

4. That Presbyteries take this occasion to make a thorough examination into the organization of the several congregations, to see that they are in good working order, and that so arrears may be prevented for the future.

The committee will not engage to recommend any appropriations from any fund that may come into their hands, in cases where either Presbyteries or congregations shall neglect a proper effort to bring congregations up to their duty in meeting their own obligations.

(Signed)

J. McMURRICH, Convener.

It now remains that Presbyteries take up the matter with earnestness and vigour. The financial returns, with the arrears due, are now before them. The matter is of such importance that special meetings of Presbytery should be held, should the ordinary meeting not be near at hand. It will be a great pity if the work should not be done thoroughly and promptly. Should the present arrears be swept off, it is hoped that increasing promptness on the part of congregations, and vigilance on the part of Presbyteries will prevent the accumulation of arrears for the future.

Mr. Bal' contemplates commencing his part of the work—not the least important—about the beginning of September. Notice will be given of his visits to the different portions of the Church, and we trust that the more able congregations will be ready to bear their part in this most commendable and necessary work.

Missionary Intelligence.

LETTER FROM REV. D. DUFF.

The following letter gives an account of the first part of Mr. Luff's voyage. We were in hopes of having heard of his safe arrival at Victoria.

ISTHMUS OF PANAMA, 2nd June, 1864.

REV. MR. BURNS, MY DEAR SIR.—On the 23rd May, I sailed from New York in the steamer "Northern Light," belonging to the Atlantic and Pacific Steamship line. The commencement of the voyage was favoured with very fine weather, which did not greatly alter for the worse, save that we had a steady head wind and occasional showers. There were on board as near as I could learn about 800 passengers of all grades, professions, and characters. In addition to these there were 200 coloured marines taken on the already well-packed boat, and rather adroitly so. This was done by a tug following us for some distance until we had got out of sight of shore and on-lookers, thus taking away the opportunity, should such be sought by passengers and friends, to offer any opposition to the movement. These are to equip a U. S. frigate somewhere in the Pacific. The complaint against this line of steamers heretofore has been "too much crowding" and this occasion could by no means be regarded as free from this serious and aggravated charge. I know not what terms to employ in condemnation of the barbarity of huddling together hundreds of human beings in such a way as to degrade them to the level of beasts. This was especially the case in the steerage part of the vessel, and in the second cabin the excess of passengers above the accommodation was such as to give rise to grievous complaint. But what use of expostulation? Where is correction to come from where self-interest exercises such omnipotent sway?

On the same day and at the same hour, another steamer belonging to what is known by the name of "the opposition line," left the same port for the same destination, also very crowded, giving evidence of a large and increasing traffic to the shores of the far west. Of our passengers not a few were old stagers returning to California, after having visited the eastern portions of the continent on purposes of business, relative both to material, and social comfort and happiness. Amongst our number all religious denominations were represented,