

them to rally them around the blue flag; they are too divided or too few; and in consequence a regular absorption is going on by other Churches, that plant their foot where they have no foothold, and keep it at great expense to the Church for a long term of years till they have secured elbow room. Our people, too, wait for our Church taking action first, and because this is not done for want of means and of men, or from want of time or interest in our placed ministers, they gradually melt away and are lost to it forever.

V. FROM EXAMPLE.

The Free Church of Scotland is a marvellous success. This Fund has greatly contributed to make it the admiration and pattern of the Christian world. We have in it a magnificent proof of the inherent energy of a self-supporting Church. The Fund has risen since 1843 at the rate of about \$5000 annually, and the equal dividend at the rate of \$10 annually. The equal dividend at first was about \$500 yearly, now it is \$750. The average over the whole Church is \$1000, and, if we include legacies, manse and supplements, it is nearly \$1300. The number of ministers at the Disruption was 470. In 1868 it was 864, or an average increase of 16 yearly. The increase of congregations and of stipends have kept pace with each other. A large generosity pays better than a selfish overcaution. To the Free Church and its success Ireland is greatly indebted for the changes at work among the Churches there. The Presbyterian Church is rising to its altered circumstances, and is establishing with a brave spirit a similar Fund, and the Anglican Church, amid its fetters and general debility, is labouring to secure the same thing. The Presbyterian Church in England is committed to the scheme, and the Independent Church is looking with wistful eyes in the same direction. The Presbyterian Church in New Zealand is working very efficiently under this scheme. Dr. Hodge, years ago, wrote an article in the *Princeton Review* in favor of its establishment in the Old School P. Church, as a panacea for the ills that afflict it in ministers starving for the bread that perishes, and congregations starving for the bread of life. And shall we lag behind? Having such precedents, we ought to be prepared at once to take the step. Had we adopted this plan at first, our Church might have grown to twice or three times its present dimensions, and the other sects would have been left far in the rear, dwindling to their own proper insignificance. Did we adopt it now, though we may never regain the ground we have lost entirely, I predict a glorious future for us on this mighty continent. Let us then be influenced by no short-sighted policy, but by a far-seeing sagacity let us lay our foundations broad and deep, and, like the temple of Jerusalem, it shall become the joy of its people, and make Canada a pleasant land to dwell in.

VI. OUR CAPACITY FOR ITS ESTABLISHMENT.

The Presbyterian Church of Ireland is poor, but it is largely helped by the compensation for the *Regium Donum*, and under the new system it will be healthier and in a more vigorous condition than ever it was before. The Free Church of Scotland began the world without a cent, and among its people few of the lauded interest or of the wealthy were to be found. But it began in faith, and it has been doing wondrously while the rest of the world has been looking on. By the amazing liberality of a few wealthy congregations, it has formed hundreds of charges, and had ministers placed over them, that would otherwise have been lost to the Church. The congregations that give more than they receive are 206; that receive more than they give, 675; i. e., the aid-giving to the aid-receiving are 1½ to 3½. There are nearly 100 stations beside. What a glorious spectacle we have here! Just imagine to yourselves what would have become of the 675 congregations without this Fund! The Free Church, instead of being the admiration of the world, would have been grovelling among the other sects, unworthy of special notice, far less of imitation. The English Presbyterian Church, in advocating such a scheme as this, says that it has 74 aid-giving to 44 aid-receiving congregations. In other words, it is 5½ times more favorably circumstanced to maintain a Sustentation Fund than the Free Church of Scotland.