

guests. Sometimes the man who makes the feast goes out himself on this service. This is of course humbling himself and honouring his guests. Sometimes a guest wishing to stand upon his dignity and show his importance, will not come when first called. If a man of importance, the others are kept waiting, and he is called a second time. A knowledge of this custom impresses one with the minute accuracy of the language of the parable.—J. MORTON.

United Presbyterian Church.

The fund for aged and infirm ministers amounts to £23,000. The July RECORD has an important explanation with regard to the relation of the Church with the Colonies:—Our Church expends £338,000 on Christian work. The £38,000 go beyond the three kingdoms. The £300,000 are expended at our own doors. Let us do more at home, but not by limiting or grudging our foreign outlay. When the Master calls us to do something for our fellow countrymen abroad, let our history assure us that we as well as they will be the gainers. So it has been in all our previous experience as a missionary Church. During the last twenty-eight years we added Calabar to Canada and the West Indies, and Caffreland to Calabar, and India to Caffreland, and China to India, and Spain to China, and Japan to Spain. Our funds have never drooped in sympathy with the drooping hopes of friends, who were afraid of over-doing, and who could never see whence the funds could come. The flood did not need to rise before its time (and is less likely to do so if every one is in despair about its rising); nevertheless, the generous tide has always hitherto come in to float one new undertaking after another; and so, amid all fluctuations of income and expenditure, our Foreign Mission has never yet been stranded in the shallows. The present proposal is not to institute a new mission, for, though without a fixed system, our Church has never ignored the claims of the colonial field. Our first mission was purely colonial, and it illustrated the economical nature of colonial evangelization. For years previous to its union with the large Presbyterian Church of Canada, our Canadian Synod was self-supporting, and now it has home and foreign missions of its own. Such will be the course of Christian development in all our colonies. The method which it is proposed to follow in regard to funds for this department of expenditure, will give individual donors the

opportunity of apportioning their gifts according to their own sense of the strength of colonial claims. In the following minute of the Mission Board is embodied the proposition which was submitted to the Synod:—

'The Committee agreed, in reference to the claims of the English-speaking colonies, to bring the matter under the attention of the Synod and the Church, with the view of obtaining in the first place, by means of an annual collection, a separate fund for the promotion of Christian work in the said colonies, in accordance with the instructions of Synod repeatedly given during recent years.'

We clo . our Report by simply stating the decision of the Synod, which, we doubt not, will gain the end contemplated in the proposal of the Mission Board:—

'The Synod, instead of appointing meanwhile an annual collection, authorized the Foreign Committee to receive individual subscriptions, and to devote them to the object expounded in the preceding paragraph.'

FREE CHURCH.—The following is a summary of the Free Church income for the past year:

Sustentation Fund.....	£149,241
Building Fund.....	52,469
Congregational.....	153,692
Missions and Education...	82,032
Miscellaneous.....	73,650

In all.....£511,084

It was reported at the same time that the sums invested on behalf of the Free Church amounted to £330,435.

Now that the Sustentation Fund is to be under special consideration in our own Synod, we subjoin the following:—Dr. Buchanan stated that the whole amount raised during the year was £152,112 being an increase over last year of £15,789; that the Church in consequence would be able, not only to pay the equal dividend of £150 to all ministers entitled to it, but to give an addition of £32 and £16 to those whose congregations were giving at the rate of 10s. and 7s. 6d. respectively. The venerable Convener seemed greatly gratified by the success which had followed his endeavours to secure a better support for the ministry, and, amid loud and prolonged applause, he concluded his speech as follows:—“The liberality of which last year has given us so striking an example, in the case not only of the Sustentation Fund, but of all the funds of the Church, seems conclusively to show that God has been giving to our people the fundamental requisite of a ‘willing mind.’ So much is this the case, that one feels as we had got back again into the loving and large-