

year ending 31st December next, and more or less according to the exigencies of the church for each succeeding half-year.

It is to be done in this way. At each Annual Meeting of the Synod, the Sustentation Board, consisting of Clerical and Lay representatives from each Presbytery, will meet, and, having ascertained from the Clerk of Synod and the Secretary of the Temporalities' Board how many ministers are on the roll, and how much money to pay them, they will easily arrive at the exact sum required for the ensuing year. This will be apportioned to the several Presbyteries in such proportion as to the Board shall seem just and right. The Presbyteries will in like manner meet at the Synod and subdivide the assessment laid on them respectively among their several congregations according to the abilities of each, it being competent for Presbyteries to appeal to the Synod, and for congregations to appeal to their Presbytery, if in any wise they consider themselves aggrieved. Each congregation of the Church having thus presented to it a definite sum to be contributed for the Sustentation Fund during the half-year, it will be for the Session and managers in each case to determine the best mode of raising the required amount.

We are not dealing with a mere theory. Ground has already been broken. The first meeting of the new Sustentation Board has been held, the first apportionment to Presbyteries has been made and acquiesced in by the Presbyteries, and the sum required from each congregation has already been announced, and more, a distinct assurance has been received from the representation of all the Presbyteries that they *can* and *will* do what is expected of them. These are the amounts agreed upon for the year 1871:—

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| 1. Quebec.....    | \$ 600   |
| 2. Montreal.....  | 2,400    |
| 3. Glengary.....  | 750      |
| 4. Perth.....     | 850      |
| 5. Ottawa.....    | 900      |
| 6. Kingston.....  | 600      |
| 7. Toronto.....   | 1,600    |
| 8. Victoria.....  | 500      |
| 9. Hamilton.....  | 1,000    |
| 10. London.....   | 800      |
| 11. Saugceen..... | 500      |
|                   | <hr/>    |
|                   | \$10,500 |

Here then, *on paper*, is the sum wanted for the first year, guaranteed, as far as the moral support of a Presbytery *can* guarantee anything of the kind. And we may add

that if each Presbytery does but exert its inherent powers, the success of the undertaking will be beyond doubt. Practically, of course, the responsibility rests more immediately upon the individual ministers of each Presbytery, and this we say unhesitatingly, that the power and influence of each minister in his own congregation *ought* to be equal to what his Presbytery requires of him, otherwise, the minister is not in his proper sphere. No one ever heard of a regiment of well disciplined soldiers, led by officers in whom they had confidence, shrinking from the duty assigned to them from head-quarters. Here is the grand secret of success. Let our ministers take the lead, and, if earnest and enthusiastic themselves, they will not lack enough for followers—good men and true. But some one may say, if any considerable number of congregations come short of these sanguine expectations, must not the whole scheme collapse? We think not. Suppose the case of a congregation that is *unable* to pay the sum allotted to it. The Presbytery has undertaken for it, and from its local Home Mission Fund, or otherwise, will come to the aid of such a one. Or, take a scarcely supposable case, that of one able, but *unwilling* to bear its fair share of assessment; it is perfectly certain that such a congregation need not expect to *receive* any thing from this Fund, nor from the Temporalities' Fund either, if the Synod can help it.

Contributions to the Sustentation Fund will be payable half-yearly—on the first of May and the first of October, that ample time may be given for making up the accounts and to ensure punctual payments on the first of July and first of January. The amount of money required annually is not much in excess of what has been contributed during each of the last three years for the Contingent Fund. It is less than an average of one dollar from each communicant, and, with good management, there need be little difficulty in procuring it. Where an efficient organization already exists, it will be continued. When there is none, no time should be lost in establishing one. Those who are successfully working the "Schedule System" will testify that it is incomparably the best mode of raising money for church purposes. Those who have not yet time, would do well to try it now. While those who after trial have abandoned it might, on second thought, think better of it and try again. The man who modestly and conscientiously shrinks