

## The Canada Temporalities Fund of the Church of Scotland.

MOST of our readers are aware that our Church in Canada is in possession of a valuable endowment under the above name. Its annual revenue, we believe, is about \$38,000, which has yielded a valuable supplement to the incomes of the clergy. According to an agreement entered into with the Church, when the Clergy Reserves were secularised, and which agreement was afterwards consolidated into law, the ministers of the Church at the time commuted their rights for £112, during the whole period of their incumbency. Eleven ministers were not allowed to commute, and to these the sum of £100 per annum is to be paid. £500 are also to be paid annually to Queen's College, and the residue to be divided as far as it will go, by supplementing the other ministers to the extent of £50 per annum each. Several causes have combined recently, in making it impossible to pay *all*, and the Trustees of the Fund, in their anxiety and hopefulness, have, it would seem, advanced largely, during the past year, beyond their means. The consequence is, that for the present, 27 of the ministers, according to date of the appointment, the latest being cut off, cannot be paid during the current year. The cause of this unfortunate state of matters has been explained very clearly by Dr. Cook, of Quebec; viz., decrease of interest in some of the investments, increase in ministers, and failure of the Church, in contributing to the Contingent Fund, with sufficient liberality, and proposes as a remedy, that each Church assess itself to the extent of \$50 a year, to make up the deficiency. We trust that the effort will be successful, and that the £112 pounders, especially, will consider their less fortunate neighbours.

The only person, who has so far uttered any audible complaint, is the Rev. Mr. Mair, formerly of Barney's River, in Nova Scotia, and his complaint is loud and vehement enough. On his settlement at Martintown, he was promised \$200 a year, out of the Fund, in addition to his stipend from the people. Now, it turns out, that both he and our late missionary Mr. Cameron, are to be among the deprived for the time being. This is to be regretted, but if we understand the matter, it is perfectly unavoidable, and Mr. Mair's letter on the subject, which he has published in a newspaper, is extremely foolish, and we should say, uncalled for. The spirit in which he, a young and comparatively inexperienced person, addresses a man of the character and accomplishments of Dr. Cooke, is very painful, and the charges he brings against such men as Mr. Paton, for neglecting or mismanaging the Fund are simply absurd. Just imagine the late minister of Barney's River, lecturing the manager of the Bank of British North America, how to invest Funds, and telling him that if he knew even the alphabet

of financeering he might be getting *eight* per cent. of interest with perfect safety!

All this is, of course, very idle, and can only tend to exasperate, and we trust that when the excitement has passed, Mr. M. will apologise to these gentlemen, and set himself strenuously to carry out Dr. Cook's plan in his own parish. We subjoin a portion of Mr. M.'s letter:—

"This for certain, if the funds are allowed to continue under such management as the present; unless the congregations are foolish enough to invest still more money in a Fund that has ever been a bone of contention. A Fund that has waddled through such a deal of mismanagement that it is next to a miracle it now exists—a Fund concerning the investment of which the managers have never given an account to those that trusted them. A Fund entirely *per se* in every feature. Great has been the speculation at times in public funds. But I dare assert that never in the management of any public trust were the directors so outrageously confident in the power of casting dust in the eyes of the shareholders, that year after year they should systematically refuse a full report. In a single report since the Temporalities Fund fell into the present management, has there been a statement of the sums invested, or of the rate of interest. I have tried to make something like an approximation to the rate at which your investments pay, and find that the average is somewhere about five per cent. per annum. If I am wrong, you have yourselves to blame, for the least you could have done was to have told us how you had invested the funds, and at what rate of interest. It seems as if you had forgotten that the Fund belongs to us; that ever since the minister so nobly instituted the Fund, every individual minister has a right, title, and interest in this Fund. Now, it is well known that eight per cent. has been offered to you for the money equally well is it known that good safe investments can even be now had at eight per cent. Had this money been thus invested something like \$15,000 more would have been in hand for the past year alone—a sum sufficient to pay three times the number of the poor unfortunates; while, in past years at this rate, plenty would have accrued to have prevented you the necessity of 'advancing.'"

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## The office of the Ministry.

IN England, and to a less degree, in Scotland, the Church offers a good many of what in vulgar parlance, are called prizes. In the former there are benefices worth £15,000, £10,000, and £5,000 downward; while in the latter, there are two or three bordering on a £1,000 per annum, a good many about £500, while the average in the established