

the fourth goes on his own charges. All of them are young men of the highest character and of devoted piety, as well as considerable promise. We are certain that they go on their mission accompanied by the prayers and the best wishes of the whole Church, for their safety and success.

Another student from the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island has also been admitted to the benefits of the Scheme, and will attend a preparatory session this winter at the Prince of Wales' College, Charlottetown.

The number of students now studying for the ministry in our Church, belonging to Nova Scotia, and who will look to their native country as the future field of their labors, is now we think, twelve or thirteen. Six in Scotland and the rest in Canada. About one half of these are altogether or in part supported by the Scheme.

This ought to fill us with hope, and at the same time with energy in behalf of this excellent Scheme. Our past efforts have received the ready sympathy of the parent Church, which with the unselfish generosity which has ever characterised her, has nobly offered to hold out to us a helping hand in this good cause without our asking it.

In the last *Home and Foreign Missionary Record*, a proposal is published by the authority of the Colonial Committee to found a "Bursary Fund" to educate Colonial students for the Colonies. They thus propose to meet and if necessary aid us. The principle is as sound as it is generous, and must have the effect, both present and prospective of binding the Colonial still more firmly and closely than ever to the Home Church. This is the UNION which we wish to cement—a union of principle and affection, of heart and soul; one in which there is no jealousy, and no compromise, in which the bond which links us is one of love, entire harmony of feeling and oneness of object. We will endeavor, in our next number, to make room for the article on this important subject which is published in the *Home Record*, by the authority of the Colonial Committee.

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#### THE LAY ASSOCIATION AND THE HOME MISSION.

It has been frequently asserted at Church Courts, and in the pages of the *Record*, that one great aim of our Church should now be to perfect the organization of her various Schemes of christian enterprise. Church-

door collections on days appointed by the Synod will suffice, in the meantime, for the "Widows' and Orphans' Fund" and the "Synod Fund." But we have, besides, three schemes of equal importance: the Home and Foreign Missions, and the Young Men's Scheme, in support of which a thoroughly efficient Association should be established in every parish. As to the first of these, however (the Home Mission), we have a plethora of agencies. In Halifax there is, in addition to the Synodical collections for the general purpose of Home operations, a local Home Mission energetically worked by Mr. Martin. In Pictou there is a Lay Association established for the same purpose, working independently of the general Home Mission; and in the Island Presbytery they are thinking to get up a local Home Mission in self-defence. But could not all these schemes be combined and managed by one general "Board of Home Missions," as is the case in the Parent Church and in every other Presbyterian Church. There is no need of abolishing the scriptural Sabbath-day collections for those who prefer to give their contributions in such a manner. And there is every reason for conserving the admirable practical machinery which the Pictou Lay Association has called into existence in several places, and for extending it to every station within our bounds. For having accomplished such excellent results, the zealous promoters of the Lay Association are indebted to the warmest thanks of the Church, and in the absence of Church Courts such an Association could act beneficially as a self-contained and authoritative organization. But it is surely high time for our Church in these Provinces to begin to act Presbyterially; and while these collections should be made, and money raised in every possible way, the disposal of such monies should be entrusted to one general Board, appointed by the Synod, and consisting partly of lay and partly of clerical members. It may be said that Halifax refused to go in with the schemes of the Lay Association, and that neither would it be partner in such a general Home Mission. But though Halifax refused to merge in a scheme that was peculiar and extra-Presbyterian in its constitution, it could not refuse to go heart and hand in what is Synodical and regular. Prince Edward Island Presbytery, too, would, I am sure, hail the institution of such a general and vigorously working Home Mission, and would do everything in its power to forward the ends proposed—viz: the supplementing of weak congregations, and the guaranteeing the payment of missionaries when more come among us. I send this proposition to the *Record* that it may be canvassed and the mind of the Church elicited on the subject, so that, if practicable, it may be carried into effect at the earliest opportunity.

GEORGE M. GRANT.