by Mr. Graham Liverpool. Dr. Johnston moved that in the meantime the negotiations be suspended, on the ground that of their 106 congregations in England, 59 have reported in favour of a scheme of union, that 35 have reported against it, that 21 had made no report either for or against it, that of the 40 in favour of the scheme of union 28 were unanimous, 13 were divided, and 9 did not state whether they were agreed to unanimity or by a majority; and of the 85 returns against the scheme of union, 20 were unanimous, and 5 divided, and 4 not stated. Several other motions were proposed, but ultimately a division took place on the above motions, when that of Dr. Johnston for delay was carried by 185 to 175 votes. Dr. Cairns dissented, and the Union Committee was discharged. A scheme for the re-organization of the Theological Hall was submitted, and recommended that the session should consist of five or six months corresponding as nearly as possible with that in the principal Universities, in place of seven weeks as at present, that there be three sessions of attendance, that the professors be separated from their pastoral charges, that they receive a salary of not less than £500 per annum, and that the means of maintaining the Hall be raised partly by a capital fund and partly by annual contribution. It was agreed to remit the scheme for consideration of Presbyteries and Sessions. A discussion took place as to Church extension in Glasgow, and it was agreed to leave the Henderson Fund of £5000 in the hands of a Committee for that purpose, and to ask the Presbytery of Glasgow to devise the best means for proceeding with systematic evangelistic effort. The Committee of Church Disestablishment gave in a report, which was approved, and in terms of which the Synod agreed to petition Parliament for the disestablishment of the Churches of England and Scotland, in favour of Mr. Larn's Church Rates Abolition Bill, and against Prison Ministers Bill, and to oppose all legislative proposals to deal with the question of patronage in the Established Church of Scotland, otherwise than as part of a final measure for the disestablishment and disendowment of that Church. On Friday, Rev. Mr. Graham, Liverpool; Dr. Jeffrey, Glasgow; and Dr. Wallace, Glasgow, addressed the Synod on the subject of the religious movement in Glasgow, and on the motion of Mr. Ritchie, Dundee, it was agreed to recommend the Presbyteries to hold early conferences on the subject, and to consider whether it might not be well to make arrangements for a series of evangelistic meetings in every congregation. The Moderator having given a practical address bearing on the revival movement as seen in Edinburgh, Dr. Scott gave in the report on evangelistic work, showing that there were 7 agents employed, and that the total income was £4900, of which £640 were contributed by Mr. David Paton, to whom thanks were voted. Mr. Wood, Campsie, was appointed joint-clerk at a salary of £60. An overture from the English Synod as to recruiting better lay representation in the superior Church Courts was favourably received, and it was agreed to send it down to Presbyteries and Sessions, appointing Committees to consider the whole subject, and to report to next Synod. The finances of the Church are in a very satisfactory position. The total income of the Church for 1873 has been £338,378 1s. 7d., exceeding that for 1872 by £7424 7s. 5d., and being the largest income that has been realised in the year since the origin of the denomination. The total amount of stipend paid is £133,236 12s. 11d., which gives an average annual stipend of £210 12s. 11d. The average rate of contributions to congregational income from each member of the Church was £1. 1s. 10d., which shows an increase of 4d. per member on the rate of contribution for 1872. The number of members in full communion with the Church is 184,083, showing an increase of 1238 over the previous year. The average public attendance on the Lord's-day for 1873 has been 800,181; in 1872 it was 267,172. Of the gross annual income of

the Church for 1873, the Presbytery of Glasgow has contributed £86,070 14s. 6d., being about a fourth of the whole. The annual contribution from each member in the Glasgow Presbytery has been £3 18s. 2d. Edinburgh Presbytery has contributed £43,846 11s. 2d. A report was given, recommending that the committee be re-appointed to draw up a scheme of a Representative Assembly, send it down to Presbyteries, and bring it up at next Synod. The recommendation was carried by a majority. Dr. Cairns laid on the table the report on Union, and, in moving its approval, proposed that the Synod declare anew its desire for union with the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and re-appoint its Committee of that Church, and to watch over the interests of union generally. The motion was unanimously agreed to. A report on the Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund showed that there were 31 annuitants, and a capital fund of £23,073.

TRANSPORTATION TO THE NORTH-WEST.

Few things are more important to Canada than ample facilities for the conveyance of passengers and freight with cheapness, comfort and despatch to Fort Garry and the North-west generally. We, therefore, with great pleasure lay before our readers a statement of the arrangements made by Government with Messrs. Carpenter & Co. for the conveyance of goods and passengers along the Dawson Route during the present season.

1st. The contractors are bound to carry passengers and freight from Thunder Bay to Fort Garry, and vice versa, during the season 1874.

2nd. All Government property given over for the use of the contractors must be kept in good order, be subject to the continued inspection of a Government Engineer, and be handed back "approved" at the close of the season.

3rd. Passengers and freight are to leave Thunder Bay and Fort Garry at least three times a week, respectively, and if necessary there shall be a daily departure for both freight and passengers from both termini.

4th. Passengers are to be conveyed through at furthest in ten or twelve days, freight in from fifteen to twenty, and the contractors are to make such arrangements that delay shall not be caused by accident to plant.

5th. There must be at the different stations houses and tents, in good order, for the accommodation of passengers, and meals must be provided at 80 cents apiece.

6th. All reasonable provision must be made for passengers being comfortable at the different resting-places where they stay over Sundays.

7th. The sale or gift of intoxicating liquors is in the most absolute terms prohibited.

8th. Contractors to provide proper covers for stages and waggons, as well as blankets.

9th. At all stations proper notices in French and English must be posted up, giving the regulations, rates of travel, freight, &c.

10th. The maximum rates chargeable are the following:—From Thunder Bay to Fort Garry and vice versa, each passenger, \$10; each passenger under 14 years of age, \$5; children under three, free of charge; freight (not including household furniture and machinery), \$2 per 100 lbs.; household furniture (at owner's risk) \$3 per 100 lbs.; machinery, at specified rates, to be approved by officer in charge; cattle, horses, sheep, &c., at special rates, to be also approved as above; way passengers and freight inland, 5 cents per mile for passage, 1 1/2 cents per mile for each 100 lbs.; Thunder Bay to Fort Francis, or vice versa, \$7.

11th. A table of distances must be conspicuously exposed at all stations, and freight or passage calculated by it.

12th. The bonus to be paid by Government is \$74,000, in six equal instalments.

13th. Contract may be cancelled for good cause.

If these conditions are faithfully carried out, travel by the Dawson route will this summer be comfortable, expeditious, and safe, and this line ought to monopolize the whole Canadian traffic to and from the North-west.

Ministers and Churches.

We understand that the Rev. John Somerville has been appointed to supply the pulpit of the Presbyterian Church Wardville, during the next six months. Mr. Somerville was for some years Principal of the St. Thomas and Weston Grammar Schools, is a scholar of high attainments, and a very superior preacher. He began his labors on Sabbath last. We congratulate the Wardville people on the settlement of Mr. Somerville in their village.—Exchange.

On the afternoon of the 21st ult., a presentation was made to Rev. G. A. and Mrs. Yeomans, of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Winterbourne. The pastor and his wife were invited out to tea, where they met a number of their church people, who brought forward a handsome baby carriage, with an infant's hat for summer wear, which they begged them to accept as a token of their good will and esteem. Mr. Yeomans replied on behalf of his wife in an informal way, thanking them for a gift and speaking of it as valuable, most of all because of the friendliness that lay behind it. It was certainly a most appropriate present, and nothing could have been given with which the recipients would have been better pleased.

On the 20th ult., the Rev. Alexander G. Sutherland was inducted by the Presbytery of London into the united pastoral charge of Guthrie's Church, Melbourne, and Cook's Church, Canadac. Mr. Sutherland, of Enfield, presided at the induction and addressed the minister in reference to his privileges and duties. Mr. Stewart of Moss, preached a very appropriate sermon, from Acts 18-19, and addressed the people on their duties to their pastor. This promises to be a very happy settlement. Mr. Sutherland, having, with invariable success exercised his ministry in the Church of the Lower Provinces, for upwards of twenty-six years, and always endeared himself to the affections of the people of God, is a man of great experience in the work of the Gospel and a very efficient pastor. The people of his charge are intelligent, devoted and united, and such as appreciate Gospel ordinances and the distinctive principles which characterize our beloved Presbyterianism. May the Lord bless both pastor and people, and prosper them to the mutual comfort of each other.—Con.

On Sabbath of last week the new brick Church in Hanover was opened for public worship. The opening sermon was preached by the Rev. R. C. Moffat, of Walkerton, the founder of the Church. The afternoon sermon was preached by Mr. Campbell, Theological Student, and the evening by the Rev. W. Park, of Durham. All the services were well attended, and the collections realized nearly fifty dollars. The building is a solid, respectable and roomy one, and reflects great credit on the spirit of the people in facing such a work. This Station was begun by Mr. Moffat in 1868, and all things considered, its progress has been very satisfactory. We trust before long to hear that Hanover and West Benwick will have settled over an earnest minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. On Wednesday evening last, after the close of the prayer meeting Mrs. W. McGregor and Mr. John Hunter walked up to the platform and read a very warm hearted address, and at its close presented to the Rev. R. C. Moffat of Walkerton, the very handsome and unexpected present of a purse having inside seventy-six dollars in gold and bills. The design of the present being to give Mr. Moffat a few weeks much needed rest as a holiday. Mr. Moffat in reply warmly thanked all the givers present and absent, for their handsome gift. The last, though not the least, of the many tokens of their love and kindness he had received in the course of his ministry.

Book Notices.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY, by Rev. John Hall D.D., New York. Adam Stevenson & Co., Toronto.

Dr. Hall needs no recommendation of ours, his name has become a household word in both the old world and the new. His great ambition is to be useful, not to shine as a brilliant writer. The present volume is perfectly in keeping with this ambition. It consists of the notes prepared for his congregational Ladies' Bible Class, and is published with the hope that the addresses may do still more good in the printed form than they have already effected as originally intended in the Bible Class. The subjects discussed are decidedly living questions as may be seen from the following heading: 'Is the Roman Race one? Should we pray? Is Christianity to be modernized? Is the Sabbath for us? May the ministry be demitted?' &c. There is, of course, nothing very original or startling in these addresses; but they are fresh, practical and pointed, and very well calculated to subserve the end proposed in their publication. The Canadian reprint of the volume is exceedingly creditable to all engaged in its production.

THE BRITISH QUARTERLY FOR APRIL reprinted by the Leonard Scott, Publishing Company, New York, has come to hand. As usual the contents are varied and interesting.

Among the poems in this number we find, "Gowns of Gossamer," by Lucy Larcom; a jolly story in verse by Mary Mapes Dodge, called "The Sun and the Stars," and a poem by John Hay. There is a brief account of the "Jardin d'Acclimation" in Paris, with two captivating pictures, one of children riding on an elephant and another of a party of youngsters in a carriage drawn by an ostrich. The three serials are as good as ever; in "Fast Friends," Mr. J. T. Trowbridge gives his heroes some amusing New York experiences; there is a night adventure in a wood in Olive Thorne's "Nimpo's Troubles," and an account of the peculiar workings of a boy's telegraph company in "What Might Have Been Expected," by Frank R. Stockton. Two pictures by Frank Beard, illustrating a feud between a set of tempus and a big ball, are very amusing; and there are several other humorous pictures, one of which illustrates what might be called a "French-fiat" house for dogs. This month the boys and girls are offered a Latin sketch for translation, the "Letter Box" increases in interest, and "Jack-in-the-Pulpit" seems inspired by the spring breezes to new efforts of wit and wisdom. The Editors announce fine things in store for the boys and girls; among them a best story by Mrs. Hay.