

the Presbytery of Halifax on the books of the Colonial Committee, to the sum of £140, besides missionary services.

I have paid much attention to this subject for many years, and with all deference to Mr. Grant's views, the conviction has forced itself upon me, that to obtain the largest amount of money for supplementing weak congregations, *Presbyterial* Associations are preferable to *Synodical*. In the former, contributors know where their money goes—they are intimate with the exigencies of each case—they can see and appreciate the benefits arising from their contributions; and therefore, will part with their means more cheerfully and liberally; besides, *Presbyterial* organisations will relieve the Synod from much annoyance, which is sure to arise from sectional jealousies in the distribution of the monies. I care not by what designation you call such Associations—we will not quarrel about names. We want to raise as much money as will render our weak congregations independent of support from the Church at home—no matter whether this is done "extra Presbyterially" or not, provided it is done honestly and with good will. These were my views at the time the Lay Association was being formed, but yielded them in deference to others who thought Synodical Associations best: and still holding these views, after having some practical experience of their workings, it is with unfeigned delight I learn "that the Island Presbytery are thinking to get up a local Home Mission." All the well-wishers of our Church in the Island should encourage the movement with their united effort. Let Mr. Grant himself take the field—(I know of none other so well qualified to undertake the work)—and I will hazard the prediction that double the money will be realized through the simple instrumentality of such a scheme, than by any other appliances that may be put in operation.

JOHN MACKAY.

A FOREIGN MISSIONARY.

Who will go? Who will represent our Church in the great missionary army? What field of operations is the committee contemplating? We ask these questions, earnestly praying that they will soon be satisfactorily responded to. We trust that the committee is acquiring, from all possible sources, information as to the founding of a Foreign Mission. The Board of the U. P. Church would, we are sure, cheerfully afford valuable information as to the steps necessary to be first taken, and the probable expenses of the first year. It is likely that the outlay will be more than double what it will be in any succeeding year. And it was just because the Synod wished to accumulate a fund for this purpose, that it appointed a General Collection before any missionary had offered for the work. The Synod did not intend to put a stop to congregational subscrip-

tions in addition to such a church-door collection, and I trust that Mr. McLean's letter will not prevent any congregation from having a general collection, supplementing it, of course, by individual subscriptions—in the usual manner. As to the smallness of the sums raised by general collections, the reason is pretty much because either the scheme does not of itself appear to the people one of great importance, or because the ministers do not take the trouble of explaining them and enforcing the duty of contributing to them. Look at what was done last year by the Gairloch and Salt Springs congregation for the Canada Foreign Mission. They raised more for it by a freewill offering collected in these two Churches than any other congregation in British America. And I believe that the reason simply was, that their ministers pointedly called their attention to the scheme. So that if any congregations may not have made their intended collection in consequence of the appearance of Mr. McLean's letter, I trust they will yet do so on the first favorable opportunity. Money will be needed, and we cannot begin too soon in raising it. It is a comparatively easy matter to get people to subscribe £16 or £160 if you tell them that perhaps it may be never called for; but we also need money actually collected. I for one do not believe that we are *always* to be a non-missionary Church, I believe that we will get a man from the Lord to go for us and wipe off the stain that has been too long on our ecclesiastical escutcheon. So that having this faith when I subscribed at the meeting of Synod, I, of course, meant to pay my subscription this year, and every succeeding year, until a missionary be secured, and then, if necessary, to increase it. But whether a man offer himself for the work or not, it is my plain duty to contribute a certain portion of my income—and that portion I expressed in the subscription list—to a fund which has now been instituted by our Church for Foreign Mission purposes, and that minimum portion I intend to pay from henceforth as long as I have my income. So I trust to see each minister sending in his own and his people's contributions without delay, while, at the same time, they should adopt Mr. McLean's suggestion and get other people in addition to pledge so much—as a guarantee and a sort of backbone to the freewill offerings. Had Mr. McLean weighed the matter fully, we certainly think he could not have failed to see that there was no occasion for the one method to clash with the other. However, we need say no more on this point, but only again express our confidence that the collections will be beyond precedent liberal.

A word or two to the committee and to the ministers and the laymen who take any interest in this movement. 1. We must get a missionary as soon as possible, and a man who will command the confidence of our people. So great is