

Our Own Church.

THE AUGMENTATION FUND.

THE General Assembly has appointed the 20th January as the day on which a special collection is to be made for augmentation in congregations which rely on this method of raising money for the work of the church. It is earnestly hoped that, whatever the mode of securing contributions may be, sessions will, in all cases, give the people the opportunity of contributing, and ministers will present the facts set forth in the brief circular which they have received.

It is not necessary at this time of day to argue for the principle which underlies the augmentation scheme, viz., that we are "every one members one of another," and that, therefore, the strong should help the weak. The fund has been carefully administered by the Home Mission Committee. Many Presbyteries have shewn faithfulness in endeavouring to secure that grants shall not be asked for in cases where they are not needed or deserved. The growing confidence of the church in the scheme is shewn by the fact reported to the General Assembly in June last, that in *twenty-one Presbyteries* out of thirty, there was an increase of contributions over those of the preceding year. A slight advance is still needed. The amount realized last year was \$26,173. The amount required to meet the obligations of the committee this year is \$28,000. *There is no reserve fund.*

The Presbyterian Church has an honourable position amongst the Canadian churches in respect of the support of the ministry. If only some of the strong charges which have hitherto given but scanty support to augmentation, will realize how greatly they may help their brethren in needier districts by giving bountifully to this fund, the success of the scheme will be placed beyond peradventure. Mr. Macdonnell's urgent appeal comes with a good grace. His own congregation, St. Andrews church, Toronto, recently made a "plate collection" for the augmentation scheme, which resulted in \$1406.00!

THAT "GREAT MISSIONARY FAILURE" has not yet injuriously affected the Presbyterian church in Canada. We are advancing

steadily, if slowly. A new stage in the missionary enterprise has been reached in our short history, which we notice with devout thankfulness. When we succeeded, (and it required a good deal of wise and conciliatory management to bring it about), in uniting our two Foreign Mission Boards into one, we felt that we had taken an important step, and a few years experience has justified the opinion; then, it was not long before single congregations, one after another, began to come forward and offer to support a missionary themselves, over and above their usual contributions to the Foreign Mission Fund. More recently, *individual members* of some of our congregations are making a similar offer. When we threw out a hint to that effect in the August RECORD, we did not dream that it would be so soon acted upon. But it is an accomplished fact. We do not know the name of the happy man who has taken the lead in this thing, but we have undoubted authority for the fact, and for stating that he has already secured his missionary, who will complete his college curriculum next spring (D.V.)—a young man of exceptional qualifications, mental and physical.

PERSONAL.—We are glad to hear that our respected moderator of Assembly, *Rev. W. T. McMullen*, is recovering from a severe illness; also that *Rev. John Morton* of Tunapuna, who has been sick, is convalescent. *Rev. James Cormack*, who was obliged to relinquish his work at Richmond and North Arm, B.C., on account of his health, is ministering to St. Andrew's congregation, Renfrew, Ont., during the absence of Dr. Campbell—lecturing in Morrin College, Quebec. *Rev. S. Rondeau*, formerly of Muskoka, has taken charge of the French congregation at Ottawa. *Rev. George McKelvie*, commissioned in May last, is hard at work studying the intricacies of native dialects at Indore, Central India, and *Rev. Donald MacGillivray*, recently appointed as a missionary to China, has been heard from at Yokahama, *en route*. *Rev. C. A. Doudist* sailed for Glasgow, Scotland, in the end of last month, as travelling agent of the French Mission Board. *Rev. Dr. T. G. Smith* is vigorously following up the Queen's College Jubilee Endowment Fund, with a view to securing an additional \$50,-