

managing the fund, I never would have placed as I am placed, obligations to it. Meantime last before your board, the Synod, rights to the that, under the glorious British constitution, protects the ecclesiastical as well as civil rights of every subject.

When I have time to meet my congregation, I shall let you know their mind on this matter.

I am, &c.,

JAMES MAIR, A. M.

Rev. JOHN COOK. Quebec.

PERHAPS our wisest course would be to leave the above letter, without note or comment, as a sufficient answer to the two preceding communications; but as distinct charges have been brought against us, we trust our readers will bear with us while we enter into a very brief explanation. With regard to the style and spirit of our articles, we have not a word to say; they are before our readers, and they can form their own judgment upon them. At the outset, and to dissipate at once all doubt about this part of the matter, we have to state that the two articles so much complained of were editorial, and we cheerfully assume the responsibility of them, both in our individual and official capacity; and we may state, also, that they were written after full deliberation, and from a sense of duty. We confess that we perused Mr. Mair's letter to Dr. Cook with very painful and indignant feelings, and a conviction that its tone and spirit, manner and place of publication, had brought a reproach upon our Church. We knew the public character of the members of the "Temporalities Board;" that they were men whose integrity was above suspicion—who were known all over Canada for their large experience in business matters, and the zeal they have always manifested for the interests of the Church of Scotland in Canada. We knew, also, that the funds of this Trust were invested in what is generally considered the best and safest of all investments—Bank Stock. We had some knowledge of the subject from the circumstance of having, a series of years, received a printed Report from the Clerk of Synod. Mr. Mair, in his letter to us, asserts that he brought no charges against any individual, and roundly characterizes our statement to that effect as an "untruth." In charity we must conclude that he does not exactly comprehend the meaning of so gross a term, which simply

implies 'deception, wilful mis-statement made with a purpose to deceive. He says he brought no charge against any one. Why, then, did he write at all? Is a public Board an abstraction? But let us see what he does say: *if for the sake of some, who from your behavior are likely to be friends of your spoliation system, you cut and carve the money, then I shall do all in my power to prevent it.* And again: *"Great has been the speculation at times in public funds. But I dare assert that never in the management of any public trust were the directors so outrageously confident in their power of casting dust in the eyes of their shareholders, that year after year they should refuse a full report. (We have three printed Reports now before us.) And, "If I could have retained a shadow of an idea in favour of your business capabilities, that shadow would have been dispelled in this sentence."*

In fact, the whole letter bristles with charges implying culpable negligence, incapacity, if not actual dishonesty—for what else can "favoritism" or "throwing dust," &c., mean? And against whom are these charges brought? The Executive Committee who have the special management of the Fund is not a large one. It consists of Thomas Paton of the Bank of B. N. America, of John Greenshields, merchant, and the Rev. Dr. Matheson of Montreal. Of these, Mr. Paton is the chairman; and does any body suppose that these gentlemen will not consider themselves attacked by Mr. Mair, and that most offensively? Let it be remembered that this Board is composed of the very choice of our ministers, and the most eminent laymen connected with our Church in Canada. And, we would ask, is it seemly that such men should be addressed as Mr. Mair has addressed them? We find that the last Report of the Fund was audited and found correct by James Mitchell, Esq.—lately an extensive merchant in Halifax, now a distinguished merchant in Montreal—than whom a more high-minded, judicious or excellent christian man does not exist. And yet, if Mr. Mair is right, he, too, must be an accomplice in attempting to "cast dust in people's eyes." The very use of such an expression in connection with his own brethren in the ministry, is in the highest degree unbecoming*, and when we read it, we

* The managers of the Fund are: Dr. Matheson, Montreal, Dr. Cook, Quebec, Dr. Barclay, Kingston (lately deceased), Mr. Snodgrass, Montreal, Dr. Uquhart, Cornwall, John Young, Hamilton, John Greenshields, Montreal, Alex. Morris, M.P.P., John Cameron, H. Allan, John Thomson, and Thomas Paton, Bank of B. N. America, the latter gentleman being chairman. The revenue of the Fund last year was \$33,945; the amount paid to ministers, \$37,834. The rate of interest paid averages 64 per cent.