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THE MISSIONARY REGISTER,

OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia.

LORD, bless and pity us, shine on us with thy face,
That th' earth thy way, and nations all may know thy saving grace.—Ps. lxxvii. 1, 2.

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Home Missions.

A FEW WORDS TO OUR VACANT CONGREGATIONS.

MR. EDITOR,—

As a number of our congregations are now vacant, and are making their arrangements to secure the services of a settled pastor, permit me through your columns to address to them a few remarks on the subject of stipend for the minister whom they intend to call. At such times it is not uncommon to hear the remark, that such a salary "will do for a young man." One hundred or one hundred and twenty pounds is sometimes suggested in this way, and persons will endeavour to cover their own covetousness by the consideration, that he has no family and does not need so much. Unfortunately, however, it happens that while congregations are so ready to *begin* at a low figure, it is very hard work to get them to give a larger sum, when as usually happens in due course he has a family. It is almost like drawing teeth to get an increase of stipend. But I wish to show that this idea of our young men requiring a less sum is a false one—and that the commencement of their ministry is often the very time that they most need the larger salary.

It is well known that most, if not all, of our young men when students require all the money they can scrape together

to enable them to prosecute their studies, that for this reason they are obliged to devote themselves to other employments, and after all are sometimes in debt when they commence preaching. At all events they should have all they can spare to obtain such books as will enable them to furnish their libraries, so that they may prosecute their studies in a way that will enable them to maintain the respectability of their public ministrations. They therefore look to their congregations, as they have a right to do, for "the temporal things" necessary to enable them to carry on their work in an efficient manner. Now can they do this on the sums proposed? Take for example the sum first named, one hundred pounds, and let us examine on the other hand some of the items of expenditure, to which a young man is necessarily subjected. At the very commencement of his labors he needs to be furnished with all conveniences for travelling. Let us estimate these:

Horse	£25	0	0
Waggon	20	0	0
Harness, &c.	6	10	0
Sleigh, with Buffalo Skin	10	0	0
Saddle, Bridle, &c.	3	10	0
	£65	0	0

Now will any of your readers say that this is an extravagant estimate? Some of the items at the present prices might be set at a higher figure, and I have taken no account of other small items