

INSTRUCTION OF THE SYNOD
TO PRESBYTERIES.

The Synod, at the eighth session of its late meeting, instructed Presbyteries "to see that full statements of their financial affairs for the year be returned by all Kirk-Sessions within their bounds and to enter the same upon their Presbytery Records." This is a matter of the utmost importance to the maintenance of divine ordinances; and we trust the Presbyteries will pay due attention to the Instruction of the Synod. It is not enough that the College be supported. It is not enough that in due time it may be in a position to send forth numbers suitably qualified for the work of the ministry. Due attention must be paid to the provision for the support of the ministry, or the Lower Provinces will continue destitute of labourers still. There is a delicacy in speaking upon this subject which many ministers have carried to a sinful length, and the interests of religion have suffered accordingly. On this point, they are not entitled to say, "*We have not shunned to declare the whole counsel of God.*" They have failed to bring before their people, as they ought to have done, the duty which God lays upon them to provide, out of the worldly substance with which he has blessed them, what may be needed for the support of divine ordinances both among themselves and others.

No doubt, there may be found in most congregations some formal, cold-hearted professors, who seem to think that they have done enough for religion when they have given their call to a minister, and their personal attendance on public ordinances. They devolve upon others, without scruple, the support of their minister; and give themselves no trouble to enquire whether he is maintained, as he ought to be, in circumstances of comfort, or is left to pine in the most abject destitution. But we are far from imagining that cases such as these are very numerous. On the contrary, notwithstanding the comparatively small amount that has been raised, we look with satisfaction to the subscriptions for the Professorial Fund, as showing what can be done, even in a time of depression, when a case requiring an effort is pointed out, and due means employed in pressing the duty upon the people. The evil is, that, in the case of support for the ministers, it has been left too much to the individual minister to deal with his people in a pecuniary matter in which

he himself has a very direct, and, as some would think, the most important, personal concern. He shrinks from giving the least occasion for saying that, in his ministerial labours, his influential motive is a love of lucre; and he would rather suffer the most pinching want than thus cause the ministry to be blamed. We honour the motive; but we cannot approve of the conduct, notwithstanding. We have to remind both ministers and people that, while it is right that ministers should be suitably supported, the interest of the minister is not the most important which is involved in this matter. The ministry has been appointed for the benefit of the people. He who has given pastors and teachers, "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ," (Eph. iv. 12.) has also "ordained, that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel," (1 Cor. ix. 14.) This is a divine ordinance, and while in the neglect of it the minister no doubt may be subjected to much wrong, the neglect nevertheless will tell more injuriously upon the people, and they eventually will be the principal sufferers. We have no doubt that the great body of our people can very easily understand this, and that not only kindly feeling towards the ministers who labour among them, but, still more, a regard for spiritual things, will stir them up to the discharge of a duty which seems indeed to have been much neglected, but the neglect of which may have been very much owing to the circumstance that it was not brought before them as it ought to have been. It was time that the Synod should interfere. We trust Presbyteries will attend to the Instructions, and we have no doubt but good will result from their taking a due supervision of these matters, which were left too much to the discretion of the local parties.

THE PROFESSORIAL FUND.

We publish in this number some of the lists of subscribers to the Professorial Fund which have come to hand, and we shall give the rest in due course. In doing so, we have to remind the friends of the Free Church in these Provinces, that it is to the College, and the measure of support which it receives, that the Colonial Committee look at present with deepest interest. Mr Stewart of New Glasgow has written from Scotland, in the strongest terms, to urge the necessity