

per cent. increase upon their previous subscription, as they would do, were the *aim* immediate and entire self-sustentation? Of course, where an independent and enterprising spirit already animates a congregation, they may equally aim at this, under either system. But one principal duty devolving on the Missionary Committee, is to train the Churches to a large-hearted, enterprising independence. Is the "*Sliding Scale*" a system calculated to do this? Without doubt its tendency would be quite the contrary. It could be advantageously applied only in cases of confirmed indolence and lethargy; where there exists no other cause of dependence but *moral inability* to support themselves;—and even in such cases, it is doubtful whether the *five years* "sliding scale" would work as effectually as a more abrupt two years' descent. The Colonial Missionary Committee, despite all that has been written, and said, to the contrary, evidently thinks that our Missionary Churches plea of "cannot" should be rendered "will not;" and under this conviction, that committee ultimately decides to starve them into life! But knowing, as many of us well do, the unfairness of this judgment, can we consent to have the "sliding scale" imposed upon our feeble churches, by our partners across the Atlantic! We well know that if such a principle were uniformly enforced, it would work disastrously, inasmuch as,

Secondly,—it would constrain us to abandon some of our most self-denying and necessitous missionaries. Several of our missions, especially in Eastern Canada, are so hemmed in by unfriendly influences, that extension of field is almost out of the question, for the present, unless the Spirit of the Lord should mightily shake the masses. Our Missionaries at these trying posts, are able and efficient men; in some cases the veteran pioneers of Congregationalism in the land. Shall *they* be put on the *sliding scale*? If so, our English brethren may find that they are lost to our field and thus off their list, before five years have expired. They can readily find inviting fields of labour, with competent support, across the lines, in the neighbouring New England States, of which several are natives. If they be thus driven off, have we any men that can occupy their places more effectively, or more economically? We, on this side of the Atlantic, know the contrary. Shall we consent to any system that will starve out such men! Nay! far better might we disband our Society at once, and honestly declare ourselves unable to occupy the field. Then there would be, at least, a chance of some other Society coming to the rescue.

To this issue, the Colonial Missionary Society is bringing our Canadian Society. All the forces of argument and remonstrance have been plied in vain, by our earnest and indefatigable Secretary-Treasurer. They finally insist on the "*Sliding Scale*." If therefore, we reject this plan as unsuitable, and unsafe, how can we co-operate any longer?

The present partnership was formed in 1854, by the fusion of three distinct Missionary operations; viz., those of the Colonial Missionary Society, and the two Home Missionary Societies of Eastern and Western Canada. In the first report of this conjoint Society, in 1854, the following statement is made.

"As to the connection of this Society with the Colonial Missionary Society, it is to be understood that it is rather a relation of *co-ordinate* bodies, than that of an auxiliary to a parent."

This connection has hitherto proved highly satisfactory to the Canadian Churches and Pastors. We are loath to entertain the thought of separation. Gratitude for large and long continued appropriations to the Canadian field