

about making arrangements which, we hope, will have the effect of giving an increased interest to the paper; but an extension of the list of subscribers is much needed. At the low rate at which the PRESBYTERIAN is published, it should possess another thousand subscribers to be on a satisfactory footing. This could easily be accomplished. It rests with our friends. If they but will it, it will be accomplished.

CHURCH IN CANADA.

MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

The Annual Collection throughout all our Churches in aid of this interesting Scheme will be taken up during the course of the present month. We learn that there are now five widows receiving annuities from the Fund. The amount payable to each is at present necessarily small; but we trust that the result of the Collection about to be made will be so successful as to warrant those entrusted with the management in increasing the grants. Our readers are doubtless aware that each Minister contributes annually £3 towards the Fund, and that many Congregations make liberal collections; but they will not be prepared to learn that others have sent in such sums as 7s. 6d., 12s. 6d., 15s. &c. Now we do not think that the Managers were unreasonable in counting at the institution of the Fund on receiving from each Congregation, at least, as much as the Minister's individual contribution; and we hope that, though hitherto disappointed in their expectation, they may for the present and succeeding years be amply recompensed by receiving greatly increased collections.

FRENCH MISSION FUND.

Remittances received since last Publication.

Per Rev. Hamilton Gibson, Galt, £1 0s. 6d.; per Rev. Thomas Fraser, Lanark, £2 10s.
NOTE.—Mr. Fraser also remitted in the year 1850 the sum of Ten Dollars.

HUGH ALLAN,
Treasurer.

EDUCATION FUND.

The Treasurer of the Fund for promoting the education at Queen's College for the Ministry of the Church of Deserving Young Men, whose circumstances may require assistance, begs to acknowledge the following remittances:

Rev. Thos. Fraser, Lanark, £2 10s.; Rev. Alexander Mann, Fakenham, £1; Rev. Duncan Moody, Dundee, £1; Rev. Hugh Mair, D. D., Fergus, £1; Rev. P. Ferguson, Esq., £1 5s.

HUGH ALLAN,
Treasurer.

ARRIVAL OF A MISSIONARY.

We have pleasure in announcing the arrival of the Rev. Mr. Morrison, late of Melrose, Scotland. We have heard him spoken of in very high terms of commendation.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, MONTREAL.

A very vigorous and successful effort was recently made by the ladies of this congregation to liquidate a portion of the debt incurred in the erection of this very elegant structure. The ladies must feel satisfied with the result of their self-denying labours. During the past summer they applied themselves with much assiduity to the manufacture of various useful and ornamental articles, which were disposed of by a bazaar. The net proceeds, which after the deduction of all expenses they were enabled to present to the Trustees of the church, amounted to the very handsome sum of £800 cy. An effort like this is creditable in the extreme to all parties concerned, and deserves to be chronicled for the encouragement of others in like circumstances with the congregation of St. Andrew's, Montreal. Where there is a will, there is always a way, and, the more that is given, the more does the disposition to give increase. We cannot forbear thus publicly awarding our meed of well earned praise to so vigorous and successful an effort. We learn also that during the year by another mode nearly £100 was also raised by the ladies by small monthly contributions.

LAY ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Lay Association of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, was held in St. Paul's Church Vestry on the evening of the 23d. inst.

Hew Ramsay, Esq., having been called to the Chair, the proceedings of the evening were opened with prayer by the Rev. R. McGill.

The Recording Secretary read the following Report.

In presenting to the Members an account of the working of the Society for the past year, the seventh of its existence, the Office Bearers are not in a position to record any extended operations or marked events in its history. Their attention has been confined to the Bursary, Relief, and Publication Schemes; but it will be for this meeting to consider whether it may not be advisable either to endeavour to extend these, or in addition to these to enter upon some other field of action, and to take advantage of some of the many openings for Christian enterprise and Christian liberality which are daily presenting themselves on every side around us.

RELIEF FUND.

But three applications for relief have been made during the year, one of which the Society was compelled to reject, as the purpose for which the aid was sought (prosecuting legal proceedings) was not contemplated at the formation of the Society, and was incompatible with its constitution. Another is under consideration; and a third was received from a congregation formed at Black River (in the vicinity of Three Rivers) by the care of the Rev. Mr. Thom. For some years the adherents of our Church had gathered themselves together in a kitchen, and so destitute were they of opportunities for affording instruction to the young that 60 children attended no other school than a Sabbath School instituted by Mr. Thom, which, however, was in a flourishing state. A

site for a chapel having been granted by the liberality of one of themselves, they were anxious to erect a building to serve as a chapel and school, but required assistance to complete it. The Society entertained their application, and have voted them a grant of £10, when satisfied of the sufficiency of the Trust-deed.

HOME MISSION.

It is deserving of the serious attention of the Society, whether in view of such a case of destruction of spiritual ordinance, and that too but one of the many in this part of the Province, they are not imperatively called on to enter upon the Home Mission field. To stand still in such a Society as this is to recede. If a Society be healthy and vigorous, its progress should be ever onward, its motto should be *excelsior*; and we of the Laity should remember that we have duties to perform, which we may not safely neglect. A wide field of usefulness lies before us. Shall we hesitate to occupy the field open to us, or shall we enter confidently but not presumptuously on a new effort, trusting that we may be privileged to scatter seed which will fall on good soil, and bear a hundred-fold. A mission would find ample employment in the City and District of Montreal in addition to those already engaged in the work. Could not this Society do somewhat towards supporting an earnest and fervent dispenser of the good tidings. We trust it will receive the attentive consideration of the Association during the year.

BURSARY FUND.

The Society again renewed its grant of £10 to three Students of Queen's College, studying with a view to the ministry, of whom they have received the most encouraging account. This the Office-bearer regard as a most important Scheme, and one that should be widely extended. Many a deserving youth, after struggling with difficulties for a time in the endeavour to prepare himself for the ministry, is compelled by poverty to turn aside to other employments, or forced for a time to relinquish his studies, loses the desire that before actuated him to enter the Church, and forgets in secular pursuits the ambition which once actuated him. In such cases a comprehensive Bursary Scheme would be invaluable. Every day shows more clearly our need of a native ministry, and that on our own youth our main dependence lies for labourers in the spiritual field. We commend this Scheme then to the warm sympathies and enlarged liberality of the members of this Association.

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

The circulation of the Presbyterian continues to maintain itself, and, depending, as it does, wholly on voluntary agency, the subscriptions are remitted generally with promptitude, though in some localities an improvement is desirable. Still the circulation is nothing like what it should be, and what it would undoubtedly be if exertions in its behalf were generally made. It may be mentioned as a gratifying fact connected with this publication that, a number having come under the notice of the Lay Association of Jamaica, that body transmitted an order for twelve copies annually. It may also be stated that, in addition to the circulation in the Province, a considerable number are sent to the Lower Provinces. It is to be hoped that the numerous friends of the periodical will continue their kind offices, and, in addition to taking up the subscriptions, from time to time transmit notices of events, occurring in their vicinity, of interest to the Church.

In resigning their charge, the Office-bearers may be permitted to urge upon the members the necessity of renewed zeal on their part in the working of the Society. They feel convinced that the Society may be made, (if a blessing be vouchsafed on its Schemes,) to a much larger extent than it now is, a means of accomplishing some measure of good; but, in order to this, the active, energetic co-operation, the friendly sympathy, and the personal assistance of the members, are absolutely necessary; and this, the officers are encouraged to hope, will be cheerfully accorded.