

discouraging features, such as our numerous vacant charges, the impossibility of getting men from Scotland to supply them, and the little done in some Presbyteries towards self-help; but still it showed a great advance on last year. The church-door collections amounted to nearly \$500, as against \$260 the year before; and about \$1,400 in addition are raised by Presbytery Home Missions or Lay Associations; or \$1,900 in all, while twice the amount was drawn from the Colonial Committee. Last year we drew from the Colonial Committee six times as much as we ourselves raised to help weak charges; but it must not be forgotten that the contrast would not be so much in favour of this year had the committee been able to send us the men we asked for to supply our vacancies. Still, the facts that the Synodical collection is improving, and that there are special Associations in four out of our six Presbyteries, and these four the largest, are encouraging. Mr. Grant resigned the Convener'ship of the Board, but the Synod insisted on his continuing in it for at least another year. From the tone of the Synod, it is very evident that more will be done by us for our Home Missions in the ensuing year. If Schedules were used in the St. John Presbytery as in the Halifax, it would stand at the head, instead of being as now far down in the scale. But as the Report will appear in the next *Record*, more need not be said now.

Rev. Wm. McMillan read the Report of the Young Men's Bursary Scheme: and in connection with it, the Court got into a wearisome tangle of words and motions about the relations of the old incorporated New Brunswick Synod to the present united Synod of the Maritime Provinces, which is not a corporation, that exhausted the patience of everybody. The old N. B. Synod, it seems, still exists as a corporation, and meets every year as such. It holds some moneys for Bursaries, and these no Nova Scotian can touch, though we are now one body. Thus a separate administration is needed for a very paltry sum, and more bother is given than the money is worth. The true way would seem to be to transfer by a Dominion Act all the rights of the old N. B. Synod to the new united Synod, but in the present condition of things, when other changes are imminent, perhaps it is as well to wait a little longer. The fund is in a good state, there being a balance of \$600 on hand, and the income of the year is more than sufficient to meet the expenditure. In this state of things, the committee should invest the greater part of their balance, and so get some interest. There are four young men assisted by the scheme, and besides these there are several others studying both in Scotland and America, whose present intention is to labour in our field.

July 1.—The question of Union occupied the forenoon and evening sittings. Three overtures came up on it from the Presbyteries of St. John, Miramichi, and P. E. I., and also a circular letter from Rev. Dr. Ormiston, Moderator of the Canada Presbyterian Church. Mr. MacRae of Newfoundland first took the floor, and in a speech as remarkable for its elegance of expression and tact, as for its compact reasoning and thorough grasp of the subject, moved to appoint a committee to confer with any similar committee of the Church of the Lower Provinces and prepare a basis of union, which, if approved by next year's Synod, could then be sent down to Presbyteries and congregations. This was seconded by Senator Robertson of New Brunswick; a gentleman who did good service at the Synod by his clear business-like views of things and his forcible statement of them. Isaac Thompson, Esq., of St. Peter's Road, P. E. I., spoke to the overture from that Presbytery, and explained that it originated in three different Kirk-Sessions at the same time and without any previous understanding, and that the Presbytery had embodied the various movements into one overture. No opposition being offered, the motion was just about to be carried—indeed was declared carried, and the names of the committee were being read out,—when a pause took place on account of the Moderator and one or two others declining to serve on it. As everyone felt that there must be some good reason for this, the ex-Moderator was moved into the chair, and Mr. Pollok