

plements and grants promised. The balance in hand in October was only about \$2,200; and in order that on April 1st there may be a balance sufficient to meet the expenses of next summer's operations, the contributions to the Central Fund for this year will require to be at least twenty-five per cent. in advance of last year. As it is now, many of our missionaries and ministers will not be paid till the contributions are received by the Treasurer, Mr. Reid. The Committee have resolved not to run the Fund into debt, believing that however severely some may suffer from payments being delayed, the evil on the whole will be less than if their operations should be embarrassed, and the Fund burdened with a weight of debt. If, however, congregations who have the money in hand, and who can remit immediately, would do so, and if all would send their contributions as soon as possible, the delay of payment to our ministers and missionaries, who can ill want their little allowance, need not be long. It is hoped that this will be duly considered.

Many congregations have applied to have their supplements raised to \$600, and some Presbyteries have pressed the Committee to do this with great urgency. In a very few instances this has been done. The Committee, however, thought that there were *special* circumstances which warranted these grants. As a general rule, \$500 with a manse has been regarded as the *maximum* grant, or \$550 without a manse. The Committee would rejoice to make the salary of all our ministers \$600 with manse, *but unless the income to the Central Fund be nearly doubled, this cannot be done.* In ordinary cases \$500 will be granted as a *minimum*, on the application of Presbyteries.

It is manifest, from some papers received, that Presbyteries do not always deal sufficiently with congregations, with the view of eliciting their liberality. We have two instances now in which supplements have been generously returned or declined when congregations increased their part of the stipend, though in neither case was the minister receiving \$500 with manse. The general tendency, however, is to obtain as much as possible by way of supplement, and to spare the people. In the judgment of the Committee, in any of the older settlements of Ontario, where the rate of contribution does not come up to at least \$5 per member, and \$6 per family, no just claim for supplement exists. The people are not doing what they can—the Presbytery should take action.

It is expected that supplements in prosperous congregations will be gradually decreasing. Presbyteries have reported few such cases, but it should be steadily kept in view, so that as soon as possible the charges may become self-sustaining.

The report last year presented to the Synod showed that many congregations did very little for the Central Fund, and some few nothing at all. If all our congregations this year act liberally, we may hope next year to make the *minimum* stipend \$600. But if there is not a decided increase of contribution, considering the increase both in the number and amount of supplements and grants, the Committee, however reluctantly, will, in April next, be under the necessity of reducing the present rate of grant, small as it is, by ten per cent.

In view of the inadequacy of supply, it is hoped that Presbyteries will endeavour to give occasional services in the vacancies and Mission Stations by visits from the ministers within their bounds; and it seems in this respect only fair that the ministers of congregations receiving supplement should be sent occasionally on this service.