

The Monthly Record.

NOVEMBER, 1880.

ALL really interested in the welfare of our Church, and who thoughtfully survey her present condition cannot but observe that a crisis has arrived.

It has now come to be a struggle for existence. There are weak congregations that cannot retain their pastors without large aid.

Hitherto the Colonial Committee generously befriended our weak charges, perhaps fostered them too tenderly. But now owing to lack of funds and other causes, the liberal assistance too freely bestowed in the past, cannot any longer be continued.

What then, are the Ministers of our weak charges to suffer through inadequate support; or must they seek a field where their difficulties and trials will be fewer? Must they swell the number of those who have recently sought an asylum in Scotland? Unless their present position speedily assume a more hopeful aspect, it is to be feared, that the Ministers of our weak charges will begin to meditate and soon seek a change.

If they are compelled to go their places cannot be filled.

A Presbytery could not consistently or justly invite ministers to vacancies where sufficient stipends cannot be obtained. Let it once be known that a faithful and efficient Minister had to demit his charge because he was poorly paid, and the likelihood is that it will be difficult to find a successor to one who was starved out.

Ardent attachment to the beloved Kirk and other important considerations kept our congregations out of Union. Any one knowing the men who refused to

take a step that seemed to sever the tie which bound them to the Church of our fathers, would not dare impugn the purity of their motives in the course they pursued.

But after all we must judge of the intensity of an affection by the sacrifice it is willing to render.

The present condition of our Church calls for immediate and active exertion on the part of our adherents. The occasion will serve to show who are her friends.

Profuse sentiment, exuberant affection, ostentatious loyalty may have a value, but the Church cannot live by these. It is easy to manifest singular devotion when it is a matter of so many words. It costs little and has not the merit of being worth much.

Our adherents must show by more liberal support than they have hitherto given, that they are determined their Church shall stand and extend. They must awake to a sense of their duty, and perform it conscientiously.

The resources of our congregations as a whole, are such, that if each member did his part, provision could be made for immediate wants without any great effort. It would require no sacrifice, little if any self-denial. Will those who vow attachment to our Church, refuse heartily to bestow their goods towards its support. Our members have wealth, whether they will cast it into the Lord's treasury or not. There are few so poor that they cannot give their mite, had they the will.

"She did what she could," was the highest commendation possible.

If the same could be said of all professing Christians in our age, the Church would not require to utter so many plaintive appeals for the maintenance of her schemes.