

to act as if they were so many isolated bodies, having no connexion with each other beyond what might be indicated by meetings of her office-bearers from time to time in their church-courts, transacting business in which it might appear that no others had any concern. The movement with regard to the College has been very useful in drawing them more together, and awakening them to the feeling that they have common interests — That feeling, which it is so important to cultivate, may be still farther strengthened by the Church, through its official organ, communicating information with respect, it may be, to distress that claims sympathy, destitution that calls for help, or blessings which have been received, and which are to be gratefully acknowledged. In this way the members may come to have an increased care for one another; so that if one member suffer, all the members may suffer with it; and if one member be honoured, all the members may rejoice with it.

We would take this opportunity of indicating a few particulars, with respect to which the Free Church of Nova Scotia may well set up its Ebenezer, and say, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.

It was at the meeting of Synod 1850, that the publication of the *Record* was authorised. At that time the Presbytery of Cape Breton consisted of only five ministers. These are all still mercifully spared to be blessings to their respective flocks, and to the Church at large, while their number has been increased by the induction, at Sydney, of the Rev. Hugh McLeod, formerly of Logie-Easter in Scotland; and by the ordination of the Rev. W. G. Forbes, the first licentiate from our Free Church College here, and who is now settled over the united congregations of the Strait of Canso and River Inhabitants. At the time when that meeting of Synod was held, we had no minister settled in Prince Edward's Island. We have now three there, and although one of them, the Rev. Alexander Sutherland, has left a vacancy at Earlstown, that has been in part at least supplied by the opportune arrival of the Rev. James Ross, who was sent to our aid by the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland. No additional minister has, in the course of that time, been settled within the bounds of the Presbytery of Halifax; but the number has been kept up. The vacancies caused at Newfoundland and Bermuda by the return to Scotland of Messrs Muir and Adam, have

been filled up by Messrs Harvey and Thorburn. Several of the Stations within the bounds have been receiving regular supply through the instrumentality of Mr. George Sutherland, the second licentiate from the new College; and similar assistance has been rendered by Mr. John Alexander Ross, another of our students, who is at present in the progress of his probationary trials. Assistance also is now from time to time obtained from the junior students, for the supply of stations within a convenient distance of Halifax.

It was at the same meeting of Synod that the scheme was projected of endeavouring to raise money for the purchase, or the erection, of premises for the use of the College and Academy. In consequence of a combination of untoward circumstances, the mission of Professor King to the United States in behalf of this object was altogether fruitless; but the Rev. John Stewart was more successful in his appeal to Scotland; and through the liberality of our friends there, we are at length in possession of most comfortable premises, in which the classes are now in full operation.

In consequence of many having received the impression that the effort to raise a fund for the support of the Professors was to be confined within the period of four years, a paralysing influence was experienced with regard to that scheme, even before the currency of the four years had expired, as if the object, which it was easy to see could not be accomplished within that period, must therefore inevitably be given up. There is now, however, in many quarters, evidence of a revived interest in its behalf. The gift of buildings both for College and Academy from our friends in Scotland, shows that they at least expect that we are not to be so soon weary in well-doing—that we are to do our duty, and to persevere till the object is reached. It is to be hoped the diligence of Presbyteries in following out the instructions of Synod as to dealing with congregations both in reference to that and to the Sustentation of the Ministry, will have a salutary influence, and that a hearty response will be made in behalf of both objects, throughout the whole extent of the Church.

In conclusion, we have to remind our readers that this periodical is not conducted without a considerable expense. It ought not to burden the funds of the Church, and a very moderate effort in its