

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

JUNE 18th.—A grant of \$50 was made for one year toward the support of an assistant missionary at Lunenburg, on the understanding that from other sources the salary should be made up to \$600.

It was agreed that a collector be appointed to call upon those in the city who had not paid their subscriptions for 1869.

OCTOBER 15th.—The Bishop read the following letter from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge relative to the Block Sum :—

LONDON, 31st July, 1869.

(1.) "Your letter of June 17th, has been laid before our Committee who were not aware of the misunderstanding which appears to prevail on the subject of the Society's obligation to the missionary clergy."

(2.) Since the Society ceased in 1834 to administer Government grants, it has not, so far as we are aware, entered on an engagement for life with any missionary.

(3.) Previous to that time such engagements were sometimes made. After that time, it has been stated that an impression remained in the minds of some clergymen that their salaries were (by some supposed custom of the Society) secured to them for life, although no definite engagement to that effect was made with them by the Society. When the Society became aware of this mistake in 1850 a bye-law was passed to the effect that all salaries were open to revision and all engagements terminable.

(4.) The Society has never acknowledged itself bound to treat as a life-pensioner any clergyman who could not shew a distinct engagement to that effect; and has always replied to such claims by calling for documentary evidence in proof thereof. At the same time, in deference to the mistake above referred to, it has refrained as much as possible from interfering with the salaries of clergymen who were appointed before 1850. No doubt has ever been felt of the liability of clergymen appointed since then to have their salaries reduced or even withdrawn. Certainly no new pledge of any kind was given to the clergy who were on the Society's list in Nova Scotia when the diocesan grant was transferred to the Bishop and Committee.

(5.) The Committee desire me further to assure your Lordship of their conviction that the principle laid down in the Society's 46th Regulation and repeated in the 4th paragraph of the printed letter of April must be carried into effect. On the average, one ninth of the Society's grant, (excepting of course any portion which may be tied by a distinct pledge from the Society) should be applied each year to new work. If this be not done, the Committee can only infer that it is because no new missions are required; and they may feel themselves at liberty to allocate such ninth portion annually to the establishment of new missions in other parts of the world, where promising openings are pointed out to them."

The letter was ordered to be published in the Church paper.

NOVEMBER 19th.—The Bishop stated that, to meet the salaries of those on the Block Sum list, \$15,420 would be required for 1870, of which