

transferred to New Zealand. Mr. Tait was here settled at Coromandel, where he gathered a congregation and built a pretty little church, opening it free of debt. Finding the field very contracted, and feeling he was able to occupy a larger one, he came across to New South Wales, and about two months after he was inducted at Newtown. After being here about two months, a call was sent to him (wholly unsought) from Goulburn, which he accepted, and where he has remained ever since. Mr. Tait has two brothers in the ministry—one in the city of Quebec and the other in British Columbia.

"Old and Faithful."

Writing to the *Presbyterian Witness* Halifax, "Observer" makes the following strong plea in behalf of the Aged and Infirm Minister's Fund, which we reproduce in the earnest hope that it may add point to our words of last week in the interest of one of the most deserving Funds of the Church:—

"This fund is one which claims the cordial support of every member of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Its object should commend it to the mind and conscience of every member of the church; for it is to provide the means of livelihood for ministers who, after arduous service, find it necessary, on account of age and infirmity to retire in the regularly appointed way from full work. If this fund were as well supported as it deserves it would cheer the Lord's servants in their declining years, and help them in bearing the burdens of life. Any minister, however long and faithfully he may have served can, on his becoming an annuitant, draw annually, only two hundred dollars. This is a very slender sum to live on, too slender surely! But we are in danger of falling short even of the \$200. It should, for the honor of the church, the glory of its adorable Head, and in justice to His aged servants be increased without delay to \$400. A person who has served his country faithfully in any of its important trusts is treated by the state with generous consideration. The judge who, during his days of active service enjoys a liberal salary, receives on his retirement at least half the former amount per annum.—The military officer who has given the best of his years for the defence of his country, retires not on a paltry sum which will barely keep the wolf from the door; but on half of his former pay,—and so with custom house officers and others. Are the soldiers of the Cross of Christ, who have born the heat and burden of the day until they have lost health and strength in their endeavors to rescue the perishing, and to feed the lambs, and the sheep of Christ's pasture, to be regarded with less favor by the church than the state extends to its servants? The writer would humbly suggest, that all the ministers of the church who have not yet given their cordial and hearty support to the fund, do so as soon as possible; because it will then appear to every member and adherent of the church that she means business, and that there is to be no half-heartedness about the matter. In view of the pressing needs of the fund, through the increasing demands upon it, and the evils of delay, it is devoutly to be hoped that as soon as possible such a determined and united effort shall be put forth by all the members and active workers of the church as shall with God's blessing, make that scheme a decided success."

New Hebrides Missions. "Progress all along the line," was the significant and gratifying expression made use of by the Convener of the Foreign

Mission Committee of the New South Wales Church, with respect to Missionary effort in the New Hebrides.

Pray For Armenia. From the headquarters of the Evangelical Alliance in London, a call is made to Christians throughout the world to unite in prayer every day during the week commencing April 26th, for Armenia.

Too Late; Too Late. We regret to state that the listed results of the examinations in the Higher Religious Instruction course came to hand too late for publication and that consequently through the fault of some responsible person, our readers and the competitors will be deprived of the information the lists contain. This is to be the more regretted as the good work of the Committee deserves the widest possible publicity.

Alliance of Reformed Churches. The announcement for the meeting at Glasgow of the Alliance of the Reformed Churches holding the Presbyterian system, has been issued. The statement is in the usual form, the chief items to delegates being the dates. The reports from the different committees must reach the General Secretary by the 20th of May. Copies of addresses must be sent to the General Secretary not later than the 18th of June, and MSS. must not contain more than 2,000 words, to secure printing in extenso in the report. Delegates should address their mail to the care of the General Secretary, Free Church College, Glasgow, after the 18th of May. The meetings will be held in St. Andrew's Hall from the 17th of June until the 26th. On the 17th there will be a great municipal reception, and on the 20th an excursion on the Clyde. The usual hospitalities will be provided.

A Minister's Privilege. A case has been disposed of recently in the Civil Courts of Quebec, which throws light on the privileges enjoyed by priests and Protestant clergymen when called upon to give evidence in court. In the case referred to, the Rev. Abbe Dubuc was called as a witness, and he refused to reveal a conversation he had had with the defendant, on the ground that the conversation was a professional secret having taken place while he was acting as spiritual adviser to the defendant. The Abbe's refusal was taken into consideration, and he was sustained by the judge. The precedent which guided the judge was a similar decision in a case involving the same principle, in which a Protestant minister refused to reveal what had been told to him as a professional secret, and in which the judge held that it was the minister's duty not to reveal facts, a knowledge of which had been so obtained.

The Depression in Church Funds. At the recent meeting of the General Assembly of New South Wales, the report of the Sustentation Fund showed that owing to the continued strain in financial affairs no special effort had been made on behalf of the Fund. The receipts amounted to £29,058 10s 2d, which, despite an additional sum of £1,000 from the Berry bequest, was £225 less than that of the previous year, and the expenditure to £29,042 9s 5d, leaving a balance of £16 0s 9d. The decrease in the amount received from congregations was £991 17s 9d. The capital remained as at the last balance, £7,853 8s 9d. The aid given by congregations paying a stipend of £300 and over had receded £37, and amounted to £136 14s 5d. The aid distributed among eighty-five congregations amounted to £1,548 5s 4d, as against £507 8s 6d distributed among seventy-seven congregations in 1894; but, unfortunately, the stipends of aid-receiving ministers had not materially increased owing to the diminution of receipts from the congregations themselves.