

# THE PRESBYTERIAN.

FEBRUARY, 1871.

THE Sustentation Board are to be congratulated on the measure of success that has attended their efforts during the first six months of their existence. To have been enabled to pay an equal dividend of *eighty-six* dollars, from a purely voluntary fund, to fifty ministers, is a great achievement. Under the old arrangement it required a Herculean effort to pay \$75 each to eighty ministers; the new plan has given \$100 to thirty-one of these, and \$86 to the remainder. The way in which it has been done, too, is even a greater matter for satisfaction than the mere fact of its accomplishment. The former system may be said to have been worked by "high pressure," with manifest danger to the machinery of the Church; this, to all appearance, has been done easily and *methodically*. The one mode implied frequent appeals to the rich men of the Church; the other throws itself on the sympathies of the whole body of the people. A painful degree of uncertainty attached to the one, that while a certain portion of the annuitants might have their expectations realized, another portion might be doomed to disappointment. The advantage of the other is that if one member has cause to rejoice all the others rejoice with that one; if one member suffers, the others suffer equally. Having thus one common aim, an irresistible argument is found for united action.

It is true the Sustentation Board have not "already attained" the full measure of success which they proposed to themselves at the outset, but they have ample encouragement to promote their great and noble work in faith and hope. Those congregations from whom the largest amount of support was expected have done their part; those from whom the very least was expected have "done what they could," and if a very few congregations have as

yet given no tangible manifestation of their interest in the work, we feel persuaded that this is not to be attributed to their want of sympathy to the work, nor want of appreciation of its importance, but simply because of some pressing and temporary inability, occasioning to themselves deep regret, but which they hope to overcome. We are confident that the ready mind of such will be shown during the current half year by a hearty co-operation. To all others we have only to say, "Be not weary in well doing."

A *RESPECTED* correspondent naively asks us what is meant by the statement made by us in December to the effect that it had been found necessary to dispense with "professional services." Lest our friend may have taken up the idea that the contributions of professional men have, from some unexplained cause, ceased to be acceptable to us, we take this opportunity of assuring our clerical friends that we shall always be glad to hear from them. Their contributions *in kind*, that is the productions of their pen, we shall, as heretofore, accept thankfully, and, space permitting shall publish cheerfully, though at times it may be needful for us to do this in an abridged or condensed form. Moreover, it will not have escaped notice that we have extended to these professional friends the privilege, for some years past denied them, of assisting us by their contributions as well, an act of generosity on our part which we feel sure will be duly appreciated. What the publishing committee did mean was this, that, sheerly owing to impecuniosity, they had been unwillingly compelled to dispense for a time with the services of a paid editor. Having made this explanation it is proper to add that our friend Mr. Brymner has offered in the most handsome manner to continue his