

### Our Home Work.

In the RECORD for April it was stated that the Free Church of Scotland had given £200 to the Home Mission work of the Western section of our Church. This was true, but only half the truth, exactly half, for, in addition to the above, £100 stg. was given to Manitoba College and £100 to the Home Mission work of the Maritime Provinces. Besides this there are other subscriptions from friends in Scotland who take a deep interest in the work of our Church. Concerning what was sent, Dr. Watson, the convener of the Colonial Committee, writes: "The aggregate is but a poor witness to our interest unless you consent to measure it rather by our means than by its bulk. Over the sea we send heartiest thanks, for the sturdy Presbyterian immigrants to fill up our wide land, for aid in our efforts to follow them with the gospel in their new homes, and for the deep interest so kindly expressed.

The Board of French Evangelization distributed in last month's RECORD a circular asking for contributions to aid in paying off the debt of \$23,000 on Coligny College, Ottawa. They earnestly hope that the many friends of French Evangelization will respond early and save the payment of interest, as the college receives no aid from the ordinary fund.

#### AUGMENTATION.

By REV. J. W. FARRIES, OTTAWA.

*What the Augmented Congregations are doing to help themselves.*

THE augmentation scheme is based upon the broad Scriptural principle that the strong should help the weak. It is not designed to help those who are able to help themselves. It is not designed to beget and foster a spirit of dependence, or to pauperize those to whom it imparts aid, and in its practical working it has not done so. The conditions with which a congregation must comply before it can be placed on the list at all, require a fair and reasonable measure of liberality on the part of its membership. For, except by special permission of the General Assembly, no congregation can be placed on the list until its contributions toward stipend reach an average per communicant of \$4.50.

Then the annual visitation of each congregation by the Presbytery, required by regulation of the assembly with a view to increase the contributions to stipend, has tendered to develop a large measure of liberality, and it may safely be affirmed that the increases in the stipend paid by augmented congregations are more numerous

and larger, in proportion to their means, than in the self-sustaining congregations of the church,

Further, while in augmented congregations the average contribution to stipend *must be* \$4.50 per communicant, as a matter of fact it has always been more than \$6.50.

In the year 1887 it was \$6.55 per communicant.

"	"	1888	"	6.75	"	"
"	"	1889	"	6.74	"	"
"	"	1890	"	6.68	"	"
"	"	1891	"	6.84	"	"

Making an average during these five years of \$6.71 per communicant.

During these same years the average contribution towards stipend over the whole Church was as follows:—

In the year 1887 it was \$4.60 per communicant.

"	"	1888	"	4.67	"	"
"	"	1889	"	4.40	"	"
"	"	1890	"	4.63	"	"
"	"	1891	"	4.69	"	"

Or an average during these five years of \$4.60 per communicant.

Thus it is seen that the communicants in the augmented congregations give, on an average, \$2.21 more than the minimum, \$4.50, required of them, and \$2.11 more than the average \$4.60, over the whole church.

From these figures it is manifest that it is only the liberal giving of the augmented congregations and of the few congregations that give exceptionally large salaries, that saves the average giving of the church at large, towards stipend, from being somewhat discreditably low. If we should count out the augmented congregations, and the few that give the large salaries, the average giving of the self-sustaining congregations of the church, would be found to be nearly *one-half less* than the average in the augmented congregations.

There was not a Presbytery between Newfoundland and Brandon in 1890, that reached the average of the augmented congregations, and in 1891 the only one that exceeded their average east of Rocklake Presbytery was Kingston.

From these facts and figures the church is encouraged to sustain this scheme. The people are helping themselves. They show to us an example of liberality that should stimulate us to devise and do more liberal things. Notwithstanding the difficulties under which it has labored on account of the frequently recurring deficits, the augmentation scheme has achieved as satisfactory and encouraging results as any other scheme of the church. It has encouraged many a struggling people and brightened and cheered many a hardworking and faithful pastor's house during the nine years of its operation. Failure to maintain it would be a calamity to the church, and arrest the cause of her progress.