

would be of immense advantage if the Committee would pay the salary of a Presbyterian missionary to visit new stations, and to act as a supernumerary. This, including travelling expenses, would amount to £250 per annum. They were of opinion that this was the best thing the Church of Scotland could do for them. At the same time they would welcome a grant to the College, or money devoted to the support of student evangelists."

The result of Mr. Spratt's conferences with brethren who have not yet entered into the Union in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, was such as leads him to say, "that meanwhile there is little prospect of any change of position." In New Brunswick, Mr. Spratt "did not think it necessary to make any stay, as the union is complete in that Province, and the new fields are not extensive. In Pictou County, Nova Scotia, he found twelve congregations not embraced in the Union. One fourth of these were vacant, or about to become so. At the conferences held with the ministers and elders in this district, "little was said on the subject of Union. One or two spoke against it, most were silent, but important facts were mentioned which seemed to indicate that opposition to it was fast dying out. The clergymen assist each other at communions, and their people often sit together at the Lord's table. The missionary collections of the Pictou Presbytery, amounting last year to \$400, are given to the Foreign Mission of the Union Church, and vacant congregations are quite ready to call Union Ministers. All this seemed to shew that Union was looked upon by many as a foregone conclusion. The Report concludes with these remarks :

"Without entering upon matters about which there may be difference of opinion in the Committee, I wish to add a few observations with regard to the Union Church.

Though before its completion I thought it very unfortunate that union was pushed on at the risk of division among our own people, I was greatly impressed with the hold the United Church has taken of the whole country, and with the extraordinary energy and liberality displayed by its adherents. Ministers and members of our Church in the Union everywhere assured me that they were as much

Church of Scotland as ever, and those, who had a different connection previously, expressed their gratification at having been brought into closer relations with us, and being now "as much Church of Scotland as anything else;" at the same time, looking to the future of Canada, all seemed to be animated with the desire to hold up a great National Church there, able to provide as soon as possible for its own people, and to maintain and extend its Foreign Mission schemes. There are few rich people in the country, and I heard everywhere of commercial depression and bad times, yet their liberality is truly extraordinary. Last year has been a very trying one in Canada as elsewhere, and most of the conveners had to report to the Assembly that their schemes were in debt; but it was resolved to economise wherever possible, to draw up estimates as to the probable expenditure for the current year, to add the debt, and then to lay the whole facts "fairly and squarely" before the people, and to apportion the amount required among presbyteries, congregations, and communicants. The estimate for the Maritime Provinces had been partially completed when I reached Halifax, and the amount asked for three of the schemes of the Church was an average of 140 dollars from each congregation, or a little over a dollar from each communicant. As another instance of liberality, I may mention that one of the Halifax clergymen informed me that his people had given last year for religious purposes an average of £20 per family, and that the whole amount had been collected at the church door.

I would further call attention to the remarkable success which has attended the efforts of the Church to raise up a native ministry. The facilities for obtaining a complete theological education of a high order are now ample, and parents in good circumstances are as ready to devote sons to the Church as they once were in Scotland. The consequence is, that instead of requiring any more ministers from home, the Church has more, both Gaelic and English speaking licentiates, than she has openings for, and the Colonial Committee might find in Canada agents admirably suited for its work in other fields. In particular, vacancies in British Columbia might be filled by Canadian clergymen of the Church of Scotland now in the Union. There are many young men of this class—some without charges—and they would not forfeit their life claim on the Temporalities Fund by taking service in the Pacific Province. This might strengthen the friendly relations that already exist between the two Churches, but it could do nothing either to hasten or retard incorporation, which is practically out of the question, because of the immense distance and the absence of means of communication."