

To what cause this apparent lack of interest may be attributed, it is difficult to say. It may be that the impression has gone abroad that the Fund is in a better position than in point of fact it is, or the necessities of the other schemes brought prominently forward of late, may have thrust the claims of this somewhat into the background, or some may be disposed to blame the Committee for not taking more active measures during the current year on its behalf. As to the last, I may observe, that the Committee considered that—as the result of their labours during former years—the Scheme had so commended itself to the intelligence and affections of our people, as to require now no very special efforts on their part. But be the causes what they may, the position and prospects of the Fund, as brought out above, demand and should receive the serious consideration of the whole Church, —for, as has often been pointed out, there is no one scheme which is more essential to her well-being than this.

In view of the foregoing, I may take the liberty of making one or two suggestions of a practical kind:—

1. All supplemented congregations should take collections for this Fund. This is the Synod's injunction, and it is to be hoped that due care will be taken to obey it.

2. Up to the twelfth of March only 78 congregations had contributed. The amount given was only \$1600, and more than one third of this was given by four congregations. I hope that at the end of the financial year, or, at all events, at the meeting of Synod, the Treasurer will be able to make a very different report. The proportion of non-contributing congregations is far too large. The sum of \$1600 is far too small to be given in nine months by a Church like ours, for so important a scheme. And surely if four congregations have given more than one third of this amount, the conclusion cannot be resisted; not that they have done more, but that others have done far less, than they should.

3. I would ask, lastly, the more wealthy and public spirited members and adherents of the Church to consider the statement I have here made. Last year the Committee

appealed to many of these personally by circular, and I am glad to say that we did not appeal in vain. This year for the reason already given, we did not think it advisable to take this course; but what has been said shews sufficiently that their liberality is not less needed now. In this connection the example of "W., Quebec," is worth referring to. This gentleman—who I believe is entirely unconnected with our Province or our Church, happened to see a letter which appeared in the *Record* of the Irish Presbyterian Church, which aimed to give some account of our Church's work in these Lower Province, and he was moved thereby to send me, much to my surprise and gratification, the noble contribution of \$100 to this Scheme, as acknowledged above. Such liberality—on the part, too, of an entire stranger—is surely worthy of imitation by our own people. I would earnestly, therefore, urge the claims of this Fund upon our people, and especially upon those of them to whom God has given wealth, and whose liberality we have experienced in former years, and I confidently hope that should these lines meet their eye they will continue to it that sympathy and support of which it is as deserving now as ever.

THOS. SEDGWICK,
Secy. Sup. Committee.

TATAMAGOUCHE, March 20th.

ENCOURAGEMENTS.

Our Church in this country has but a comparatively short history, yet it is full of tokens of the loving kindness of the Lord. All our enterprizes have prospered. Our congregations have increased and multiplied. As wealth has increased, so, in most cases, has the grace of liberality. The Spirit of union has been given to our Church. Old divisions have been healed, and the strifes of party hushed. The lines that separated us before 1860 and 1866 have been obliterated, and have never re-appeared. The same spirit is given still; for we note by the reports of Presbyteries that the proposed Union with the other Presbyterian Churches meets with a very large measure