

injury to continue an assistance which is unneeded. It is an injury to the givers, as they are misled and made to believe that they are engaging in a missionary work and doing a vast amount of good, when they are often doing a positive injury. It is a perversion of money and missionaries, who would be of immense service in other parts of the globe. It is taking the bread of the hungry and the famishing, and the wholesome medicine which would carry a blessing to the spiritually dying and the spiritually dead, and giving them to those, who are not hungry except for money, nor thirsty except for an indefinite amount of favors in receiving which they are never weary, nor dying without the gospel, for they have the gospel preached in all styles and with "all the talents" of which they are marvellous critics.

It is for these reasons and many others, that our Lay Association and Home Mission Schemes are so necessary and commendable. By every consideration drawn from the good of our people and the ultimate prosperity of our Church here, as a native product, drawing its support from the soil and not passing an exotic life, dependent upon artificial soil, artificial rain, artificial heat, and foreign hands, we would urge the advancement of these schemes. It is our solemn duty to prepare in time for *absolute self-support*. Let us build well and make firm and symmetrical our arch, before the scaffolding shall be removed, and it shall be left to stem the stormy waters of time, and convey a living freight across their dark and turbid flood, to the "land of Beulah and the company of the shining ones."

As an illustration, we have referred to the Diocesan Society of the Church of England. We have been favored by a brother clergyman of that Church with the *twentieth* Annual Report of the Society. We beg also to refer our readers to an excellent notice of this report in the December number of the *Monthly Record*. It appears that this Society has existed for *twenty* years, and is now a permanent institution in that Church, and in the country. Incorporated by an act of the Province, passed in 1851, it has a legal and civil existence. It is not sectional, but extends over the whole Church, including the weakest portions, and the feeblest congregations, as well as the strongest. The Bishop is President, and all subscribers of 5s. annually, or £10 at one time, are members. The Executive Committee, consists of the President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, all licensed clergymen, together with one layman from each local Society. There is an annual meeting in Halifax in October. The objects are support of clergymen in poor districts, permanent endowment of the Church, the erection and enlargement of churches, supply of books and tracts, assistance of divinity students, &c. The objects, in brief are wholly of a Home-Missionary nature. The Diocesan Society is simply a vast, thriving and extended Home Mission Scheme. During the last year they have raised £1,687

for general purposes. The names of contribution, and the *amount of every contribution, however small, are printed in the annual Report.*

It is our *duty and privilege* to be animated by the example of other bodies, and to imitate, and, if possible, surpass them in our exertions. We are to provoke each other, not to railing and riot, but to *zeal and good will*. We have no hesitation in saying, that a Lay Association, or if you choose, a Home Missionary Association, should be formed, so as to extend its active operations through every corner of our Church. It should be recognized among our members as a permanent institution, and spread its branches, its fair proportions and its goodly fruit over every congregation and station. There should be a *private annual report*, in which appear the names of every contributor, man, woman and child, and the amounts opposite their names. The property of a station is no ground of exemption from collecting or contributing to our schemes. An opportunity ought never be denied to the poorest place. The minister or office-bearer who will be instrumental in doing this, will be the first to suffer. It is both bad morality and bad policy. There is not a single station in the Church of England, poor as many of them are, in which every individual is not called upon to give some mite or other to the Diocesan Society. We see no reason, further, why the association which we desire to establish should not be incorporated by act of Parliament. This would give it a permanent character and a civil existence.

We have now three Home Missionary Associations, and as long as this state of matters holds, we must regret the counsels that have given birth to it, we shall have to mourn a protracted feebleness in Home Mission operations, and dread ultimate loss to the Church, from separate interests, in a field which, alas! is so small as to be one and the same. But if the people will have it so, then, let us do our duty in pointing out the right course, we have no more to say on this part of the subject. If, on the other hand, there is a willingness to establish an extensive Home Mission among the people, intelligent people ought to take it up and deal with the matter at once. Will no one make a scheme that will suit all parties, to be taken up at next meeting of Synod? One thing is certain, lay-associations, under that or any other name, are the most important enterprises of our Church. We must relieve the Colonial Committee. Here is the best policy, and we must pay our dues. Independence and self-support must not only be inscribed on our banners, but graven on our hearts. Not till then will we flourish, and not till then will we love and revere, with a love worthy the name, our kind ecclesiastical Mother that has rocked our cradle in the hour of our weakness, and will be ready to deny us money and men, when we show that we do not deserve them.

WIDOWS' FUND.

Collections already advertised, - - - £30.
Collections St. James' Church, Charlotte-town, P. E. I., per Jas. Anderson, Esq., £57.

Pictou, April 2nd, 1859.

W. GORDON,
Treasurer.