

the sphere of the Society's benign efforts. The U. P. Church in Scotland has two Agents whose salaries constitute but small items of the large increase of funds resulting from their efficient labours. And most of the influential Protestant Churches in this Province, viz., the Episcopal Church, the Wesleyan, and the Free, employ paid Agency in conducting their various schemes; and, as far as we have learned, the results in every case have justified the means. We are fully convinced that our ecclesiastical machine will at best move but sluggishly and joltingly along, till we apply as a motive power a qualified and well-paid Agent. We cannot but believe that the salary of such an Agent would speedily be much more than met by the increased liberality of the people.

It is also possible that some would deem it an impropriety were the Synod to appoint an Agent in prospect of an early Union with the Free Church—an event to be prayed for, and by effort hastened, by all in both Churches that desire Zion's peace and prosperity. The near prospect of Union constitutes in our opinion, no ground or apology for delaying the appointment of an Agent. Unless the Union be consummated at the meeting of Synod in June—a consummation to be desired rather than expected—there could be no impropriety, but the reverse, in taking action in the matter referred to. The extent and condition of our Church warrant and loudly demand the employment of an Agent. Well, when the Union takes place—and may it speedily occur—there will be more than sufficient field for the efforts of two Agents. As we view matters, the work of our Agent would be much more of an out-door character than that at present assigned to the worthy Agent of the Free Church. The duties of the latter, after Union, would not, perhaps, greatly differ from what they now are, and with which, those of the former could be so arranged as in no way to interfere. Indeed the United Church would possess a power for good that neither at present enjoys. The needed, desired, and expected Union will not be hastened a single day by the postponement of needed measures on the part of our Synod, nor retarded in the least by an enlightened and vigorous prosecution of the path of duty. Rightly or wrongly it is the opinion of some that the shadow of the coming Union has had a paralyzing effect on the energies of our Church, especially in regard to her Missionary operations, in preventing her entering localities in which her services were sought, lest she might even seem to contend, or compete, with a Church with which she hoped ere long to be united. Now, as far as we know, our sister Church has never been caused to turn aside one step or to linger a moment in her aggressive march by the consideration of the expected and approaching Union. Her policy is not wanting in wisdom. If Union be accomplished soon, well; if it be indefinitely postponed, she has lost nothing by desiring and looking for it, having permitted no duty to wait its coming. Let us go and do likewise. And one of the first things that demand the earnest consideration of Synod is the question that heads this paper, *Should there be an Agent for the schemes of the Church?*

EALD.