

it to the lowest and most intelligible figure, is somewhere about 5s. a head.

The returns also enable us for the first time of late years to compare approximately the livings of the Church with those of other Churches. The three Churches with which it may be thus brought into comparison are the two large Dissenting Churches in Scotland and the Established Church of England. The Free Church last year had "participating in the Sustentation Fund" 957 ministers (of whom 43 were colleagues and successors), and the entire amount of stipend paid, including the above fund, and £50,592 of congregational supplements, gave an average for each minister of £196. Taking those only who received the full amount of equal dividend, and dividing the whole supplement among them, their average would be £215. A very large majority of the Free Church ministers (about 620 probably) must therefore be under £200. There are a few large livings in the towns. In the year 1869, a statement was made by a Free Church minister (in a pamphlet) that there were 4 congregations which paid their ministers £600 a year, and 32 at and over £400. In the U. P. Church, including England and Ireland, the total fund divisible for stipend last year was about £120,000, and the average sum paid to her ministers was £216. The Church of England, of course, presents us with much larger totals, but even it falls below the average of what is called the poorer Establishment in the North. The entire stipends of the English Church clergy were over four millions sterling; but these being divisible among 13,271 benefices, produced an average sum to each of £311. This does not include parsonages. More than a third of the livings (4548) were under £200 a year; nearly a half (6407) were between £200 and £500; there were 1902 upwards of £500; and the remainder were not specified. On the whole, then, the Church of Scotland heads the list with (excluding manse) an average of £314; the Church of England comes next with an average of £311; the U. P. next with £216; and the Free Church with an average overhead of £196, or for her equal dividend ministers of £215.

The claims for compensation under

the Patronage Act, though not yet fully made up, must amount to a goodly sum. None of the larger patrons have claimed, except Lord Zetland, whose livings are for the most part small, and many of them on the Exchequer, which will greatly reduce the sums payable. The Dukes of Buccleuch, Argyll, Sutherland, and Hamilton have all waived their rights, amounting to a sum of nearly £30,000. The Earl of Mansfield is a large claimant, with not nearly so many livings as Lord Zetland, though they are of greater value. There are 626 livings in the hands of private patrons. Probably about 200 of these may be claimed for. The amount payable is the stipend derivable from *teind alone*, calculated on the average of the last three years. If the 200 livings claimed for be of the average value (of *teind alone*), the total sum payable will be not far from £60,000. This falls to be paid as the parishes become vacant, and is then to be deducted by four equal instalments from the stipend of the newly-inducted ministers for the first four years of their incumbency. As about 40 parishes become vacant in the Church each year out of 1200, it will be probably 30 years before the payments become due, though in some years they may be much heavier than in others. A good many of the claims will possibly never be enforced. The position of a patron who arrests a fourth of the stipend for the first four years will not be a pleasant one in the parish, especially if he be resident. The burden of making up the loss to the minister will always fall partly, and in some cases chiefly, on the parishioners connected with the church; and the levying of subscriptions from comparatively poor men to pay for the sums drawn by the lord of the manor, will in many cases be shrunk from by a graceful retreat. At the same time, the patron is entitled to full payment; and it would ill become those who have long demanded the boon they have now received to grudge the price they have to pay for it. We suppose a fund will be raised in the Church at large to meet the claims, in accordance with what was understood to be a promise of last General Assembly.

—H. and F. Record.