

and more abundantly. The rule prescribed for the Jew is the lowest, which he can possibly adopt, and even then he is overlooking the obligations, superadded by the gospel. A higher standard is consequently demanded of him—It is not a tenth, or even a fourth, but “as God has prospered him.” His prosperity is to constitute the test by which he is to distribute his substance. Taking, then, a survey of our Church, how many will be found, who have come up even to the lowest Jewish standard? We can safely declare that there is not one in a hundred. And as our denomination is, perhaps, through the goodness of God, the most liberal in the Province, what low views must be entertained by Christians in general, of this most important duty. No wonder if there be crying and sighing over the abominations of the land. We are sowing sparingly, and must reap in a corresponding degree.

But another test, still more convincing, may be applied. During the past twelve months, the wealth of the country has increased to an enormous extent, and by comparing the Financial Returns of the past with the present year, it can be easily ascertained, whether or not there has been a corresponding increase in the contributions furnished by our people for the cause of Christ.—The total sum contributed last year was about £17,500, and for this year, about £19,000.—However gratifying this increase may be, is it at all what might have been expected? Does it in any way correspond with the increased wealth, or increasing numbers of our gain. It is only what might be looked for, from a church that has added 1500 to its membership. Ought we not to blush, when we are reminded that one-half of our ministers are struggling against poverty on the scanty pittance of £100 a-year. We are as yet but on the outskirts of the domain of Christian liberality, doling out an occasional sum at rare intervals, and distributing pence instead of pounds. The time has arrived for asking what steps ought to be taken to call forth increased liberality on the part of our people. The most effectual plan would be for some influential layman, to agitate the question, by means of the circulation of Tracts, similar to that prefixed to this article, by addresses, and visitation of congregations. Such a duty might perhaps be most efficiently and successfully performed by devoted energetic laymen, such as we think might be found in some quarters of the Church.

One other suggestion we offer before closing. Our Synod appoints Sabbath, Revival, and other Committees, might it not be advisable to appoint one on Systematic Benevolence?

May the Lord in his goodness, raise up many cheerful givers among our people, and in return for temporal things, bestow rich spiritual mercies. In the meanwhile, we earnestly commend the excellent little work of Mr. Cooke, to the attention of ministers and people.

ANNUAL PAYMENT—MINISTERS' AND WIDOWS' FUND.

We beg to remind all ministers of the church that their annual contribution to the Widows' Fund, falls due on the 1st November.

For the information of those ministers who have lately come to the country, we publish the regulations of Synod with regard to the Fund.

We would remind all ministers, also of the repeated and strong recommendations issued by the Synod, that all the ministers of the church should place themselves on the list of contributors to the Fund.

It is hoped that answers will be sent without delay to the queries lately issued by the authority of the Widows' Fund Committee.

REGULATIONS OF SYNOD.

1. Ministers shall forward their annual rate of £2 to the Treasurer, on or before the first of November. Ministers falling into arrears, shall pay in addition to the regular rate, 10s. for the first year, 20s. for the second year, and 30s. for the third year; but failing for four years, they shall be cut off from the Fund. Notice of failure to pay in every case, to be previously given.

2. Entrants into the ministry, shall pay their first rate on the first November next, following their ordination or induction.

3. In the event of any minister ceasing to labour as such in the capacity of Pastor, Professor, or Missionary of this Church, he shall no longer (except in the case of infirmity or old age) have any interest in, or right to, the benefits of the Fund; always providing, that the amount paid by him into the Fund, shall be returned with legal interest.

4. Each widow or orphan family shall receive their annuity half-yearly, by equal instalments, on the 1st May and first November—their warrants in each case for drawing such annuity, bearing the certificate of the Presbytery Clerk or Minister, or Session Clerk of the congregation to which they may belong. The claim of the widow shall date from the first term following the death of her husband, and the annuity cease at the term next following her death or marriage. The claim of each orphan child shall terminate at the completion of its fourteenth year.

5. Payment of Annuities shall be made directly into the hands of the annuitants, or of persons duly authorised to act for them, upon the production of the certificate of the Presbytery or Session Clerk, in such manner as annuitants may desire. Children's annuities shall be payable to their natural, legal or authorised guardians, only on the Committees being satisfied that such annuities will be administered with due regard to the best interests of the children.

6. Ministers coming from other churches, of the age of 45 years, and under 60, shall not be admitted to share in the benefits of the Scheme, except upon the annual payment of £6; nor can any minister from any other church, whose age is 60, or over, be admitted.

THE FOREIGN MISSION.

It is cheering to know that the proposal to organise a Foreign Mission has taken a strong hold of the conscience and affections of our church. The Committee of Synod, appointed in charge of this matter, does not deem it consistent with prudence to publish prematurely arrangements that are incomplete. It may be proper however to state, for the information of many who are interested, that after consultation on the most desirable fields of missionary labour, the views of the committee are directed to some parts of the Bengal Presidency of British India. The following extract from a letter addressed to the convener by a missionary who has returned from India, well enforces the claims of that country. “There is room enough in Hindostan

for thousands of faithful and devoted missionaries. There are larger districts containing millions, where a missionary has never been; and in Dungal, there is a tract of country with a population of six millions, where the gospel has never been preached. As a church, you ought to take a deep interest in that land. It belongs to an Empire of which you form a part—great changes are in progress—the gospel has been already influential for great good—the missionary has easy success to the nations, and is protected in his labours—the language is comparatively easy—and with proper care and prudence the climate, though at times debilitating, may be said to be healthy for most constitutions.”

Such considerations as these have appeared to the committee to deserve the most of our attention.

As to the missionaries to go forth to this good work the committee can only state at present, that a correspondence is in progress with a view to secure the services of two highly esteemed ministers, one of whom is of the Free Church of Scotland, and the other of our own Synod. The only impediment in the way arises from the circumstance, that the minister first alluded to desires to labour in a country different from that to which the mind of the Canadian Church has been directed. Let supplication be made continually, that the Lord may dispel present hindrances, and separate two faithful men unto this work, and that meanwhile a warm glow of missionary zeal may animate our church in all her borders, calling forth hearty prayers and liberal offerings.

The promotion of a Foreign Mission is dictated by sound policy as well as by christian love and the principle of allegiance to the ascended Saviour. It is good policy for the church. The great Home Mission work will not be neglected by the friends of the Foreign Mission; and the support of the Home Ministry, and the Theological College will not be weakened, but rather advanced by each new effort that has a tendency to widen the ideas and cultivate the liberalities of the people. We are confident, that when the Foreign Mission Committee is prepared to come before the church with a definite and judicious plan, it will meet in all quarters with an intelligent sympathy and a cordial response.

D. FRASER

REV. H. GORDON'S SERMON.—We would call the attention of our readers to Mr. Gordon's sermon published in this number of the Record. Mr. Gordon's special object is to call attention to the immense importance of Canada as a mission field. A number of copies will be struck off in a separate form.

We are still left without regular files of papers, &c., from Europe, in consequence of the recent most absurd and pernicious Postal Regulations. By the last mail we did not receive a single paper. If the regulations are not altered, the effect must be gradually to diminish the interest and attachment at present existing between Britain and this Colony.