

Now, supposing we fix the minimum stipend of our ministers at \$600 a year, how would it be with us? By the Minutes of last year's Synod there are on the roll, including all vacant congregations, 327 Sanctioned Charges. As far as I can make out amid defective returns, there are about 160 that give \$600 and upwards; and about 167 that give less. The least spur would reverse the numbers. I for one would be ashamed to be behind. As it is now, we are about half-and-half. The Presbytery of Montreal is the only one that bears any resemblance to the whole of the Free Church of Scotland, as to the average of aid-giving and aid-receiving. That Presbytery, then, is in as favourable a position to establish a Sustentation Fund for itself; and there is wealth enough in Montreal and Quebec to accomplish this without the least risk of failure. The other Presbyteries are in more favourable circumstances. Our people on the whole are better off than are the people of the Free Church. Being asked to do less, having more means to draw upon, and being in the proportion of about four to one compared with it as to aid-giving and aid-receiving, we are placed in a magnificent position to follow the example. We have also a vast amount of Church property on hand. Even at the same ratio, our 160 aid-giving ought to assist 434. In other words, we could double our present charges, and we have the field awaiting us to occupy.

We need have no fear of any one of our ministers having large salaries suffering by it. There are 12 congregations in the Free Church of Scotland that give their ministers \$2,500 and upwards. We could adopt the Free Church plan easily. It has worked well in Scotland, and why not here? The principle on which it is based is Scriptural, natural and just. The strong should help the weak, and those that have freely received ought freely to give. As we are "all members one of another," the liberality of one should benefit all. We do not advocate equality of salary. Let the congregations that are able, and as they love their pastors, supplement to the equal dividend from the Congregational Fund as much as they think they ought. It has been found in the Free Church that the more a congregation does for the Church, the more it does for its minister. The two have worked like a charm by the one rising with the other. The Free Church has its Highlands and Islands to support the gospel in, that would otherwise have been destitute and lost to the Church. The Presbytery of Shetland gets nearly five times more than it gives; of Sky and Uist, four times; and of Orkney, three and a half times. We have our Highlands and Islands too; for we have the backwoods, where the people are almost neglected, and islet groups among the French Canadians in a similar plight, and we would soon overtake both of these. Did we establish it, which would neither be bold, nor self-sacrificing, nor an exercise of faith as the example has been set before us, and has succeeded, we would greatly accelerate the religious life of our people; we could plead for the support of the scheme better than for self; the Lord's Treasury would be easily filled; our home heathenism would be reclaimed; others would be kept from lapsing into heathenism; and our resources would greatly increased to do an extensive work for Christ among the heathen abroad.

I plead for the establishment of this Fund, not because it is proved to be a statesmen have their attention drawn to it, but because it is a matter of simple success, not because other Churches are organizing under its shadow, not because right and justice. I do not wish to alter the present mode of raising money in congregations where the people are properly looked after; but I would like to see the present anomaly of Committees wiped away, and Scriptural uniformity substituted in their place by the ordination of Deacons. Let a regular staff of collectors be appointed under them, who shall wait monthly on all who are able and willing to contribute; and let the contributions be forwarded monthly to a general treasurer, and be published in our RECORD. I am not advocating wealth for our ministers, but I urge their being raised above want, their being without anxiety as to the means of living, their occupying that position that will give weight to their office, and their not being at the mercy of any troublesome individual of their flocks. I want all to be at it, and always at it. I want every