

## IMPORTANT NOTICE.

At the urgent solicitation of agents and subscribers we have decided to extend the time, during which parties may take advantage of our Premium offer, up to the 1st of FEBRUARY NEXT. All parties, therefore, who remit \$2.33 within the next four weeks will be entitled to Engraving of the Union General Assembly. Our friends, in remitting, will do well to bear in mind that in order to comply with our rules, arrears, if any, should be PAID UP, and the subscription for 1876 MUST BE REMITTED IN FULL. We find that many who subscribed within the past five months send us \$2.33, and expect a premium, necessitating a great deal of unnecessary correspondence. All who subscribed during the year, if they want the premium, must settle up to 31st Decr., 1875, and remit \$2.33 for 1876.

May we ask our agents and friends to put forth a special effort during the month of January? Our receipts of subscriptions and new names in December far exceeded those of the same month in any previous year. Keep the ball rolling; and let January be even in advance of December.

Subscribers would do well to let their neighbours who do not take the PRESBYTERIAN know that the Premium offer is good for another month.

British American Presbyterian.  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1876

During the past two weeks a number of old subscribers in renewing for this year forwarded some one or two, others, several new names. To all such our hearty thanks are due, and are hereby tendered. Many may yet "go and do likewise." There are thousands of Presbyterians over the country who are not subscribers, who would become so, if they were asked. Let your neighbours know that our offer of the General Assembly Picture is open till the 1st of Feb., and ask them to take advantage of it by remitting \$2.33 before that date.

We offer no apology for devoting so much of our space this week to a report of the mass meeting of Presbyterians held in Erskine Church, Montreal, on the 6th inst. It was a magnificent gathering, and the resolutions, speeches, &c., were worthy the occasion. Work, however, is better than speeches. In addition to the ministers mentioned, the names of such men as Messrs. Warden King, J. L. Morris, W. D. McLaren, David Morrice, Jas. Croil, Dr. Dawson, and many others, are a guarantee that earnest work is meant and will be performed. We heartily wish our Montreal friends God-speed in their important undertaking.

## STATE OF THE HOME MISSION FUND.

In the month of November a circular was issued by the Rev. Dr. Cochrane, Convener of the Home Mission Committee, and printed in our columns, setting forth the needs and claims of the Home Mission Fund of our Church. It was stated that, at the close of the last ecclesiastical year the Home Mission Committee was \$2000 in debt. An attempt, which was made before, and during the meeting of Assembly, to wipe this out, and so enter the Union entirely unincumbered in that department of our work, failed through some mismanagement. In October, the disbursements up to that period, and appointments made at the meeting of the Home Mission Committee in that month, swelled the debt up to \$16,000. The agent of the Church, Dr. C. tells us, was empowered to borrow the amount so that our missionaries should not go unpaid. The Union, we were also told, had led to increased claims upon this fund, and an urgent appeal was made to the Church to come to the help of this Committee, so that its work might be vigorously prosecuted.

This is a matter which is really in the hands of the ministers and office-bearers of our Church, and we would earnestly urge upon them all the serious consideration of the state of matters made known to the Church through the circular referred to. We do not mean to say, we do not wish it to be understood that when the Church's accounts for the year are closed it is expected the Home Mission Fund will be \$16,000 behind. But it is evident that it will require the most strenuous exertions on the part of the Church to enable the Committee to come out clear. It would be well nigh impossible to exaggerate the importance to our Church of sustaining and vigorously prosecuting this branch of our work. What the Church is to day it has become by the fostering care of this or some similar fund, and what it shall become in the future, in extent and resources, depends upon the means placed at the disposal of the Home Mission Committee. If we embarrass, or check the operations of this Committee, we to that extent retard the outward growth, and circumscribe the limits of the Church. A large proportion of the settlers in our new districts, and especially in Manitoba, are Presbyterians, and if we do not follow them with our missionaries and with the means of grace, others will, and their gain will be our loss. The weak stations in our new settlements are the nurseries, the feeders of the Church. The strongest of our Churches once were, what our mission stations and supplemented congregations are now, and if they are to become strong, and assist the weak, as they themselves are enabled to do only by the

by liberally supplying our Home Mission Committee with funds. Whether our Church shall keep pace with other churches and with the growth of the country, or stand comparatively still, depends upon our Home Mission work. It is vital to our prosperity.

The circumstances and the work done by our ministers dependent upon the Home Mission Committee constitute a strong claim to our sympathy and hearty support. Working for the most part very hard, often also in great isolation, taking long drives over the roughest roads, exposed in all weathers, labouring in weak, sometimes discouraged congregations, or among people poor, and struggling with the difficulties of new settlers, it would be shameful for us to allow them to feel that the Church is indifferent to their struggles and to the value of their labours.

Our Home Mission field is of the utmost importance in whatever light we regard it. It affords one of the best means for the initiatory training of our students in pastoral work. While it furnishes such an excellent sphere for calling forth, and for the exercise of ministerial capacity, it also supplies the means whereby many of our best ministers have been enabled to carry on their studies, and enter the service of the Church. Thus a double benefit is rendered. Not only so, but our mission field again by furnishing its quota of young men for the ministry, helps to keep up the supply of students and ministers in the Church. The continued and steady extension of our mission field again is necessary to afford room for the increasing number of students for the ministry. Our foreign mission field is now greatly enlarged by union, and must continue to grow, but to furnish means for this it is manifestly indispensable that our Home Mission work be pushed vigorously forward.

If Union has increased the claims upon the Home Mission Fund it has also increased the Church's capacity to give, and as we have before said, the matter rests entirely in the hands of ministers and office-bearers. There is abundance of means within the Church to meet all claims, and we believe our people are willing to contribute them for this purpose, if only ministers and office-bearers are alive to the importance of this work, and are in earnest about its success. Let the appeal be properly made, let right methods be taken to reach all, and we cannot doubt all the claims of this branch of our work will be fully met. We trust the effort will be made in our Church generally, and that the first year of union will not be unhappily signalized by a debt larger than usual, resting upon what we believe may justly be regarded as, in many respects, the most important of all the schemes of our Church.

We do not wish to part company with any of our friends to whom our weekly visits have been paid for the past twelve months. Please renew your subscriptions at once to the BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN, and secure the Photograph of the Union General Assembly. A \$2.00 picture and the paper for one year for \$2.33.

## MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

SUSTENTATION FUND OF THE ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

A meeting of ministers, elders, deacons and members of management of congregations and preaching stations within the bounds of the Presbytery of London in connection with the English Presbyterian Church held lately in connection with the above subject, reveals a very encouraging state of matters. The fund has been in existence three years. During that time the ministers whose stipends were formerly £100, now receive each £155. The object for calling the meeting was to propose attempting a still further advance, so that the minimum should be £200 yearly. Messrs. Drs. Fraser and Dykes took a leading part in the discussion. A remark made by the latter will bear application too well among ourselves. He said: "There are very few who will say that ministers are paid what they deserve, when they do not have even the wages of a well-paid artisan." Although improvement in this direction is gradually taking place amongst ourselves, there still remains very much to be done. It is too true that the remuneration of many of our ministers does not equal that of many skilled workmen, and their incomes are far behind those of competent book-keepers, high school teachers, and other professional men of no higher education or social standing, and with vastly less work, anxiety and responsibility. It is now a good while since any thing has been done in our Church at large in this important matter, and it would be well to make an attempt very soon to raise the minimum of salaries above the point where it now stands. Improvement has been made because it has been an absolute necessity, but there can be no doubt that if the subject were taken up systematically in the Courts of the Church, especially the Assembly, according to some well-devised scheme, still

greater and much needed improvement might be made. The idea of many of our people, especially in country congregations, upon the subject, are of the most crude and unworthy kind. The question in settling a minister, even in wealthy farming communities, too often is, not how much ought we to give so that our minister may live free from embarrassment, so that he may be able to procure suitable books and periodicals, so that he may be able to discharge the duties of hospitality, and do his share in supporting charitable and religious societies and work, the question is, not what is the value of his labour and time devoted to our religious, moral and social well-being, but what is the minimum that he can get along upon? There is need of some influence being brought to bear that will change this state of things, and lead to the formation of some higher and truer ideas of what is due simply as matter of honesty to those who give their talents, their time and energy, to the advancement of man's best and highest interest.

## THE MODERATOR OF THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

It has become the practice in the Free Church for the old Moderators to take the initiative in nominating their successors. We noticed a little time ago that at the meeting of the commission in November, Dr. McLaughlan, minister of St. Columba's Gaelic Church, Edinburgh, had been nominated for that dignity, and now the fact has been officially announced that he is to be proposed, and will, of course, be the Moderator of the next General Assembly. Not only is he a distinguished Celtic scholar, but for twenty years past has filled the post of convener of the Highland committee of the Free Church, and in this capacity has rendered such service, that it can be said with all truth, there is no man in all the church who has done more for the good of his Highland fellow-countrymen. It is a noticeable fact that during the thirty-three years which have now almost elapsed since the disruption, not only all the Moderators who have filled, but who have even been proposed to fill the chair of the Free Church Assembly, have been pre-disruption ministers. It is altogether likely, as it is also most fitting, that for some years yet this honor will be reserved for ministers of that memorable period. Not fewer than twenty of the thirty-three honoured men upon whom the distinguished office of Moderator has been conferred have gone to their rest, including in their numbers some of the most illustrious ministers of the church. Between the Assembly of 1874 and that of 1875 no fewer than five ex-Moderators died. These were Principal Fairbairn, Dr. Henderson, Dr. Grierison, Dr. Buchanan, and Dr. McCrie. More lately still, another has been added to this number, that most distinguished missionary and late Moderator, Dr. Wilson, of Bombay. Though so many of her great men have fallen, their spirit has not left the church of which they were such ornaments, and for which they did so much. A few may remain where they were a generation ago, but the great majority of the church has far advanced in the true knowledge of those principles which entitle a church to be called and which make her truly free. As a living, active church, the Free Church was never more prosperous than she is at this day.

## Ministers and Churches.

The new Presbyterian Church, Meno-1, will be opened for divine service on Sunday, 23rd January.

On Sabbath, the 2nd inst., the Rev. John Gray, B.A., Orillia, preached his twenty-fourth annual sermon to the young.

The new Presbyterian Church at Thamesford, opened on Dec. 12th, cost about \$7,600, and begins free from debt.

The formal opening of the Sarawak Presbyterian Church, near Presque Isle, took place on the evening of Thursday, the 16th ult. Rev. D. McNaughton occupied the chair.

At a social during the holiday week, the ladies of the Uxbridge Presbyterian Church presented Rev. E. Cockburn, M.A., their pastor, with an address and a purse of eighty dollars.

On the evening of Friday, 31st December, the members of the young ladies' Bible class in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Arthur, surprised their teacher, Mrs. McDonald, by besieging her manse and presenting her with a beautiful china tea set.—Com.

The Presbyterian congregation at Molesworth desires separation from Listowel and union with the mission station at Trowbridge. The question was discussed at the late meeting of the Presbytery of Stratford, on the 28th ult., and their is every probability that the change will be effected.

The Rev. Mr. Baikie was on the 28th December inducted into the pastoral charge

of the Presbyterian congregation at Port Stanley, vacant since the sudden and lamented death of Rev. Mr. Baird. This is not a large, but it is in many respects an important congregation.

By appointment of the Presbytery of Kingston, the Rev. J. M. McMechan preached at Amherst Island on the 18th inst., and thereafter moderated in a call which came out unanimously in favor of the Rev. Howard D. Steele, late of Napanea.

The St. Andrew's Church, Perth, was reopened on Sunday, Dec. 23rd, the Rev. Principal Snodgrass, of Queen's College, conducting the opening services. The Church has been closed for some time, undergoing alterations, which have served to improve it to a large extent.

The Presbyterians living in the northern part of Caradoc township are making active preparation for the erection of a new Church. They have already collected \$1,000; but, as it is expected that the edifice will cost \$1,600, a "big push" is yet required, and no doubt it will be made. The edifice will be of brick.

The proceeds of the annual missionary meeting, held in the Presbyterian Church, Winchester, a few evenings ago, amounted to \$101. This Church is flourishing under the pastorate of Rev. A. Rowat, who, during the four years he has been among them has raised the Church from a membership of fifty to nearly two hundred.

The Queen's College Journal states that the Rev. Jas. M. Gray, of Roslin, has received a unanimous call from Stirling, the second within a year. On dit that the congregation of Amherst Island is about presenting a call to the Rev. Robert J. Craig, M.A., probationer. We will be happy to congratulate the Amherst Island people if they make this choice.

At Belleville, on Thursday evening, 80th ult., during the absence of the pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Rev. Mr. McLenn, and his wife, the manse was taken possession of by a number of the ladies of the congregation, who speedily transformed the minister's study from a comparatively cheerless apartment to a most comfortable, enticing, and luxurious place. It was furnished throughout with a new tapestry carpet, chairs, pictures, etc., and the work was complete and the ladies had left before the minister and his wife had returned.

At Napier, we are glad to be able to state, that the cause of God is prospering. Since Mr. Currie's settlement—about a year ago—thirty-one persons have connected themselves with the congregation, and the attendance being so much larger than formerly necessitated the enlarging of the Church during the past summer months. In connection therewith we have to record the munificence of one of its members—who desires no publicity—but presented the congregation with over four hundred dollars, which, with other sums subscribed by other members, leaves the congregation with no debt.—Com.

The Rev. D. D. McLeod, says the Paris Transcript, preached his introductory sermon, as pastor of Dumfries street Church, on Sabbath last. There was a large attendance of members. The Rev. gentleman chose as his text the words, "Nevertheless at Thy word I will let down the net," as contained in the last clause of the 5th verse of the 5th chapter of St. Luke. His sermon was an able and plain one, easily understood, and highly applicable to the occasion. He was listened to with marked attention throughout, and the opinion expressed on all sides by the members of the congregation is that in their choice of a new minister they have been fortunate.

On New Year's Day the children of Knox Church Sabbath School, Milton, assembled in the house of their superintendent, Mr. William Clouston, and presented him with an address, beautifully written and framed, along with a receipt for the BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN up to the 31st December, 1876, and several valuable books. They also, besides expressing, in the address, their good wishes for Mrs. Clouston, presented her with a framed copy of the PHOTOGRAPH OF THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA. Mr. Clouston replied in appropriate terms, and afterwards they all sat down to a pleasant tea, feeling the truth of the statement that "it is more pleasant to give than to receive."—Com.

A NEW Presbyterian Church was opened in North Gwillimbury on the morning of the 26th, being one of the three stations known as the Queensville and North Gwillimbury congregation. The Rev. Prof. McLaren, of Knox College, preached an able discourse from Hag. ii. 7-9, to a full house, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, and again in the evening to a respectable audience. On the following night a soiree was held, at which Prof. McLaren, the Revs. A. Gilray, and J. M. Cameron, of Toronto, the Rev. J. Battisby, of Newmarket, the Revs. E. Baker and T. T. Johnson, of Queensville, were present. The night being good the Church was crowded, and the proceeds realized from

the Sabbath services and the soiree, will it is believed, make the building a free offering to the Lord.

On New Year's Day, says the St. Thomas' Home Journal, a large deputation of St. Andrew's congregation, headed by Mr. James Carrie, called upon their late pastor—Rev. Mr. Cuthbertson—and presented him with an address beautifully engrossed on parchment. It breathed forth the most sympathizing and kindly sentiments, and wished himself and his excellent family every measure of temporal and spiritual prosperity. Accompanying the address was a purse containing \$335 in gold, as a tangible token of the respect and esteem in which he was held by them. A number of his personal friends outside the Presbyterian congregation joined in this free-will offering. The subscriptions were carried on in a very quiet manner—no one being urged to do aught than the figure first named by himself—otherwise the amount might very easily be doubled. The reverend gentleman had evidently little intimation of what was coming, but notwithstanding, made an extempore reply, passing in review the more prominent events in the history of the congregation during his thirteen years pastorate, and giving some wholesome advice as to the duty of giving their future pastor, whoever he might be, that cordial sympathy and that personal assistance in all the schemes of the Church, without which ministerial labours must fall short of its full fruition. The deputation, having partaken of refreshments, soon after withdrew, leaving their late pastor to reflect on the events of a resignation which separates him from very many ardent friends and supporters.

The anniversary of the Mariposa Sabbath school in connection with the P. C. C. congregation, Woodville, took place in the Grant school house on Monday, 27th of December. The Rev. J. L. Murray, pastor of the congregation, occupied the chair. Justice having been done to the excellent refreshments provided by the ladies, who spare no pains to make these annual gatherings the occasion of so much hilarity, the Secretary submitted his report, which showed that 54 names were entered in the register, with an average attendance of 27. The contributions of the scholars for missionary amounted to \$33.57, which the children voted to Mr. Chiniquy. Interesting and instructive addresses which were listened to with very much attention, were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Wilson, (W.M.), Woodville; and McKay, (Presbyterian), Eldon. Mr. Wm. Cameron, grain dealer, Woodville, being called on to speak, briefly gave the history of the school for the last twenty years. Mr. Jamieson, Superintendent of the Woodville Presbyterian Sabbath school, gave an interesting account in his usual lively manner of the proceedings of the Sabbath School Teachers' Convention in Hamilton last fall. Mr. McCall, the Superintendent of the school, being called upon to address the meeting, stepped on the platform, and in the name of the Mariposa Bible class presented their pastor with a purse containing \$40, accompanied by a suitable address, to which Mr. Murray replied in very appropriate terms. The benediction being pronounced by Mr. Wilson, all repaired to their respective homes delighted with the evening's entertainment. —[We regret that the above account of a very pleasant meeting has been mislaid, otherwise it should have appeared earlier.—Ed.]

On Christmas day a new Presbyterian Church was opened at Front Westmeath. The adherents of our Church in that locality being few in number, deserve great praise for the spirit they have shown in erecting such a neat and substantial building for the worship of God. Happily if the number is small, so is the debt. After the preliminary dedicatory services were conducted by the pastor, Rev. Alex. Campbell, B.A., a most suitable discourse was preached by Rev. R. Campbell, M.A., Montreal, from 1 Chron. xvii. 1. "Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord remaineth under curtains." After divine service, the throng which packed the Church repaired to the school house across the street, where "Christmas cheer" was abundantly dispensed by the ladies of the village and neighborhood, who, without distinction of denomination, had gone into the preparations for the occasion with all their heart. Having satisfied their bodily appetite, all repaired to the Church, where an hour and a half was delightfully spent listening to speeches by a number of the neighbouring ministers of various denominations, and to sweet anthems sung by the Methodist choir of the village. After this, all who wished repaired again to the refreshment tables before setting out for home. On the whole a most enjoyable day, was spent, notwithstanding the unfavourable weather. On Sabbath afternoon the Church was again crowded to hear a forcible discourse from Rev. H. Fowler, Chairman of the District of the Canada Methodist Church, from the words, "Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces." In the evening the last of the special services was