

# PASTORAL LETTER BY THE MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

To the Ministers, Sessions and Members of the Presbyterian Church in Canada:

Dear Brethren:

In the Report of its Committee on Augmentation presented to the General Assembly at its meeting in Montreal in June last there is the following, among other recommendations:

"That the Assembly should require that in all congregations in which the contributions are taken through Missionary Associations, schedules, and such like methods, a Sabbath shall be set apart early in the year, and this year not later than September 18th, in which information shall be fully given to our people, and the desire of the Assembly emphasized that there shall be increased and hearty support given to this Scheme. That in congregations where a Sabbath day collection is relied upon, it be required that similar information be given on either the first or second Sabbath preceding that on which the collection is to be taken. That information such as may be the basis of the appeals thus to be made be supplied to all Ministers and Sessions through a Pastoral letter to be sent by the Moderator of Assembly."

It was agreed by the Assembly to "receive the Report, express gratitude to the Great Head of the Church for the continued progress and helpfulness of the work, and endorse the action of the Committee in placing on the Augmented list so large a number of Missions that have been strenuously pressing forward."

"In view of the increased responsibility thus incurred it is resolved: (1) To adopt the estimate of the Committee, and to authorize an expenditure for the year not exceeding \$28,000 for all purposes. (2) To adopt the recommendations embodied in the Report (page 99), and commend them to attention and sympathetic action on the part of Presbyteries, Sessions and Ministers. (3) To authorize the Committee to secure temporarily the services of one or more suitable persons, who, acting in co-operation with, and assisted and facilitated by Presbyteries and Sessions, shall seek to advance the interests of the Scheme, especially by securing better financial me-

thods, and more harmonious application of the Committee's regulations in aid-receiving congregations."

It is in compliance with these instructions of the Supreme Court of our Church that the Moderator issues this letter.

It is not necessary to dwell upon the history, importance, principles and aims of the Augmentation Scheme, which for four years has been a distinct organization of the Church. Wrought at one time as part of the work of the Home Mission Committee, more lately through a sub-committee known as the sub-Committee on Augmentation, it was, in 1894, separated from that Committee, and entrusted to the management of one under the name of the Augmentation Committee. The late Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, by appointment acted as its Convener, and the duties of the position, and the interests of the Scheme, had his diligent and efficient services till he was removed to the eternal world. Dr. Robert Campbell, of Renfrew, has succeeded to his place, and he has brought to his work in connection with it experience gained by long service on the Home Mission Committee, and his acknowledged skill and energy.

Proceeding on the principle that the strong should help in supporting the weak—a principle acknowledged and practised in all circles of society from the most intimate to the most remote, which was early brought into operation in the history of the Christian Church, which has ever since prevailed, and is likely to be continued to the end—its aim is that those persons and congregations with whom God has been dealing liberally in his Providence should come to the help of those who are in the fellowship of the saints with them, but who, through lack of means, are not able to attain to that great privilege, the stated administration of word and ordinance by a minister whom they can call their own.

It has been judged, and it is presumed that the wisdom of the judgment will not be called in question, that a salary of at least \$750 per year, with manse, for a married man, and \$700 for an unmarried man, not requiring a house, or as little as should be received by any one who is settled in a charge, in view of the time and outlay spent in pre-