

MODE OF RAISING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES.

We hold it as a first principle that all such contributions should be voluntary—that they should be given cheerfully by those from whom they proceed, and that no means should be used for obtaining them but such as are perfectly fair and honest. A great variety of methods, however, may be adopted; and it is of no small consequence that the best should be employed. What is best for one case, may not be so for another. Generally the best is that which, while quite free from all mystery or deception, will produce the largest amount, and at the same time be least inconvenient for the contributors. A very common mode of raising what is required for the maintenance of a church is by pew rents, collected once a quarter, or half-year. There is before us a Tract by the Rev. John Ross, of Hackney, London, England, in which a different plan is recommended—one which has been pretty extensively adopted in Britain, which is practised also in different denominations in Canada, and is said to give great satisfaction. The plan admits of many modifications, but the following are some of its leading features: Every individual is asked to assess himself—to say how much he will give in weekly or monthly contributions. That sum is entered in the treasurer's book as the person's offering. A number of very small envelopes are furnished to the offerer, who is to put into these his weekly instalments, and write his name on each envelope. The envelopes are then put each Lord's day into the collection plate, or any other receiver provided for the purpose. The treasurer then credits each contributor with the sum given; the sums are added together at the end of the quarter, and if the full amount promised has been paid, the matter is settled. If there is a deficiency, the treasurer addresses to him a printed circular, informing him that such a portion of the promised sum is unpaid. It may be objected that this plan must be attended with considerable trouble. Several replies may be made. First, no scheme will succeed without a good deal of attention. Secondly, the object contemplated is of the highest importance, and deserves, as it demands, some effort and sacrifice; and thirdly, when proper books and other apparatus are provided, the trouble is really less than might be supposed. We give in next column, a scheme which has been exhibited for keeping the accounts.

Mr. Ross refers to cases known to him in which contributions are made as follows: A farm-labourer gives 4d. weekly out of 9s. Another gives 5d., by sacrificing tobacco. A tradesman gives 10s. out of £5. One gives 16s. out of £6. Another gives £50 weekly out of £80. He refers also to a small village church, which raises £130 per annum; a small town church which raises £300; a medium church £1,500; and a large church £5,000. Many, it is said, have difficulty in determining how much, or, as some allege, *how little* they ought to devote to the cause of religion. Mr. Ross gives the subjoined table, which, he says, may be regarded as a safe rule for all in ordinary circumstances. A person having

4s. a week may give	1d.	£2. weekly may give	2s. 6d.
8s. " "	3d.	£3. " "	4s. 6d.
12s. " "	6d.	£4. " "	8s.
15s. " "	9d.	£5. " "	10s. or 12s.
£1. " "	1s.		

No. of Person as on Envelope.	Name.	No. of Pews required.	Amount Weekly.	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	February. 21	18	7	14	21	28	Quarter's Subscrip- tion.
1	William Hall	16	2	6	6	6	6	6	2	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	1 12
2	Hannah Park	27	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	0 6
3	Thos. Walker	45	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0 6
4	John Smith	87	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0 6
5	Mary Jones	104	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0 12
6	George Williams	43	1	6	1	6	1	6	1	6	1	6	1	6	1	6	0 3
7	Halph Scott	12	1	2	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	0 19
					5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	6 0

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH, 1858.