

committee to prosecute the matter still farther, and from such a committee we shall certainly soon hear good accounts. Mr. Bremner has consented to act as Treasurer in Halifax. We have still to hear from Prince Edward's Island and St. John's, Newfoundland.

OUR LAY ASSOCIATION.

Next to the "Young Men's," the "Lay Association" is undeniably the most important scheme of our Church. The first is designed for providing a constant supply of pastors and missionaries to our vacant congregations; the second, to assist weak ones, and enable them to secure and maintain the regular administration of religious ordinances without being, as now, beggars on the bounty of the Home Church.

We have within the bounds of the Presbytery of Pictou three weak congregations which now draw part of their ministers' salary from the Colonial Scheme of the Church of Scotland—a burning disgrace; especially when we all admit that the poorest of us is far more able to bear a share of the burden than thousands of those who yearly contribute to the Home Scheme. Yet it is difficult to see how the Presbytery can refuse granting certificates to the ministers of these congregations, unless the Lay Association be supported with a liberality such as to justify its coming forward and resuming the responsibility of supplementing to the required amount. Had the scheme been prosecuted to this day with the like vigor which characterized the first year of its existence, there would be sufficient money now in funds to meet all demands; but unfortunately this is far from being the case. The Treasurer's Account, published in last *Record*, shows a lamentable falling off. Except that of Pictou and New Glasgow, there is a lamentable falling off in all the congregations which did contribute, while four of our most populous and wealthiest congregations, East Branch F. R., West Branch F. R., Gairloch and Salt Springs, do not appear to have paid a penny for the last year. Surely this is not as it should be! There is surely blame somewhere! But we are unwilling to believe that the falling off is owing to indifference to the importance of the subject. Our people know and readily acknowledge the object of the Association to be a good one; they know and acknowledge the shame attached to our being so long drawing upon the funds of our mother Church; and they know that some of our congregations cannot exist without either Home or Foreign aid. Many of our people have already reaped some benefit from the operation of the scheme, it being the main instrument by which the services of an able and most efficient missionary were secured to

them, and that too at a time, when such services were most wanted.

We heard some people try to excuse their short-comings in this matter on the plea that, having no settled minister, whose duty it would be to organize and bring the claims of the Association to their remembrance at the proper time, it was impossible in their case to work it out; while there are ministers on the other hand who attempt to avoid the blame on the ground, that as the Association is exclusively lay, it is no business of theirs. We believe both wrong. No doubt the scheme is more the business of the lay than of the clergyman, for its success will mainly depend on the earnestness and activity of the managing committees; and every one of our congregations can furnish abundance of active men who, one should think, would take pleasure in making themselves useful to the Church of which they have the honor to be members. The whole secret of success lies in the punctuality of local meetings attended only by the committees and collectors. An intelligent and earnest committee can, by judicious management, evoke a fine spirit of healthy and innocent rivalry between the youthful collectors, which, if prudently fostered, will do all but work miracles for the cause; and all this can be done in vacant congregations as easily as in those favored with settled pastors. Nevertheless we deem it equally the duty, as assuredly it is the privilege of the settled minister to see to it that the scheme be properly organized and carried out by his people. Can it be imagined that a scheme whose sole object is the extension and consolidating the Church, and the cicatrizing of that foul ulcer (drawing our support from the mother Church) which has been eating into our very vitals, will possibly be viewed with coldness or indifference by any minister of our Church? Coldness and indifference are highly contagious diseases. Depend upon it that if the minister look coldly on, he will soon find his people grow much colder than himself.

We, however, look forward with well-grounded confidence to the future. Three of our congregations have within the year been fortunate in securing the service of talented and highly efficient ministers. There can be no doubt but these excellent clergymen will bring the claims of our Association before their people as soon as possible, and by their exertions and that of those others who feel a deep interest in the prosperity of the Church, the Treasurer's account at the end of the current year will show a very different result from that of the last.

K. M. I.

MEETING OF MIRAMICHI PRESBYTERY.

The Presbytery of Miramichi met at Tabusintac, on the 27th of June, for the induction of the Rev. James Murray. The Rev. Char-