

are certainly very near each other, nearer considerably, I think, than they were twenty-five years ago, when negotiations for union were going on. It is easy to be wise after the event; but it seems to me that at that time, the denominational policy in the Free Church was too young and too keen to be prepared for an amalgamation with another church. The Disruption was too recent, and the traditions of other days too lively for a union then. Another quarter of a century has changed that. We are not so exclusive Free Churchmen as we were then; we are more prepared for a union. And if it took place to-morrow, I don't think there would be many in the Free Church who would hold back. A few would, but these would not be of the vigorous, life-ful, energetic portion of the Church. They would form a very languid body. But then, there is not much enthusiasm for *partial* union. The feeling is that a general union would be very desirable, embracing the Established as well as the other two sections, But here comes the difficulty. The Nonconformists will not consent to a union with the State on any terms. And the Established Church will not even dream of a union that involves separation from the State. So there is a deadlock. As the Established Church has a large adherence, and can show signs of advancing prosperity, and as she hopes that a general election will place the Tories in power, she is very strenuous in maintaining her present position. Yet surely she cannot fancy that the *status quo* is to go on for ever. She does not take a statesmanlike view of the position—does not grapple with the true elements of the union problem, does not even hint at a possible solution. She is content to hold her own, whatever comes of the Presbyterian cause at large. She claims to be the national church, yet owns that half the nation is outside her pale. And she knows that in efficient work, the Free and United Presbyterian Churches stand on at least as high level as she does. It is this deficiency of statesmanship that makes the case so hopeless from a union point of view, and makes one feel that there is nothing for it but to prepare for disestablishment, as a necessary step towards such a union, as would ultimately make the Scotch Presbyterian Church one of the most powerful, and one of the most beneficent forces in the world."

Home Mission Funds.

A statement, setting forth the needs of the Home Mission Fund has been issued by the Home Mission Committee. We trust it shall be met by a liberal response from all concerned. The facts cannot be better stated than in Rev. Dr. Cochrane's own words:—

"In April last, notwithstanding the contributions of the British Churches, the Committee had a deficit of about \$20,000. But for the special appeals made to the wealthier congregations and members (which were generously responded to), the salaries of our Missionaries would have suffered to that extent. That the Committee were able to discharge their obligations, was a cause of thankfulness, but the present year began with the small balance of \$600 on hand. The fact that there is necessity for repeated calls upon the more generous givers in the Church, is due to the fact, that notwithstanding an increased membership, less is being given to the Home Mission Fund than in former years. And should the revenue of the present year, 1895-6, be only that of the past, a large deficit is inevitable. It is estimated that the sum of \$79,000 is required to meet the obligations of the Committee for the year; about half of this amount has to be borrowed in October, to pay the claims for the past summer's work, the balance in April next.

The Committee have apportioned the several amounts to the different Presbyteries, taking into account their membership and ability, but leaving it to the Presbyteries to allocate to the Congregations and Mission Stations, as they deem best. May I earnestly ask you to take the necessary steps in your Congregation, to raise the amount that may be allocated, and forward it as soon as possible to the Rev. Dr. Reid? Congregational Treasurers who forward their contributions early, help to reduce the amount of interest paid on borrowed money. As some of the smaller Presbyteries and weaker Congregations may not be able to give the sums asked of them, the stronger ones should (as many have done formerly) increase their contributions beyond the sums allocated them."

The importance of the Home Mission work of the Church cannot be over estimated and it is to be regretted that there should be any difficulty experienced at any time in meeting all obligations promptly. With a bountiful harvest and brighter material prospects the contributions ought to mount up rapidly this fall. What is given quickly is given twice.

Remuneration of Students. To remove misapprehension existing regarding their remuneration of students laboring under the Home Mission Committee this summer it is well to state that while the Committee last spring named \$5.50 per Sabbath and board, the General Assembly in June last, on motion of Rev. Dr. Warden, amended this and increased the amount to \$6. All students laboring this summer in Ontario and Quebec, as well as in Manitoba, the North-West Territories and British Columbia, are, therefore, entitled to \$6 per Sabbath and board. Where Mission Fields receive grants from the Home Mission Fund it is hoped that the people in the field will make good this extra fifty cents per Sabbath.

Missionary Schemes. The statement of the estimated requirements for carrying on the missionary and benevolent schemes of the Presbyterian Church in Canada for 1895-6 is as follows: The principal items are:—Home Mission proper (western section), \$78,000; stipend augmentation (western section), \$29,000; foreign missions, \$71,118; Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, \$44,273; French Evangelization, \$49,000; Coligny College, Ottawa (special to remove debt), \$25,000; colleges, \$10,000; Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund (western section), \$19,000. An average contribution of a little over \$2 per member would furnish the amount required.

Spurgeon tells of a man who stopped at an inn while travelling in England, and when his bill was presented to him, said: "I never thought of a bill, and have made no preparations for paying." The inn-keeper replied: "You must either be a fool or a knave, if you have made no provision for your reckoning." Yet how many are travelling toward the end of their earthly journey without making any provision for reckoning with God.

Our Coupon.

A very awkward and misleading error appears in our Coupon for this month published in our last issue and referring to the price of the "Bonnie Briar Bush." Our special rate was 90 cents but the nine having dropped out left it to be inferred that the book would be sent free. A few of our subscribers have written us in this matter so we thought it advisable to make an editorial correction.