

Among other things I have suggested improved systems of raising funds and have introduced these systems in several churches. A good general method is to name an amount such as might reasonably be expected to be raised by a given church, and then show with what ease the money can be obtained on the principle of each member contributing a small sum weekly or monthly.

My strong conviction after three months experience is that an energetic man should be kept constantly employed as a missionary explorer, inspector and reporter, going to the destitute fields and thence to the stronger churches to stir them up with facts such as only a missionary can full understand and describe. I see opportunities for doing much in the way of securing and arranging voluntary missionary work on the part of pastors, and I have already several such projects in view."

It is thus seen that the labors of our Agent are not to be measured, in estimating their utility, by the immediate pecuniary results that have been secured. He has done valuable work as a missionary. He has, after careful personal inspection, given judicious advice to our Board in reference to the allocation of fields, and the appointment of missionaries; and he has been by no means unsuccessful in raising funds. We strongly advise the Board who shall succeed us to continue his services.

MISSIONARY WORK UNDERTAKEN.

As already intimated, your Board have made comparatively few missionary appointments during the year. Earnest and urgent appeals for assistance came to us from many destitute places. A large number of applications for appointments were made by worthy missionaries, both young and old. Every legitimate effort was made to introduce unemployed ministers to unoccupied fields; simply by recommendation, but beyond this it was deemed inexpedient to venture until our treasury should assume a more hopeful appearance. It was thought advisable to disburse the limited funds at our disposal in the form of small subsidies to such missionary churches and stations as we have had reason to fear might be abandoned unless aided by our treasury. Towards the close of the year, however, when our financial prospects seemed to brighten in some degree, we felt constrained to yield to the pressing appeal of several neglected stations, and to send missionaries to labor therein for a few months. Ignoring sectional distinctions, your Board have endeavored to secure missionary laborers for such fields as appeared to be most in need of assistance. Although aware of the general tendency to dissatisfaction in cases where some missionaries are assisted and others refused, we have had no alternative but simply to exercise our best judgement in sending our funds where they seemed to be most imperatively demanded or where the interests of our cause might be best subserved.

Your Board have been particularly careful to secure the permanent occupancy of our fields in Annapolis, Shelburne and New Glasgow,