

Rev. Dr. Ritchie, Longforgan,
 " John A. Honey, Inchturk,
 " William Leitch, M.A., Monimail,
 " William Milligan, M.A., Kilmospeth,
 " Andrew Wilson, Paisley,
 " George Campbell, Eastwood,
 " Colin M. Culloch, Montrose,
 " John Cunningham, Cricht,
 " David Brown, Scotcoe,

and requested that an extract from this Minute should be sent to each of these gentlemen, who had so kindly undertaken this laborious and important duty.

CHURCH IN THE COLONIES.

A Home Mission Fund.

One of the greatest wants of our Church in the present stage of its history is a strong, well managed and liberally sustained Home Mission Fund. A very wide field is opening up for missionary operations before the Church. In the newer districts there are large numbers of Presbyterians who are without the ordinances of the Gospel. In Western Canada there are many openings for the work of evangelization, and there are struggling congregations in growing parts of the Province to be aided, in order that they may eventually become self-supporting. In Lower Canada there are congregations of English-speaking people, sometimes comparatively numerous, or in other cases comprising but a few scattered families, who are surrounded by the French-speaking Romanists, and who require the special care of the Church, that they may not lapse into irreligion or Romanism. On the shores of Lake Huron and along the valley of the Ottawa Scotch and Irish emigrants are seeking homes in the new land, to whom our Church owes the duty of carrying the tidings of the Gospel. How, then, can our Church acquit herself of the manifold obligations that thus devolve upon her? How shall we maintain our existing congregations, and prove ourselves an aggressive and progressive Church by extending our borders, and carrying the standard of the Gospel into places where it is not now untired? Clearly all this can only be accomplished by the creation of a large, efficient and vigorous Home Mission, liberally sustained by our people and commending itself to their judgments and affections as an instrument for good. This scheme has been long before the Church. It is time that we were up and doing. Last Synod, as in two previous years, this subject was committed to the Temporalities Board, and we trust that this year a commencement may be made. We are aware that hitherto there have been many obstacles in the way, and that even now the general depression of the country will prevent much being accomplished, but yet the commencement should be made. We have given this subject long and careful consideration, and are persuaded that such an effort will be supported by our people when they fully understand its objects. Meanwhile let us consider the mode of its attainment. There are several methods to secure success which must all be adopted.

1st. There is the large, comprehensive effort to raise by subscriptions, spread over a term of five years, a considerable sum, to be funded, and the interest only applied to the objects of the fund. This was the plan adopted with such wonderful success by Dr. Robertson, who has thus raised a sum of £300,000 for the Endowment Fund of the Church of

Scotland, and who is still prosecuting the scheme. We are satisfied that the same plan would be effective here. It is probable, however, that more might be thus accomplished in more auspicious times than the present, but still a commencement should even now be made. But, 2ndly, there are the plans of annual collections in our churches, and, 3rdly, of annual subscriptions to Congregational Associations for home and other missionary purposes. Both these last can at once be carried out, as they are already partially. The Presbytery of Toronto have already a scheme in operation. In the Presbytery of Hamilton, we believe, Congregational Associations have been formed. In the Presbytery of Montreal a collection was last year taken up and remitted to the Colonial Committee. But there is no combined or general action, and the Church at large is in ignorance as to the working of these schemes. We think that this year there should be a collection taken up throughout all our congregations for Home Mission purposes, — we trust that this will be done. But, besides this, associations should be formed in aid of the Home Mission Fund. Our brethren in Nova Scotia are vigorously carrying out this plan. In Halifax, a society for this object has been formed, and a Lay Association has lately been formed at Pictou with thirteen branches, and is working energetically in raising funds for missionary objects. It comprises already 2000 subscribers, paying 2s. 6d. per annum each, and is likely to accomplish much good. Now this is a simple mode of attaining a very desirable object. Are there not many of our congregations that will forthwith follow the example, and establish Parochial Associations for the purpose of aiding the home and foreign missionary efforts of our Church? Surely, ere the year is out, if proper exertions were made, we could have in our town congregations alone 1000 subscribers of 2s. 6d. each to a Home Mission Fund, and as many in the rural charges. This would be a good beginning, and, by commencing and sustaining with energy, zeal and fidelity, such a scheme, our Church would be enabled to discharge its duties to our adherents in this Province, and prove itself a vital, living branch of the Church of our Lord and Master. Our Church has been planted in this vast new land; it has peculiar duties and responsibilities with regard to it. May she discharge these aright, and prove a fruitful instrument for much good by dispensing the knowledge of the Gospel of Peace at home and abroad. So doing, a blessing will rest upon our Zion, and she will be made a blessing. — *Montreal Presbyterian*.

Sabbath Schools in Canada.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE SYNOD'S COMMITTEE.

There is evidently a want of systematic effort on the part of our Church in the working of our Sabbath Schools, which, in the opinion of your Committee, seriously impairs their usefulness. In order to remedy this defect and to render our Sabbath Schools more efficient, so as to be productive of greater good to the "lambs of the flock," your Committee have, after much earnest and prayerful consideration, determined to make the following recommendations to the Synod —

They recommend, in the first place, that Superintendents and Teachers of Sabbath Schools be enjoined to keep proper statistics of their schools and classes—having in each

school a roll of scholars and teachers—and carefully noting the attendance on each Sabbath both of teachers and scholars, so that the average attendance could be ascertained.

They would also recommend that the teachers, whenever practicable, be organized into a Society, and hold regular periodical meetings for conference on the affairs of the school and devotional exercises, and also for the purpose of going over the lessons together. These meetings, wherever they are held, have been found to be productive of much good by increasing the zeal and activity of the teachers, and thereby inducing better preparation for their own duties on the Sabbath, more regular visitation of the children and their families, and, as a consequence, a better attendance and increased interest on the part of the scholars. Where weekly meetings for the preparation of the lessons can be held, the Committee suggest that the teachers be formed into a Bible Class under the care and superintendence of the Minister of the congregation.

And, in order to introduce a uniform system in all the schools, the Committee recommend that a scheme of lessons be prepared and published by a committee under the authority of the Synod, and that all Superintendents and Teachers of schools be enjoined to make use of the scheme so prepared. Such a scheme should in the opinion of your Committee, contain two classes of lessons—one for the senior and the other for the junior classes, and, until the publication of such a scheme of lessons, the Committee recommend the use of the scheme published by the Edinburgh Sabbath School Union.

The Committee further recommend that great care be taken in the selection of libraries for Sabbath Schools, and that the classified libraries published by the American Sabbath School Union be not taken without careful selection, as they consider many of the publications found in Sabbath School libraries highly objectionable.

They also recommend the distribution in all schools of *The Juvenile Presbyterian*.

And, lastly, your Committee recommend that a Pastoral Letter or Address from the Synod be read in all the Churches in this Province, as soon as may be after the issuing of the same, in which members of the Church, and particularly those whom God has blessed with Scriptural knowledge and the gift of communicating the same, be enjoined to make use of the talents God has given to them, so that they be neither barren nor unprofitable servants, but on the contrary may be enabled to render their account with joy; and urging upon parents the duty and importance of sending their children to the Sabbath School, as a means of bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Goderich Sabbath School Excursion.

The congregation of St. Andrew's Church got up an excursion for the Sabbath School Scholars on the 17th August. The party consisting of the scholars, members of the congregation and others friendly, started from Goderich about 9 o'clock, A.M., per Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway, for Stratford. It was a most delightful morning, and as pleasing to see the assembling of the party. On arriving at Stratford, the party, numbering upwards of 300, and occupying 5 cars, was met at the station by the Rev. Wm. Miller, accompanied by his Sabbath School scholars, members of his congregation and others, numbering up-