

and other enterprises of the Synod; and already Committees of the three Synods have been appointed to consider the practicability of combining them into a General Assembly for British North America.

Such, then, is a view of the positions and the struggles of this kindred Church to the Church of Scotland, but which has been allowed, in spite of many an urgent appeal, to barely maintain itself in the number of its ministers, by additions from other Churches, and its own young men. Far otherwise has been the policy of the Free Church of Scotland, which has zealously striven to possess the land, recognising its importance, and sending out annually ministers, probationers, and students, till the little original band has eclipsed its parent, and now numbers 124 ministers.

It is time that more attention was directed to Canada. The people are prosperous; and though the life of the Canadian minister is one of toil and labour, yet the minister with a family enjoys the advantage of seeing his children occupying positions of respectability and comfort around him. Canada is no longer a place of exile, but its people make it their home, and feel an honest pride in its prosperity; and though the income of the minister of a people as yet untrained to giving and accustomed to rely too much upon the State support now withdrawn, may be comparatively narrow, yet I am assured that the really faithful servant of his Master will not fail to command a position of comparative comfort.

In the cities and towns and the older rural districts the community are wealthy, and churches such as those of St. Andrew's, Montreal, and St. Andrew's, Hamilton, will vie with those of your large cities, costing, as they have respectively done, £14,000 and £11,000, while many of the town and rural churches are of the most substantial character, besides having attached to most of them glebes of 100 and 200 acres of land.

In view then, of the extent of the Canadian field, the substantial progress of the country, its healthful climate, its easiness and rapidity of access, the large additions to the Scottish population, which are taking place from the steady emigration that is going on, is it too much to expect that many of your licentiates, possessed, it may be, of excellent abilities and good attainments, but whose influence is small, should, instead of struggling against disappointed hopes in Scotland, cast in their lot with a young and rising country, in which the preacher would find a home and a wide field for the exercise of industry, and ample scope for the honest ambition to secure a competency?

The Synod, it will be seen, even from this brief summary, has not been idle; but, in view of the home field, and the French and Hudson's Bay Missions, the present is but the day of small things. Yet notwithstanding our present weakness and divisions, I doubt not that these will be eventually overruled, to the building up in British and North America of a Presbyterian Church, clinging to the standards of the parent Church with the attachment of a child, and

wielding a direct moral influence commensurate with the strength and numbers of the Presbyterian population. Believing that the Presbyterian polity is truly scriptural, and especially adapted to our position in these Provinces, I cannot but deem such a consummation as devoutly to be desired.

A CANADIAN ELDER.

August 1857.

### Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund.—Statement to be read to Congregations.

By the appointment of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, the Annual Collection in behalf of the "Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund," will be made on the first Sabbath of January, or as soon after as may be convenient.

The Board of Managers deem it their duty to remind the congregations of this appointment, and to press upon their attention the claims which this Scheme has on their liberality.

Many who took a deep interest in the prosperity of our Church, early perceived that a scheme of this nature was indispensable to its progress and efficiency, and, when the Widows' and Orphans' Fund was at length organised, several Congregations hailed its establishment with satisfaction, as it afforded them an opportunity of discharging a duty which they felt to be of sacred obligation. The increase of congregational collections for the past year tends to show that their conviction of the importance of this Scheme, and of their duty in respect to it, is more generally felt by Congregations. Yet the Managers of the Fund would fail in discharging their duty were they to allow the impression to go abroad that this conviction was universally or even generally felt. The contributions of some Congregations are so disproportioned to their wealth and numbers as to be incompatible with their duty to the Church, while they exhibit great insensibility to moral obligations of the highest order. In the present circumstances of the country an adequate return cannot be at least has not been, made for Ministerial labor. Ministers are consequently unable to lay up anything for the support of their families, if, in the providence of God, they should be early removed from them. The possibility of such a contingency as this must press continually on the mind of a Minister, and cannot fail to have an injurious effect on his ministrations, unless he perceives the power of a living faith animating the breasts of those to whom, in poverty and the endurance of many privations, he has faithfully dispensed the riches of the grace of Christ. No one, duly sensible of the civil as well as the spiritual advantages that result from the regular dispensation of religious ordinances, would fail to express his gratitude to the Giver of all good for such inestimable blessings,

and he would feel it to be a duty pressing on his conscience to relieve, in so far as lay in his power, the anxieties of a Minister of those whose temporal wants he was bound to supply. The Managers would therefore desire to rest the claims of this Scheme for support chiefly on the obligations to discharge a Christian duty.

But they would be deficient in their own duty did they not bring under consideration of every Congregation the injurious effects of indifference to the success of this Scheme on the welfare of the Church. It is not to be expected that any number of young men, however piously disposed, can be induced to study for the Ministry with the certain prospect before them not only of a life of poverty and toil, but also of leaving their wives and children in want, and uncared for by those to whose best interests they had devoted their time and strength. As a matter of equity, therefore, as well as from a regard to the prosperity and growing efficiency of the Church, the Managers of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund would earnestly solicit the liberal aid of every member of every Congregation in behalf of their operations.

Besides, when they state that 18 widows with their children now receive annuities from this Fund who would otherwise have been left helpless and destitute on the cold charities of the world, the Managers are persuaded that this fact will appeal to the sympathies and liberality of every Christian heart with a force which no language they could use can strengthen.—Read Matt. xxv., 34—40.

### Queen's College.

We have learned with much satisfaction that the Rev. J. Cook, D. D., of Quebec, has consented to discharge the duties of Principal of this Institution during the winter, and also to assume the charge of the Theological class for the Session.

The Church is laid under a real obligation of no light character by the assumption of these duties by Dr. Cook in the present emergency. We trust that, ere another session come round, a permanent appointment to this important office may be made. We should be glad if Dr. Cook could be induced to accept the appointment, but fear there is no hope of his doing so.

The attendance in the various faculties of the College is very encouraging.

PRESENTATION.—We had lately the gratification of announcing that the Rev. Alexander Wallace had received a mark of affection and esteem from that portion of his congregation who are resident at St. Michael's. We are happy now to notice the reception of a similar token by Mr. Wallace from his congregation at Huntingdon. In the beginning of November last a de-