

THE MONTHLY RECORD

OF THE

Church of Scotland,

IN

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Adjoining Provinces.

VOL. XXXIII.

JUNE, 1887.

No. 6.

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its cunning." — PSALM CXXXVII. 5.

A WARNING TO KIRKMEN.

REGRET to record the following facts. I tried to get the Unionist Committees to rectify them by a most easy and simple act of fairness. But still they refuse, after a whole year's trial; so I must publish the facts to warn others. I have abundant proof for all I say, and much more if required.

AFTER I had paid into the Aged Ministers' Fund as a regular member for seven years, I was notified in Jan. 1885 that, as Pastor of a Kirk congregation not in the Union, I must pay more than thrice the usual premium every year, or else be cut off. I remonstrated; but was cut off in July 1885 by an order offering to repay me *out of said Fund* a part of what I had paid into it. I had never asked this, and have not taken it. It was a cruel disappointment. For I had paid into that Fund and had received its acknowledgments without demur for several years after my Induction to the Kirk of St. Columba. Trusting to this as a practical pledge of equal rights, I had meanwhile paid \$60 into the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. But now they cut me off from the one Fund, and might soon cut me off from the other also.

I then wrote to Rev. Geo. Patterson, (who, Agent of both the Funds, had urged me to do both,) showing how I had been deceived above in paying the said \$60; asking also that it be returned to me, that I might retire peacefully from both the Funds.

But this was flatly refused. He wrote me in May 1886 that the Committee would not pay anything out of the Fund! He threat-

ened me with a fine every month if I would not continue to pay! He promised that they would not cut me off; (but the promise was of no value, as they go out of office in twelve months.) He asserted that the two Funds had no connection whatever; (although he himself had been so long in the Committees of both, that they surely should not use "diverse weights;" one Committee trying to cut me off by repaying me a little "*out of the Fund*;" the other Committee trying to keep me in by the fiction that they cannot repay anything "*out of the Fund*.")

To save him and his brethren from doing such gross injustice, I wrote again stating these facts; and showing that I had raised \$100 for the Widows' Fund before; and that while I was very busy in New Kincardine, I was deceived by the Official Circulars of the United Church, which spoke of the Aged Ministers' and Widows' Fund as one; that we made collections for them as one; that for three years (1876, 1877, 1878,) they were put as one Fund at the head of every page of the Financial Statements of General Assembly, as anybody can see. In later years they are put in the plural; and now they occupy separate columns. I joined in 1877 while the two were put as one Fund. And again when they demanded \$60 of arrears for the Widows' Fund, I was deceived by the fact that the United Church had received and acknowledged my annual premiums to the Aged Ministers' Fund up till the year 1884, and made no demur or objection to their sufficiency till 1885, (four years after my Induction to Columba Kirk,) when they cut me off. Had I known of this intention beforehand, I would never have paid