

ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD,

For the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

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The Record.

The Sustentation Board of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, will meet at Hamilton on Tuesday the 26th inst., in the Brick Chapel, John Street, at 7 o'clock, P. M. A distribution of the reserved funds for the last half year will then fall to be made, and important matters connected with the general working of the Sustentation fund will come under the consideration of the Board. A full attendance is requested. By order,

JAMES WALKER, *Secretary.*

N. B.—The Sustentation Board is composed of the following gentlemen, viz.—Isaac Buchanan, Esq., President; Andrew Jeffrey and John Redpath, Esqrs., Vice Presidents; James McLatyre, Esq., Treasurer; and James Walker, Esq., Secretary: Messrs. McMurrich, Shaw, J. F. Westland, McIntosh, McGlashan and Thomson, of Toronto; Messrs. C. C. Ferris, D. McNab, W. P. McLaren, J. Osborne, Wm. Cook and J. Davidson, of Hamilton; Messrs. Notman and McKenzie, of Dundas; Messrs. Orr, Melver, and Dr. McNider, of Montreal, with the Revd. Dr. Burns, the Revd. Messrs. Rintoul, Harris Stark, Gale, and Bayne, Ministers. Representatives from the Deacons' Courts or Committees of Managers of the several Congregations, on the fund, are also members of the Board.

The Commission of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada will meet, by Synodical appointment, at Kingston, on the first day of October, at 12 o'clock, noon. As matters of much importance will come before the Commission, it is requested that members will make their arrangements so as to be in attendance.

An adjourned meeting of the Commission will be held at Toronto on Monday the 8th September, in Knox's Church,—as also of the College Committee.

The Home Mission Committee will meet at Kingston on the close of the Commission.

By direction of the Committee appointed by the Synod, to superintend the publication of "*The Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record, for the Presbyterian Church of Canada,*" our sheet, it will be observed, has been considerably enlarged. As this will be attended with some additional expense, and as the price of the paper was fixed from the commencement as low as possible, and so as merely to cover the cost of publication, it is hoped that ministers and office-bearers, and the friends of the Church generally will exert themselves to promote the circulation of the *Record*. We regret to find that a considerable amount of arrears still remains due on the subscriptions for the past year, and we beg that there may be no farther delay in the payment of them. It is also requested that early remittances be made for the year now com-

mencing.—Addressed to Mr. James Webster, publisher of the *Record*, James Street, Hamilton.

REFERRING to the head of Home Missions, and that of Miscellaneous Religious Intelligence for much information respecting the Church, during the past month, we would briefly note were some matters which may not find an appropriate place elsewhere; and 1st. We would direct the attention of all concerned to the appointments made by the Synod for the visitation of Churches, which will be found specified in the act of Synod on the subject, published in our last No. Suitable books have been prepared, under the direction of the Moderator and Clerk of Synod, for recording the statements obtained by the visitors in each locality, and a supply of them may be had on application to Dr. Burns. It is, of course, left with the appointed visitors to arrange, in conjunction with Presbyteries as to the time and order of the visitations, but we would beg leave to suggest that this work, with regard to its efficiency and the comfort of all parties concerned, ought, if possible, to be completed by the end of September. The Commission is to meet at Kingston on the first of October, and considerable advantage would be gained by having the reports of visitors laid before that meeting.—We would further observe that it is manifest from the Synod's act on this subject, that the visitation is intended to have exclusive reference to the state of religion in the congregations and stations connected with the Church—and was resolved upon through an earnest desire to promote religious revival throughout our bounds. The visitors will doubtless keep this in view, and will not suppose that they accomplish their work by merely collecting religious statistics—important and interesting as these may be. And looking at the matter in this light, those who have been charged with their duty will, no doubt, feel deeply the solemn responsibilities involved in it, and their need of that preparation for the work which the Lord and the Spirit alone can bestow. Let it be the prayer of all who love Zion, and desire the prosperity thereof, that they be sent forth richly endowed with every needful gift and grace, and that the Master may own and bless their labours. 2d. We would also refer here to the meeting of the Sustentation Board to be held at Hamilton on the 26th inst., and would express our hope that it may be fully attended.—Besides the mere routine matter of the distribution of the reserved funds or surpluses, the Board will have to consider the points specially submitted to them by the Synod, viz., whether the minimum required for the admission of congregations to the fund, and the gradations of the scale determining the dividends, might not with advantage be lowered; and the establishment of an efficient agency for carrying out the objects of the Scheme. These points, we doubt not, will be carefully weighed by the Board, and their arrangements will justly command the confidence of the Church. We look forward to their decisions with much interest, fully persuaded that the stability and progress of the

Church will depend in a great measure on the wisdom and efficiency with which they may be enabled to discharge the duties devolved on them. 3d. We would renew our recommendation of the cheap publication scheme of the Free Church to the members of the Church generally. It will be observed that the Presbytery of Hamilton have appointed Mr. D. McLellan, King Street, Hamilton, Agent for the Scheme within their bounds, to whom all orders and subscriptions may be transmitted, in full confidence that they will be duly attended to. We would suggest the propriety of a similar arrangement by other Presbyteries, and if it were found convenient, these local agencies might be connected with a central agent, by whom subscriptions could be remitted in one sum, and the whole of the books imported together, to be distributed to the local agents. The three volumes for the current year have been published, and subscribers may expect very soon to be put in possession of the remaining two, viz.—*Rutherford's Trial and Triumph of Faith*, and *Trull's Select Works*. It is now too late to order the books for the present year for new subscribers, with the view of obtaining them by the river before the close of this season. But enquiries will be made as to the practicability and comparative expense of importing them to New York, and if these turn out favourably, a few months would suffice to procure a supply for new subscribers. We regret to observe that of the 47,271 subscribers to this Scheme, reported to the Assembly, only 193 are of Canada; but we have reason to believe that the Canadian list will be greatly increased before the end of the year. 4. We would remind the Ministers and Sessions of the Church, that the Synod appointed a collection to be made in all the Congregations of the Church in behalf of the Foreign Missions of the Free Church of Scotland, on Sabbath, 7th September next. By this appointment the Synod designed to afford an opportunity to our people for making a substantial and practical acknowledgment at once of their interest in the cause of Missions to the Heathen, and of their gratitude to the Church of their fathers for the invaluable services rendered by her to our cause in this land. We doubt not the opportunity will be cheerfully embraced, and that ministers will place these objects before their people in suitable terms. 5. We have referred under the head of Home Missions, to the appointments of Mr. McKenzie, by the Colonial Committee, as a Gaelic Missionary to Canada East. We have also to intimate that the Rev. Mr. McLeod, of Logie Easter, and the Rev. Mr. Somerville, of Anderston, Glasgow, have been appointed deputies to Canada; the latter has already arrived by the steamer at Halifax, and will soon reach Montreal; the former comes by a sailing vessel, the arrival of which may be expected immediately. 6th. The Rev. Dr. Burns and the Rev. Mr. Stark who, with Mr. Milae, Elder, were appointed visitors for the Presbytery of Kingston, have, we understand, entered on their duties. We hope to be able to give some account of their proceedings next month. In the mean time it will be satisfactory to our readers to know that they are likely to be called upon to take part in the settlement of three ministers within the bounds of that Presbytery, viz., that of Mr. Hamilton, at Picton, Mr. Wardrope, at Bytown, and Mr. Lochhead, at Osgoode.