

THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD,

For the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

"Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation."

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DR. DODDRIDGE'S DYING SONG.

SAID TO HAVE BEEN COMPOSED AND OFT REPEATED,
ON HIS DEATH-BED.

While on the verge of life I stand,
And view the scene on either hand,
My spirit struggles with its clay,
And longs to wing its flight away.

Where Jesus dwells my soul would be,
It faints my much loved Lord to see,
Earth, twine no more about my heart,
For 't is far better to depart.

Come, ye angelic envoys, come,
And lead the willing pilgrim home:
You know the way to Jesus' throne,
Source of my joys and of your own.

That blessed interview, how sweet,
To fall transported at his feet!
Raised in his arms to view his face
Through the full beamings of his grace!

To view heaven's shining courtiers round,
Each with immortal glories crowned;
And while his form in each I trace;
Beloved and loving all to embrace:

As with a seraph's voice, to sing;
To fly, as on a cherub's wing;
Performing with unwearied hands,
A perfect Saviour's high commands.

Yet with this prospect fall in sight,
I wait his signal for my flight;
For 't is a heaven begun to know,
To love and serve my Lord below.

KNOX'S COLLEGE—CLOSING EXAMINATIONS.

The Closing Examinations (in writing) will commence on Wednesday, 5th current, at 10½ o'clock A.M.; the Oral Examinations will commence on Monday, 10th, at 10 A.M.; the Closing Address, with devotional services, on Thursday, 13th current, at 11 o'clock, A.M.

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.

Next ordinary meeting is appointed to be held within the Session House of the Free Church, Coté Street, Montreal, on Wednesday, the 3rd May, at ten o'clock, A.M.

D. FRASER, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE.

The Presbytery of Brockville will hold its next ordinary, in Brockville, on the first Tuesday of May, at 11 o'clock, A.M.

JOHN McMURRAY, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

The next ordinary meeting of Presbytery is appointed to be held at Kingston, on the last Tuesday of April, at 3½ o'clock, P.M.

W. GREGG, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

This Presbytery will meet for ordinary business, in the usual place, on Wednesday, the 12th April, at 11 o'clock, A.M.

T. WIGHTMAN, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

The next ordinary meeting of Presbytery will be held in Hamilton, on the second Tuesday of April, at 3 o'clock, P.M.

M. Y. STARR, Pres. Clerk.

HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

The Home Mission Committee will meet in Knox's College, on Wednesday, 13th April, at 3 o'clock, A.M. A full attendance is earnestly requested.

ALEX. GALE, Convener.

KNOX'S COLLEGE COMMITTEE.

The Committee of Knox's College will meet in the Library of Knox's College, on Wednesday, 13th April, at 7 o'clock, P.M.

M. WILLIS, Convener.

SABBATH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The members of the Synod's Sabbath School Committee, are requested to meet, for the transaction of business, in Brock Street Church, Kingston, on Wednesday, the 26th April, at ten o'clock, A.M.

WILLIAM GREGG, Convener.

THE ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND—ON SABBATH, 16TH INST.

This collection is to be made, according to the appointment of Synod, on Sabbath the 16th April, being the third Sabbath of the month, in all the congregations, and all the preaching stations of the Church. Notice to this effect should be given by the officiating minister, one or two weeks previously, so that the people may be prepared, and if, in any case, circumstances render it impracticable or inexpedient to make the collection at the appointed time, some early Sabbath thereafter should be set apart for the purpose. It is desirable that the collection be as nearly as simultaneous as possible, and above all, that it be universal throughout the church. It is manifest that if any congregation fail to make it—and there have been such failures in former years, in several quarters—they not only disregard the authority of the Church, and do an injury to a most beneficent institution; but they really inflict a species of wrong on other congregations, who of course make the collection on the understanding that all are to do the like, according to their means, and thus to be true and faithful partners in the common undertaking. There is a principle involved here, bearing on all our schemes, which we fear requires to be explained, and inculcated with more diligence than ministers usually bestow on it. Indeed we happen to know that in so far as this particular object is concerned, the minister himself is the chief stumbling block, or the principal cause of the omission of the collection. He feels some kind of delicacy about the matter—lets it pass in silence, and thus gives his people no opportunity of judging and acting for themselves in regard to it. Now, without attempting in this place to analyse or estimate this feeling, we would simply say, that there surely ought to be no delicacy or hesitation, in the mind of any minister, about making known to his people, in some form or other, an appointment of the supreme court of the church, unless, perhaps, there is, in his judgment, something in it so far wrong as to have made him protest against it when it was made; and even in that extreme case the right of neglecting it is very questionable, although the exercise of it would probably be esteemed a proper occasion for forbearance. But in the circumstances to which we refer, the feeling is manifestly the same as that which operated on the minds of many ministers of the Free Church, in regard to the contributions of the people to the Sustentation Fund, they would not utter a word, nor make a single movement, because their own salaries were concerned. Now this is surely a very inadequate and incorrect view of such cases. In the matter of the annual collection before us, for instance, no respectable and intelligent hearer will, for a moment, entertain the thought that the minister is pleading his own cause, or that of those whom he may leave behind him. His giving will be determined, as it ought to be, by the judgment he has formed of the claims and merits of the scheme itself as a whole—not at