

and they are not supported by prayers and willing contributions, then woe to those who from carelessness or covetousness leave the Lord's servants embarrassed for want of bread or want of Divine influence. But on the other hand, if all will join in earnest prayer for the mighty coming forth of the Holy Spirit, and make great, immediate and sustained efforts to be model, and therefore Mission Churches, Churches at once conservative, aggressive and diffusive, we will feel and see new manifestations of Divine life and power, and will enjoy, and that speedily, times of great refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

As we have a field, and a most inviting one, as we have a great door and effectual, in each of these Lower Provinces, as we have had encouragement during the year, as the Lord has given a rich blessing, more especially in the wide-spread revival of religion, in the island of Cape Breton, so we should all, in the light of grace thus freely given, consider carefully our duty at this juncture. Our spiritual life will thrive in our work. The Pastor who during this year will cherish and display most of the Missionary spirit, will other things being equal, prove most successful. His Church will catch his enthusiasm, and will prosper; while he who is without it will prove a failure, and the Church which is destitute of it has already "Ichabod" written on its walls. Its glory has departed. It has not the Spirit of Christ.

We thank God that this cannot be said of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces. She has her faults, and they are many; but she has life and is gaining more. She has the Spirit of Missions, and it is spreading to the extremities, without losing intensity and strength at the heart. It devolves on us Pastors and Elders to lead the way, and let all the people say Amen. "Save, Lord, we beseech thee, O Lord, send now prosperity."

Rev. J. B. Logan then ably and earnestly advocated Home Missions in their claims on Ministers and people, and moved the reception of the Report.

Rev. A. Ross seconded the motion and maintained that the pay of Students who act as Catechists should be raised to \$5.00. He spoke highly of the services of Students. He also referred to the valuable services of Rev. A. Stirling, under whose ministry a remarkable work of grace has been going on.

The Board had received authority last year to call a Gaelic Evangelist. Mr. Ross had been consulted about this position, and he gave reasons why he would declined the

Board's call. He gave statistics of destitution in the Presbytery of Victoria. There are at least 780 families, including 5000 souls without pastors. These would require at least *five* pastors. Many of these people are poor and unable to give much. Some fail to exhibit liberality, but many are as liberal as the people in other parts of the Church. They had made collections as opportunity offered. They are becoming more able and willing. The Church's money cannot be more usefully invested than in helping the ministers of this Presbytery. The prospect of the congregations becoming self-sustaining in Cape Breton and repaying with compound interest all that the church will do for them, is hopeful and near. He showed that there should be co-operation between the Presbytery of Victoria and the Presbytery of Pictou in connection with the Church of Scotland. He spoke highly of the lay Catechists in Cape Breton.

The Report was unanimously received, and approved, and its recommendations adopted.

Colportage.

Rev. J. I. Baxter submitted a Report on Colportage as follows:

In our last year's Report we were under the necessity of stating that our funds were exhausted, and as this scheme was not self-sustaining more than any other, our Library Books had gradually diminished with our funds. Consequently we must have stopped altogether but for the liberality of the National Bible Society, Scotland, which continue to supply us with Bibles, &c., on such liberal terms as to enable us to keep two or three colportures pretty regularly in the field with their issues, carrying also such Library Books as we could procure on such terms as will cover expenses. We regret that our sphere of usefulness is thus curtailed, and that we must necessarily resign the field to others in whom we have not so much confidence. But we have the satisfaction of reflecting that we were the pioneers in this noble work, and that we have kept the ground from being occupied by those who were altogether unworthy of it, till it was taken by those who were more acceptable occupants. We purpose still to work on in the more limited sphere to which our means confine us. All which is respectfully submitted.