

# ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD,

For the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

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## THE RECORD.

In this No. we present our readers and the Presbyterian church of Canada generally, with the sustentation fund scheme, as recently approved and sanctioned after much deliberation by the commission, under the authority of the Synod. We have only to beg, that every office bearer and member of the church will sit down and give it an hour's attention, when we doubt not, its whole arrangements will become plain, and not only plain, but satisfactory.

The only question in the way of doubt or difficulty that we anticipate, respects the amount of contributions from the several congregations which are calculated on. It may be asked, with reference to the means of our people generally, the numbers of our congregations, and especially the experience of the past, as to the smallness and irregularity of the provision made for ministers, are not these amounts estimated too high? Whatever the actual result may be, we are persuaded, after the best consideration we are able to give to the subject, that there is nothing in the first two of the foregoing particulars to justify the doubt in question; and in regard to the third, our conviction has long been, that the chief reason why the stipends of our ministers were so inadequate in amount, and so irregularly paid, has been the almost utter want of a system amongst us, in the practical management of that matter. But let us examine a supposed case by way of example, in which we shall purposely keep considerably under the standard which might fairly be adopted. Take a congregation of one hundred contributing members and adherents, and suppose that the rates of contribution are as follows:—

	£	pr. an.
50 give 1d. per week.	4s.	4d.
25 " 3d. ....	7	6
12 " 7d. ....	7	6
10 " 1s. 3d. ....	12	6
5 " 2s. 6d. ....	10	0

Even at this rate, it will be seen that this small congregation will raise a sum in the year considerably above the minimum salary contemplated in the scheme. We have only further to express our hope, that every member and adherent of our church will seriously consider what the Lord has enabled him to do, and what is required of him in this great concern. The Synod has been led, we think in wisdom, to the determination, that with us, the support of the ministry shall no longer be a merely local matter, but that the due maintenance and extension of God's ordinances, the means of grace, in this land, shall be presented to our people, in their congregational and individual capacity, as one great object. The attainment of it rests with them, and it will, with the blessing of the great Head of the Church, be accomplished, if every congregation and individual will only seek to merit the commendation, "they have done what they could."

It will be observed that the scheme comes into operation on the first of January, 1845; and it is of so all consequent, that the movement of congregations be simultaneous. Let each congregation then take immediate steps in regard to the preliminary arrangements—the election of deacons—the appointment of collectors—the subdivision of the work, &c.: so that all may be in readiness for the usual work at the time appointed—and let all

who are called to special duty therein, give themselves to it, as the work of the Lord—devoutly, cheerfully, and diligently. "On the first day of the first month, shalt thou set up the Tabernacle."—Exod. xl. 2.

We have been obliged to postpone to our next No. the Home Mission Scheme, and the continuation of the acts of Synod.

### SUSTENTATION FUND SCHEME

FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA,  
Approved by the Commission of Synod,  
Nov. 14th, 1844.

At Hamilton, November 14th, 1844, the Commission of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, being met and constituted (inter alia) took up the Report on the Sustentation of Ministers, given in by Mr. Bayne, and after mature deliberation, unanimously approved of the following scheme, and recommended the same to the adoption of all congregations under the jurisdiction of the Synod. The Commission also, in accordance with the Synod's instructions, added the names of several gentlemen of Toronto to the Board formerly appointed for superintending the scheme, which is now composed as follows:—viz, Isaac Buchanan, Esq., President, and Messrs. McMichael, Shaw, Westland, McLellan, McLachlan, McGeehan and Thompson of Toronto, Mr. Jeffrey of Cobourg, and Mr. McIntyre of Hamilton, with the Rev. Messrs. Stark, Rintoul, Harris and Gale, the whole power of regulating the distribution of the fund under this scheme being vested in the members of the Board who are not ministers. The Commission having further considered the necessity of providing a suitable instrumentality for carrying the scheme into effect in the several congregations, and having reference to the Act of Synod in October last respecting the office of the deacon, approved also of the following regulations in regard to the institution and regulation of Deacon's Courts, in the several congregations. Extracted from the Commission Record, by Wm. Rintoul, Synod Clerk.

*Directions for the election and ordination of Deacons, and the formation of Deacon's Courts in Congregations, with a view to the right working of the Sustentation Fund Scheme.*

I. A body of deacons, as many as may be deemed expedient by each congregation, shall be elected by all the members in full communion, at a meeting called for the purpose by ten free days notice, and at which the minister of the congregation shall preside.

II. These deacons, according to scriptural example, shall be ordained and shall hold office, *ad vitam aut culpam*.

III. In case of new deacons being required to supply the places of those removed by death, resignation, or otherwise, or to meet the necessities of a growing congregation,—their election and ordination shall take place in accordance with the foregoing directions.

IV. The deacon's court shall consist of all the deacons along with the members of the Kirk-session; a secretary and a treasurer to be elected annually by themselves, and in the absence of the moderator, any member chosen by the court to preside.

V. A meeting of the deacon's court shall be held at least once every quarter, on a day to be fixed upon by said court; and other meetings, when required, may be convened by the moderator, or in his absence by the secretary, due notice to all the members being given.

VI. The duty of the deacon's court shall be to manage the property and all the temporal affairs of the congregation.

*Regulations for the management of the secular affairs of Congregations by the Deacon's Courts, and in particular for the collection of contributions to the Sustentation Fund.*

I. The deacon's court shall superintend the collecting of the sustentation fund, and the remitting of the same to the sustentation board.

II. Collectors shall be appointed by said court for the collecting of contributions, and it is recommended that the assistance of females in this department shall as far as possible be taken advantage of, and that arrangements be made for tendering contributions in kind as desirable.

It should also be kept in mind that the members of the deacon's court may act as collectors.

III. These collectors shall, as hereinafter specified, have a certain number of contributors assigned to them, whose contributions they shall hand in to the treasurer of the deacon's court once at least every quarter.

IV. Books, the property of the deacon's court, shall be provided for the collectors, in which all moneys received by them, as also the treasurer's receipts, shall be entered.

V. No rent or tithes shall be levied in any congregation wishing to be placed on the sustentation fund, but every member shall be expected to contribute, according to his ability, for the support of the gospel, by subscription or donation, to this fund, and where deemed advisable, a written statement to this effect shall be made to each by the deacon's court.

VI. On the understanding that every member shall contribute according to the ability of the fund, from five to ten members, or such other number as can be attended to with ease, shall be assigned to each collector, whose duty it shall be to visit them, and to receive, at the terms agreed upon their respective contributions.

VII. The collectors shall be instructed to keep in view, that where practicable, the terms of payment should be short, as, for instance, weekly or monthly, so that the contributions may be felt by the contributors as lightly as possible.

VIII. The treasurer of the deacon's court shall remit at the order of the court the sums paid in by the collectors, at the end of every quarter.

IX. For the first term, being a yearly or half yearly term, as may be deemed expedient, the seats of the church shall be allocated to the members according to the amount intended to be contributed by each during said term, as ascertained by the collector's books, &c.; the highest contributor shall have a preferable choice, and where two or more contributors are equal, they shall be allocated either by friendly agreement between such parties, or in case of difficulty, by the arbitration of two of the deacons, one being named by each, and where families cannot be numbered, or members and the proportions of their families, with to the effect, as a average shall be