

among which the fear of insufficient provision for his family may not be the least. They will inspire new life into many a struggling and poverty-stricken congregation, sinking under difficulties that seem almost hopeless, and stir it up to renewed energy and vigour. It is well to give to missionary objects in distant lands, but surely it is at least more urgent that we should supply the needs so pressingly existent at home. Let us give then, not merely what we shall not miss, but *all* that we can spare; "not grudgingly, or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver."

Attention is directed to the Interim Act of Synod amending the Act of 1840, respecting collections for building churches. The Act of 1840 requires that, before proceeding to collect contributions from the public for building churches, parties shall first obtain the permission of their respective Presbyteries and be furnished with attested subscription lists, and that they shall lay before their Presbyteries accounts of all monies collected, together with statements of the application of the same, for the purpose of being audited. The amendments proposed by the Act of last Synod, with the view of giving better effect to these requirements, are as follows:

1. The operations of the Act are extended to all "ecclesiastical purposes" for which congregations may require to seek assistance beyond their own bounds, instead of being limited to the building of churches.

2. Parties collecting are required to obtain the sanction of the Presbyteries within whose bounds they mean to apply for contributions, and to follow the directions which such Presbyteries may give as to the time and mode of applying. Formerly the sanction of the Presbytery to which collectors belonged was all that was required, now they must have permission from the Presbytery within whose bounds they collect.

3. The Synod's Committee on Presbytery Records are required to see what evidence is furnished by such Records of the attention of Presbyteries to the requirements of Act 1840.

It will be the duty of Presbyteries to take the Interim Act into their consideration during the current year, and report their opinion for or against it. The true ground of determination is of course the extent to which the interest of the Church at large and of parties more immediately

concerned is involved. Is it or is it not calculated to regulate the raising of subscriptions throughout the Church for local congregational efforts, in a manner at once satisfactory and advantageous?

The object sought by the Interim Act is not to put down the present system of collecting, but to regulate it, so that collectors may not make their appearance at times and places that are inconvenient, nor ever come together in such numbers as to defeat their several schemes. If a Presbytery is engaged in some extraordinary effort, or if, as we have seen, five or six collectors besiege the offices of our members in the course of one week, it is evident that in such circumstances the best cause will fare but poorly. Let there be some arrangement made so that instead of all appeals being faintly responded to, we shall have the pleasure of seeing some of them respectably met.

We have before us a report submitted by the Rev. J. E. Tanner, to the French Mission Committee, of the results of a missionary tour undertaken by him to Western Canada, in response to an invitation to that effect from French Protestants there. From this report we glean some interesting particulars.

Having made arrangements for the supply of his pulpit in Montreal, Mr. Tanner, in company with Mr. Baridon, visited Buckingham, where he found twelve Protestant families, and having held a meeting with them, baptized five children. Having proceeded to Ottawa, and thence to Bayfield, he held a service in the township of Stanley among the French Protestants there. At Stephen's Line the Rev. Mr. Gibson, of Varna, preached in English, and Mr. Tawse in French, in a barn, to a considerable congregation. Mr. Tanner baptized thirteen children in Stanley, Hay, and Stephen. The French people whom he visited contributed the liberal sum of \$21.25 towards his expenses. Mr. Tanner after being present at the Synod, returned to his duties in Montreal. In accordance with the authority given them by the Synod, the Committee have proceeded to erect a church for Mr. Tanner's congregation on the mission lot purchased by them some time ago. The church will be completed in a few weeks, and it is earnestly trusted that our congregations will respond liberally to the appeal made by the Committee for funds to defray the cost of the building, and that generous contributions