

# Letters to the Editor.

## Collections for the Schemes.

DEAR SIR:—When I was Editor, I made several attempts to induce the Conveners of the Synodic Committees, towards whose funds collections are ordered to be made annually throughout the Church, to publish in the *Record* a statement of the condition of their funds, the probable amount required for the year, and whatever other facts they saw fit to place before the Church. I am sorry to say that I did not succeed as I hoped I would have done; but subsequent experience has shown me that I was right. Now, that I can only write as a private member of the Church, I would urge again upon the consideration of Committees, “and especially upon the Conveners,” (as the votes of thanks usually have it) the absolute necessity of bringing, in this, or in some other way, their work thoroughly before the Church. I think if the said Conveners would consider the following particulars, some of them, at least, would accede to the request:—

1. The Convener knows the condition of the Committee's work, and also its needs and wants. Ordinary ministers do not, except in so far as they know the work and wants of the *previous year*. But congregations are not asked to collect for the previous, but for the current year. The minister and people are, therefore, expected to walk in the darkness. Hence so many of us stumble.

2. Through the *Record* the Committees could reach so many more than we can reach by simple intimation from the pulpit; for, if intimation is given on a stormy day, we know how the collection suffers.

3. It would show the people that the Synod attaches much importance to the work, from the simple fact that they have appointed a Committee to supervise it. As it is, many of our people cannot tell you how many Committees the Synod has, and they think that a great many of the different Schemes are pressed upon them because their own minister is interested in them.

For many other reasons, some change from the present system is desirable. A

trifling outlay would put a printed statement in every pew within the bounds of the Synod, and a very little trouble would put one in the *Record* at the proper time, (both these are done in Scotland), and I am convinced that the result in the contributions of the people would justify the change. Anything is better than the present intimation. Ministers have not time for a full explanation from the pulpit, even if they had the knowledge. Something should be done.

Yours, &c.,

JOHN CAMPBELL.

## The Synod's Schemes.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—As the usual mode of raising funds for sustaining the Schemes of the Synod by special collections, must in some measure interfere with the ordinary routine of the Ministers' duties,—and as the objects for which such collections are taken may not be so extensively defined as to enable the people generally to appreciate their importance,—a division of labour—by which the several congregations may be induced to co-operate with their pastors and the Standing Committees in carrying out these Schemes—would give a desirable impetus to the efforts of those hitherto charged with these indispensable services;—and in response to the recommendation of the Committee on Christian Life and Work —“that the duty of systematic benevolence be prominently brought before the people,” the propriety of raising funds for the Synodical Schemes, by appointing collectors in each congregation, may be reasonably suggested. In making such appointments, each collector should be supplied with a “Collector's Card,” and also with printed explanations of the object and utility of the Scheme, for which donations are being received, these explanations being first prepared for general distribution by the Standing Committee in charge of the Scheme.

In each congregation, intelligent young persons may be found ready and willing to engage in this department of Christian work; and by appointing three or more collectors for each Scheme, their labours would doubtless result in enlarged receipts, besides