

Concerning Finance.

OUR Church is called this year, in the good providence of God to pay more than ordinary attention to finance. Necessity is laid upon her to devise wisely and to execute promptly and liberally. She is learning a lesson which she greatly needs, and which will we trust prove a source of lasting strength to her.

We are deficient in regularity, unity, system, and heart in our financial arrangements. A few congregations give liberally to all the Schemes of the Church; a larger number give fairly to a few Schemes; a considerable number neglect their duty wholly! All the Church courts, from the Assembly downwards have spoken plainly as to the obligation upon all the congregations to do what they can, at all events to do something,—for *all* the Schemes. It may well be the special endeavour of Presbyteries to see to it this year that there shall not be a delinquent congregation within the bounds. If Presbyteries make up their minds to go through with this arduous but most necessary task they can do it, and it will be easier every succeeding year. It would be a most gratifying circumstance if we could announce next June, that every congregation in the Church had put its hand to the work, and had at least tried to do its duty. Presbyteries will no doubt wisely decide to begin early in the ecclesiastical year to deal with congregations or stations that are habitually delinquent,—to deal with them most kindly, most patiently, but also most firmly. As Presbyteries must deal with congregations one by one, so the Sessions must deal with the members of the Church, and endeavour to secure contributions from all. Let there be as far as possible equality in this as in everything else. The principle on which we must urge men and women and children to give is the grand principle of doing all for

the sake of Christ, and as an indication of our love to Christ. The money we give is a grateful offering from loyal hearts to the King of Kings. Zaccheus gave one half his property, and made amends for previous neglect. Shall not many in our congregations surpass Zaccheus in liberality? Give often, for Christ needs your gifts, and He *often* remembers you with His blessings. Give freely, for ye have freely received. Give regularly, for it is thus only that the Church will be able to put your gifts to the best use.

In our financial operations we must not forget that our interests as a Church are co-extensive with British America, and that, in truth, the field is the world. We must make common cause in all church schemes with all our brethren. All the colleges are ours. All the Foreign Missionaries and Home Missionaries are ours. All the aged and infirm ministers, all the widows and orphans of ministers are ours. The missionaries among the French are our missionaries. Thus, every member of the Church is concerned in—should be deeply interested in—every one of the enterprises of the Church. We are not Congregationalists merely; and this should be borne in mind in dealing with our Schemes.

This then is emphatically the year for calling forth all the resources of the Church,—for enlisting the active aid of every congregation and every member, young as well as old. Systematic, hearty devotion of our substance to the Lord will surely be followed with an abundant blessing from the Most High.

He has no part at all in Christ who will not part with all for Christ.

“If any Church puts the work of missions in a corner the Lord will put that Church in a corner,” were among the last public words of the venerable and veteran Dr. Calhoun, and they embody the lessons of Divine Providence exhibited in the history of His Church.