

Minutes of Synod. \$1,000 are required, or an average of over \$30 per congregation. The great object for which both this fund and the Presbytery Home Mission are in existence is, that we may be self-supporting as a church, and also that we may extend our bounds. It must be gratifying to our people who have this object at heart, to know that we are drawing rapidly near to the consummation desired. I have now before me the first Report of the Pictou Lay Association, organized nearly 20 years ago, with this object in view. Its authors point to the fact that Nova Scotia was then receiving £1,200 a year from the Colonial Committee, and they asked if anything like that sum was really needed by us. New Brunswick, at the same time, was drawing largely from the same source. When our two Synods in the Maritime Provinces were united a few years ago, they received between them about £1,500. A pleasing contrast to such a state of affairs is afforded by the single fact that, for the last half year, we drew from the Colonial Committee only £88. At present, the Presbyteries of Restigouche, Prince Edward Island and Halifax, are self-supporting. Pictou, St. John, Miramichi and Cape Breton are not, but self-respect will not suffer them to lag behind long. All that is needed on their part is united effort, for in Pictou Presbytery is our great strength as a church, and nowhere have we more real and able friends than in St. John and Miramichi.

For the convenience of those who cannot make their collection till June, and cannot remit it to the Treasurer before the 15th of the month, but who wish it to appear in the Annual Report, the following offer is again made:—If the Treasurer or Minister of any congregation writes to the Convener, stating the amount collected for this Mission,

the Convener will pay in the amount to the Central Treasurer on their behalf and receive it from them at the meeting of Synod.

G. M. GRANT,  
Convener H. M. B.

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## Articles Contributed.

### The Expense of a General Assembly in the Dominion.

A good deal of stress has been laid upon "the expense" of a General Assembly by some of those who are opposed to what is called "the larger," and in favour of "the smaller union" of Presbyterians. The plea seems to me singularly weak, from whatever point of view it be looked at. It is true, that unless the larger Union takes place, there will be no General Assembly at all; as a General Assembly for the Maritime Provinces would be a farce; and thus we would be saved the expense, at the price of an incomplete development of our Presbyterianism. But what would the average annual cost be?

In answering this question, we must remember that the territory proposed to be embraced is practically only the Lower Provinces, Quebec and Ontario. There are half a dozen ministers in Manitoba, and two in British Columbia; but these may be left out of consideration, as the Assembly wouldn't go to them; and if they wished to attend the Assembly, it would make little difference whether the place of meeting was Toronto or Halifax. Taking Montreal as a central point, we find that, this summer, a traveller will be able to go there in comfort, from Pictou or Halifax, in two days for about \$20: in a day and a half, for \$15, when the Intercolonial is opened. The basis of representation for the Assembly will be probably one in five, giving a house of nearly 120 ministers, and, according to the usual proportion, less than 80 elders. Two hundred members, at a cost of \$15 each, involves thus a total expense of \$3,000; that is, \$5 each from our six hundred congregations. What a heavy tax! Of course some members' travelling expenses will be more than \$15, but others must be