

Your Committee are sorry to report that but few missionaries have come over from the Church at home, during the past year, to labour in the wide and extending field for missionary enterprise which Canada presents. Of those who have come, one has been installed in a congregation of the Presbytery of Canada East; others have also obtained pastoral charges, and thus their labours have become, in a great measure, local and confined, so that only a few remain on the list of probationers, to give their much needed help in the cultivation of those spots which have none to minister steadily among them in word and doctrine. Your Committee fear that supplies from Scotland are to decrease rather than increase. With the exception of the Rev. David Todd, late of Stonehaven, there is no word of any ministers or preachers coming out from home, and young men in this country appear to be very backward in devoting themselves to the work of the ministry. Should not the Synod taken into special consideration the large and increasing spheres of spiritual usefulness which are opening, and endeavor to devise some efficient measures for procuring men to enter upon and occupy them?

Four congregations have received sums of greater or smaller amount out of the Mission Fund during the year that has closed. One of these applications your Committee had great difficulty in granting, on the grounds that the congregation applying has been receiving help for a considerable period—been increasing in membership, and sharing in the material prosperity with which God has been blessing our Province, and yet been making no progress towards being self-sustaining. Another congregation had a claim through the terms on which their minister had been ordained among them, and the sum applied for was granted, that they might be clear with him to the date of his demission. One of the remaining two weak congregations, appears to be in a district which is anything but favourable to the prosperity of its inhabitants; it affords but little prospect of increase, and hence is likely, if allowed, to be long dependent upon the fund. The last application, which came to hand since the Synod convened, has been referred to your court for advice. The other supplement congregation has been making good progress; and your Committee have just learned from the Clerk of the Presbytery, within whose bounds it is situated, that it has become self-supporting. The sum total drawn by these congregations is £64 3s. 4d.

Eleven probationers have drawn more or less out of the funds that are in the hands of your Treasurer. Altogether there have been paid in the vacancies in which they have been labouring about £170. They have been paid by your Treasurer to the amount of £327 10s. 2d. Five of these have come out, under arrangements with the Mission Board in Scotland, and are consequently entitled to the rate of £100 sterling? the others had no claim of that kind, and thus their income was at the rate of only £100 currency. All these parties were required to send reports of their labours, in the different Presbyteries, to the Presbytery Clerks, drawn up according to a given form, which was prepared by the sanction of Synod, and these were transmitted by the Clerks to your Committee; and in addition they were required to fill up a general statement, which they sent direct to the Convener. Your Committee would remark that these forms have been of the greatest service to them, lessening their labour most materially, and enabling them to perceive at a glance whether probationers have been diligent and faithful in the stations among which they have been labouring.

Mr. James Fraser, Catechist, has been spared to labour, which he has done with his usual earnestness and fidelity, during another year. His reports have been forwarded with the same regularity as formerly, and breath the same spirit of zeal and piety. He has been paid in the places where he itinerates, £18 1s. 1d., and has drawn from the fund £11 18s. 11d.

Your Committee have granted to the Presbytery of Durham, on their petition, the sum of £15, to be expended in paying a missionary to labour in the destitute localities which the Presbytery includes. We have no doubt this act will meet with your approbation. Your Committee have