

Widows and Orphans' Fund.....£709 13 9  
 Endowment of Parishes..... 331 7 3  
 Bishopric Endowment Fund..... 62 10 11  
 Books from Depository S. P. C. K. 38 1 8  
 To be sent to S. P. G. for Health 2 3 1½

Leaving the sum of £919 6s. 11d. for the general purposes of the Society, which is £56 16s. 1d. more than on any preceding year, and affords us much encouragement in this good work.

#### MISSIONARIES.

During the year 1855 the sum of £575 has been paid toward the support of Missionaries.

This outlay has called forth the exertions of the people in the several Missions to which grants have been made, and the amount of at least £500 has been paid by them to meet this expenditure on the part of the Society, but it is not considered as part of our income, nor does it appear in the accounts.

In October, 1855, grants were made to the following places:

Albion Mines,	Bridgewater,
Liverpool,	Newport,
Stowiacke,	Annapolis,
Chester,	Millford,
Pugwash,	Westport,

The Rev. J. Broading, of Beaver Harbor; the Rev. W. G. Jarvis, Guysboro, and a Travelling Missionary on the Western Shore.

Since then the Executive committee granted £25 toward the support of an assistant Missionary at Beaver Harbor on the Eastern Shore.

Our benevolent patron the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, has encouraged our exertions and those of the people, by contributing the sum of £312 10s. during the past year, toward the support of the Missionaries in the above named places.

The Society will learn with gratification that the clergymen who fill those positions (some of them the roughest and most difficult in the Province) are universally spoken of as zealous and diligent in their holy vocation, that they win the confidence and esteem of the people, and that their ministrations are gratefully received and highly appreciated.

Several applications have been made for aid in supporting more missionaries, but the Executive Committee did not think the Society was able to entertain them at present.

The calls for assistance with reference to this all-important object will probably be so frequent and pressing in future, that the greatest economy will be necessary in the distribution of our income, in order to extend its benefits as widely as possible.

The Rev. S. D. Green, whom the Bishop had appointed to Stowiacke, has been obliged on account of ill health to return to England, and his place has not yet been supplied.

#### ENDOWMENT OF PARISHES.

The sum of £217 17s. 3d. has been added to this fund during the year 1855. This has arisen from the fourths of their contributions, reserved by the several parishes, £134 9s. 11d.; interest on money already held, £13 7s. 4, and a grant from the Society of £40.

This fund has already enabled several of the parishes to make additions to their glebes, and procure lands adjacent to the parsonages. It is very desirable that this valuable auxiliary for aiding the people in the support of their missionary should be brought more prominently forward, and some regular system adopted, in accordance with which aid will be granted proportionate to the exertions of the parish.

During 1854 the sum of £163 10s. has been given in trust to the Society, to be held as the property of the parishes by which it was sent,

and the yearly proceeds paid to the Rectors. Of this amount £100 has been returned to the parish of Cornwallis, a secure investment having been found there. Care was taken by the Committee on Endowment that it should be so secured that the interest could be paid only for the use of the incumbent of the parish. The total amount under the care of the Investment Committee is stated in the treasurer's abstract of sums invested.

#### CHURCHES.

The Society has paid £10 during 1855 toward the erection of a new Church in Ship Harbor on the Eastern shore, being first moiety of a grant for that purpose.

The following grants have been made for this object—

New Church at Bridgewater .....	£20	0	0
“ “ Tracadie .....	10	0	0
“ “ Coxheath, C. B. ....	10	0	0
“ “ Wallace .....	10	0	0
“ “ Ship Harbor .....	20	0	0
“ “ Forks, Windsor .....	7	0	0

It might be desirable for the Society to adopt plans and models of churches such as are best adapted to the wants of the country, and that all grants should be made upon the condition that one of the proposed plans and models should be followed.

#### BOOKS.

£37 11s. 8d. has been paid for Books from the Depository of the S. P. C. K., to be returned to several of the local Committees, in lieu of the fourth of their contributions.

The Executive Committee, acting upon a recommendation adopted by the Society at the last Annual Meeting, voted £40 stg. to meet the same amount given by the Foreign District Committee of S. P. C. K., in order to distribute by means of a colporteur some of the valuable books in the Depository.

The Committee of Revision, appointed by the Society in 1853, was directed to take the superintendence of the effort.

For some time the Committee were unable to find a suitable person to act as colporteur; but lately they have been more fortunate, and the experiment has been tried with sufficient success to induce the committee to renew the effort as soon as possible.

The zealous and active colporteur, a divinity student at King's College, was able, during six weeks of the summer vacation, to dispose of about £116 6s. 1d. worth of books, although his supply was not very well adapted to the wants or tastes of the people on the western shore, where the trial was made.

It is very desirable that the effort to distribute these books of the S. P. C. K. should be continued, although it cannot be done without some cost to the Society.

The following incident, which served to cheer the labors of the colporteur, will be read with interest, and will afford a bright example of Christian piety. May a blessing attend the "Widow's mite!"

"Next day passed over twenty-four miles of dreary wilderness, with only one house—receipts, 1s. 3d. But a most interesting circumstance happened in the evening that richly paid me for my day of toil, like one of those sunny spots in life, to which we can ever look back with pleasure, and I am sure I will remember this as long as reason keeps her seat. In the house in which I put up for the night was a poor old widow, living with her son. I was struck with the appearance of the woman when I first saw her, and when I came to talk with her, I found her quite intelligent; and while the family were out about their evening work, she told me something of her life. She

was the daughter of a soldier, and spent her early days in Halifax. She has since seen many changes. For the last three years she has not seen a Church Minister; but she is a religious woman, and devoted to the Church, whose ministrations she enjoyed in her earlier days. She said she thought within herself that she said she thought within herself that she, poor and destitute as she was, must and could do something for the Church, so she resolved that one-tenth of all that passed through her hands should be dedicated to the Lord. Since then God had blessed her in all that she did, and her savings now amounted to fifteen shillings, which she asked me to receive at her hand. The thing was so extraordinary and unexpected that I did not know what to do. I told her I would take it and give her books for it; but she said that would not be carrying out her intention: she intended it as a freewill offering to the Church. I then told her I would take it as a donation from her to the D. C. S. She said she was satisfied, and gave me the money, with a prayer that it might be the means of doing some good. If each donor to the Society would give in the same spirit as this poor widow gave in, what a blessing the Society would be; and if each member of our Church could feel as I felt when I received that "poor widow's mite," knowing her circumstances, how much would the funds of our Society be increased? I left her in the morning, with a promise that a Report of the Society should be sent to her, and I made the best of my way down through Dalhousie."

#### WIDOWS AND ORPHANS' FUND.

With reference to this object of the Society, the committee have much pleasure in stating that the effort made during 1855 to make some provision for the Widows and Orphans of the Clergy, has been as successful as we could expect. Our hearty thanks are due to those who joined in raising the £1000 as a basis for the scheme.

At the end of 1855 the committee had received £1013 11s. 4d., including the premiums of those clergymen who took out certificates. Since then the amount has increased to about £1250. Thirty-eight clergymen hold certificates.

The committee to whom this matter was entrusted have made their own report, which we lay before you.

The committee cannot refrain from alluding to a kindred subject with the above, viz., the condition of Clergymen whom age or infirmity may compel to retire from active labor in the Church. They are obliged in most cases to live upon so small a pittance that it is utterly impossible for them to make any provision against such a calamity.

After spending his years of usefulness in the service of his Church, he might, at the time of life when least able to endure hardship, when "the grasshopper becomes a burthen," be turned off in poverty as a dependant upon others.

Though the funds of the Society cannot be applied to the relief of such cases, yet the subject might well be brought to the notice of Churchmen who may be disposed to make donations in trust to the Society for that object.

The Auditors have examined the accounts for 1855 and found them correct. They report a balance in the Society's favor of £405 6s. From this apparent balance must be deducted the sums due at the end of the year for support of missionaries, and as grants toward building churches yet to be called for. These deductions would make true balance about £41 3s. 6d.

Income of the Society, so far as it has been yet received, amounts to £1847 19s., of which £277 18s. 1d. is for the Widows and Orphans'