

THE CANADIAN United Presbyterian Magazine.

VOL. VII.]

TORONTO, MARCH, 1860.

[No. 3.

Miscellaneous Articles.

SHOULD THERE BE AN AGENT FOR THE SCHEMES OF THE CHURCH ?

That those deputed by the Synod to conduct the several schemes of the Church have faithfully discharged their duty thereanent, there can be no doubt. Indeed their fidelity and zeal deserve, and, we believe, have secured, the commendation and gratitude of the whole Church. It would be unwarrantable to expect greater efficiency in their respective departments, so long as they are charged with other numerous and onerous duties of a sacred and secular character, which alone, as experience has proved, constitute a heavy tax on the attention, the time, and the energies of the most gifted and devoted of men. If, then, the liberality of the U. P. Church in Canada might be, and should be, larger than it is, the fault must be attributed to the system hitherto employed for its elicitation, rather than to the parties entrusted with that important duty.

We think that no one acquainted with the circumstances of the people will say that the Church has reached, or even approached, that point in the scale of benefaction which duty to her divine Lord demands—a duty the performance of which is prompted by gratitude for mercy received, and by compassion for the perishing as well.

The conviction extends and strengthens, that some other mode should be adopted for exciting and eliciting the liberality of the members and adherents of our congregations; and the practice and experience of other Churches, and of Missionary, Bible, and Benevolent Societies, point unmistakeably to the appointment of an Agent whose sole duty