

especially to guard against the introduction of any provision, making the possession of Royal Charters indispensable to the admission of such Colleges to the privileges of the University, and participation in its management, to entitle to which, Provincial Legislative Charters ought, in the opinion of the Commission, to be held sufficient.

It having been intimated to the Moderator, that the Sustentation Board desired to confer with the Commission in regard to the Sustentation Scheme, the Moderator invited the President and Members of the Board to make, now, any statements they desired to bring before the Commission. Mr. Westland expressed it as his opinion that the proposed conference was unnecessary, and would be unprofitable, inasmuch as it would not be possible to discuss the whole details of the Scheme. The conference, however, was proceeded with, and Mr. Buchanan addressed the Commission, setting forth the great importance of rendering the Scheme popular throughout the Church, and of removing every thing that stood in the way of its general acceptability, and concluded by suggesting the propriety of the Commission's declaring that the whole property of congregations is not necessarily vested in the Deacons's Courts, but may, as formerly, be vested in Trustees, as congregations may see fit, and that in regard to all such funds and property as do not officially fall to be managed by Deacons, these Office-bearers are to be held as directly and exclusively responsible to congregations. He also suggested whether an Annual Election of Deacons would not be advisable, which he understood had been the original practice in the Church of Scotland. It was stated by Mr. Gale that it was unnecessary and inexpedient, in his opinion, for the Commission to issue any further explanation respecting the Deaconship in connexion with the working of this Scheme, inasmuch as they had already declared that in the meantime congregations were at perfect liberty to conduct their operations under it, by the functions previously existing in each, and that this, and all the details of the Scheme, would come up regularly for consideration at the next meeting of Synod, when the views and opinions of the whole Church would be fully and impartially made known, and that the Synod had merely adopted the principle of a common Sustentation Fund for Ministers—that to this they were pledged, having, after the most mature deliberation, and principally on the advice of the Free Church deputation, laid aside the Supplementary Scheme, which had been previously prepared, and was on the eve of going into operation. Mr. King stated that in so far as the arrangements of the Sustentation Scheme were concerned, the Church was, of course, at liberty to alter and modify them as might be found expedient, or to lay them aside altogether: nothing in that respect being specially prescribed in the Word of God, but that in so far as the Deaconship was concerned, it was clearly set forth in Scripture as a permanent office in the Church of Christ, and so recognized in the Standards of this Church,—that no person once regularly called and Ordained to that Office could be lawfully deprived of it but by the sentence of a Church Court, and that the original practice in the Church of Scotland referred to, did in no way imply anything contrary to the principle he had laid down, as if a Deacon was only Ordained for a year, and then ceased to be a Deacon, but merely provided for their occasional relief from the more onerous and active duties of the office. Mr. King also remarked on the injurious effects which must arise from individual parties in the Church refusing to carry out such measures, merely because they did not comport with their particular views, and explained how the arrangements of the Scheme, as drawn up by the Commission, differed from those in operation in the Free Church, the latter having still the preference in his estimation, and that the Free Church deputation could only properly be represented as having recommended the Sustentation principle as preferable to the Supplementary one previously proposed.

The conference, after some farther conversation, was then closed, and the Commission adjourned till next morning, when a quorum of members not being in attendance, no business was done.

MEETING OF THE SUSTENTATION BOARD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.—This Board met on the call of the President, at Toronto, on the 26th inst. Isaac Buchanan, Esq., President, in the Chair—Present, Andrew Jeffrey, Esq., Vice President, and the Revd. Messrs. Stark, Rintoul, Harris, and Gale, and Messrs. Westland, McMurrich, Shaw, McIntosh, McGlashan, Walker, of Hamilton, and Douglas, of Streetsville.

Mr. James McIntyre, of Hamilton, was elected Treasurer to the Board, and Mr. James Walker, of Hamilton, Secretary. The Board resolved, that they had, in the returns, already made to them, ample ground to justify them in immediately proceeding to carry the Scheme into operation, so far as the duties devolving on them, are concerned. Various arrangements were then made to facilitate the practical working of the Scheme: and the Secretary was instructed to prepare a Circular to be addressed to all parties concerned, informing them of these arrangements.

Of the congregations which have already declared the sums they purpose to contribute, only four fall below the minimum stated in the Scheme, and of these one declares £90, and another £80. The two others are to be visited immediately, under the direction of the Board.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE MORE EFFECTUAL PROSECUTION OF HOME MISSIONARY OPERATIONS BY THE PRESBYTERIES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.

The General Home Mission Committee appointed at the Meeting of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in October last, have, in compliance with the Synod's instructions, prepared the following suggestions for the guidance of Presbyteries in conducting Missionary operations within their respective bounds—and they respectfully commend the same to their consideration and adoption—praying that, as the fields in this land are evidently white to harvest—the Lord will send forth labourers into His harvest—and give grace and strength to those already engaged in the work to be more and more abundant in their labours.

The suggestions which the Committee deem it necessary to offer on this important and interesting department of Presbyterian duty, may be conveniently stated under the following heads:—

I. The Arrangement of the Missionary field.—The whole field of religious destitution, especially those townships or parishes which contain a considerable number of Presbyterians, within the bounds ought to be carefully considered by each Presbytery—and according to the information derived from the several members, or others, suitable localities ought to be deliberately chosen and fixed upon as Preaching Stations—these stations, including organized congregations that may be vacant, ought to be grouped together as Missionary Districts—and each of the Districts thus formed ought to be placed under the superintendence of a Minister, and have a missionary assigned to it, as soon as the Presbytery's supply of labourers will admit. The arrangement made by the Presbytery in this respect, should, of course, be fully recorded, and it would be advantageous to procure a separate Record for all such details.

II. The organization of Missionary Stations and Districts.—It is recommended that each Presbytery, after having divided and arranged their missionary ground according to the foregoing suggestions, take immediate steps for the visitation of the several Preaching Stations, within each of the missionary Districts, by the Ministers under whose superintendence they have been placed, for the

following purposes:—1. To explain to the people connected with each Station, the division and arrangement which the Presbytery has made, as above,—the exertions which the Presbytery is making to procure an adequate supply of missionaries,—and the necessity of fixed and regular contributions by the people, to secure a suitable provision for missionaries. 2. To organize the people connected with each Station, by superintending the election and appointment of a committee of their number, (the members of which might be ordained as Elders or Deacons, if suitably qualified) with a Secretary and Treasurer. 3. To intimate to the people at each Station what supplies of preaching the Minister in charge of it can give, until a missionary be obtained for the District.—4. To explain and enforce the duty of assembling for social worship and religious instruction on the Lord's day, and of contributing to the support of the Gospel.

III. The Duties of the Office-bearers or Committees at the several Stations.—The Office-bearers or members of Committee at each Station, should be instructed to proceed immediately after their appointment, to make up a roll of the members and adherents of the Church connected with the Station—and a certain number of families having been assigned to each of them—to visit such families for the purpose of obtaining their concurrence in the arrangements of the Presbytery—and of receiving their free-will offerings to the Presbytery's Home Mission fund—which they ought to collect at stated periods, quarterly or oftener, as may be thought expedient. In the absence of Ministers, Missionaries, or other supplies by the Presbytery—they ought also to meet with the people on the Sabbath for religious exercises, to be conducted according to such order as has been sanctioned by the superintending Minister, and to establish and conduct Sabbath Schools for the young. The Treasurer should transmit quarterly to the Presbytery's Home Mission fund, the contributions of the people—and the Secretary should furnish the Minister in charge of the Station, with a quarterly report shewing the total number of souls belonging to the Presbyterian Church, connected with the Station—the number of contributors to the Presbytery's Home Mission fund—the amount of contributions during the quarter—the numbers attending the meetings for worship on the vacant Sabbaths—the number of Sabbath Schools connected with the station, and the number of scholars attending—together with any further information or suggestion regarding the interests of the Station or Mission.

IV. Home Mission Committees and Funds.—It is recommended that each Presbytery appoint a Committee to Superintend their Home Missionary operations—and besides Ministers and Elders, a suitable number of Members of the Church, should be placed on it, so that a quorum might be conveniently assembled by the Convener at all times.—This Committee ought to have the charge of the Presbytery's separate Record for Home Missions, and enter in it Minutes of all their proceedings—the substance of the Reports from the Station Committees, and of the Reports of Ministers and Missionaries—submitting the same at the ordinary meetings of Presbytery for their judgment, and further direction. A General Home Mission fund should also be instituted forthwith in each Presbytery, under the charge of a Treasurer appointed by the Presbytery—by whom all contributions for that object would be received, and all disbursements made under the direction of the Committee, and a report of the state of the fund submitted to the Presbytery at their ordinary meetings. This fund would be raised and sustained, 1st. By the periodical contributions from the several Stations. 2d. By such Sabbath day collections as may be made in behalf of it in the several congregations, by appointment of the Synod or Presbytery. 3d. By the annual contributions of Associations formed in the several congregations, under the direction of the Presbytery or the Committee, and with the concurrence of