

The total receipts of this Society, during 1856, amounted to £2201 10s. 6d., Viz:

Widows & Orphans' Fund.....	£341	13	3
Bishopric Endowment .....	109	9	1
Endowment of Parishes.....	649	6	11
Superannuation Fund .....	45	6	4
Colporteur Account .....	121	11	2
Donations to be funded .....	20	4	0
General purposes .....	913	19	9

The amounts received for the *Widows and Orphans' Fund*, and for the *Endowment of Parishes*, have been intrusted to the respective Committees appointed for those objects. Their Reports (printed in the Appendix) will give the necessary information.

The Bishopric Endowment Fund, amounting in all to about £1700, is held in trust by this Society, the annual interest to be paid to the incumbent of the Bishopric.

The small amount to the credit of the superannuation fund has been contributed by a few who think that some provision should be made for Clergymen who may, either by age or infirmity, be incapacitated for further labour. A benevolent lady in Halifax had the honor of contributing the first five pounds to the fund. It is to be hoped that the Society may be enabled to adopt it as one of its objects, in the same way as it did the Widows and Orphans' fund. Meantime the amount is held in trust by the Society, under a Resolution permitting it so to hold any money given for Church purposes, and to apply the interest in accordance with the wish of the donor. The Colporteur account was created by a grant of £70 from the N. S. Foreign Dist. Com. of S. P. C. K., and the sum of £40 stg. set apart by this Society for that purpose.

Agreeably to a Resolution passed at a General Meeting of this Society, in October, 1855, all donations of £10 and over are funded, and the interest only applied to general purposes. From this source has arisen the £20 4s above mentioned.

The Executive Committee submit the following account of the expenditure for the various objects of the Society:—

MISSIONARIES.

During the year 1856 the sum of £587 10s. has been paid towards the support of Missionaries in the following places:—

Bridgewater, a Travelling Missionary on the Western Coast, Newport, Annapolis, Albion Mines, Pugwash, Chester, Westport, Milford, Musquodobit; also to the Rev. J. Breeding on the Eastern shore, and to the Rev. W. G. Jarvis at Guysboro.

The Executive Committee has also made grants of £40 to Maitland and £20 to Rawdon, to assist them in maintaining their Missionaries, whose incomes were quite inadequate to their necessity.

The question must soon be considered by the Society, whether we are able to assist the poorer parishes, in proportion to the withdrawal of aid from the S. P. G.

The following extracts from the Reports of the Missionaries, made through the Bishop to the S. P. G., will show the variety and extent of their labours.

The Missionary at Maitland, to which place this Society grants £40 per annum, attends at seven stations for the regular performance of Divine Service, viz., Kenneteook, Five Mile River Church, Maitland, Rockville, Upper Shubenacadie, and the Goro. At these places, some of which are distant from his home, he has performed 103 services during the past year, among attentive and increasing congregations, and paid 190 pastoral visits. The people in this mission, which has but lately been set apart from Rawdon, are doing the best they can to support their Church.

The number of Church Members is about 600, of whom 25 are communicants. They have raised during the past year £167 10s. for church purposes, and have undertaken to build a parsonage, which will make the position of their clergyman much more comfortable.

In the district of Sherbrooke, to which the Society has for several years contributed £50, the people are very poor, so much so, indeed, that the Executive Committee consented to forgo temporarily the sum required to be made up by people to their minister.

The services of the Missionary are very affectionately received by the people, among whom he has paid 217 pastoral visits, and held regular services at the following stations,—Sherbrooke, Annapolis Road, Kentville Road, and Dalhousie, and occasional services at several other places.

The Missionary at Pugwash reports that in the discharge of his duty he had travelled 2162 miles, and paid 596 pastoral visits and visits to the sick. The 500 Church people under his care are scattered over an area of 250 square miles. He has four regular stations for Divine service, viz., Wallace, where a new church is building, Pugwash, River Philip, and Victoria Settlement. The people have raised £71 18s. 3d. for Church purposes.

The Missionary at Westport, who is in part supported by this Society, has paid a thousand pastoral visits, travelling across the stormy straits, from the islands to the main land under his care. He reports that the Church in his district is increasing, the number now amounting to 400, of whom 38 are communicants. The following extract from his letter will show the spirit with which he labours:—

“But one thing is very observable, which gives the Missionary courage to go on in the midst of all dangers and difficulties which he has to encounter in this Mission, viz.: that the people set such a value on the ordinances of our Church, their attendance in Church on the Sabbath day, and the desire they have for the Missionary to visit them, and when visited, the solemn manner observed when the reading of and meditation on the Scriptures is carried out, and in the time of prayer.”

“The infant baptisms are double the number this year to last year, and I take all this to be a good proof and cause of thankfulness that the good work is progressing in my Mission.”

In the Mission of Bridgewater, which extends over 300 square miles, the Missionary reports that there are between five and six hundred Church Members, of whom 33 are communicants. He has regular service at 10 different stations within his mission.

The people there have made great exertions to support their Missionary and erect their Church. The following letter from the Rev. H. DeBlois, will not be uninteresting:—

“Thus far hath the Lord prospered us, may well be our grateful exclamation in viewing the events which have transpired in the Mission during the year that is now drawing to a close. At its commencement all was gloom and uncertainty, the downfall of our Church, on which so many praiseworthy exertions had been expended, had well nigh caused even the most sanguine to despair; but feeling at last that the cause was God's, and not our own, in His strength we pressed on, and have now the satisfaction of beholding our Sanctuary almost finished, humble indeed it is true, but consecrated by the affections of many, to whom but a few short months ago such an event had been deemed almost miraculous. There will still be existing upon it a debt of about two hundred pound currency, which we are using every exertion to liquidate, so that we may have a free Church of the living God. My people would have borne a large share in paying

off this sum had it not been a season of more than usual commercial depression among us. Through the kind permission of the Bishop, I spent a portion of the summer in collecting subscriptions, which resulted favourably, in the different Country Parishes.”

Extract from a Letter written by the travelling Missionary on the Western Shore to the Bishop of the Diocese:—

Tusket, Nova Scotia, Decr. 31st. 1856.

“MY LORD.

“I herewith send you the annual return for this Mission. During the past year I have travelled 2,840 miles, viz.: walked 1440, and rode 1400 miles; Baptized 15 persons, Married 1, and Buried 1; distributed 26 Bibles and Testaments; 24 Prayer Books and 500 Religious Books and Tracts, and made 800 pastoral visits. I have constantly visited the settlements along the coast between this and Port Latour, which is over 60 miles in extent, where I have preached 212 times during the year.

“Owing to there being no wardens or vestry in either of the Churches where I officiate, the whole burden of every thing falls on myself. Under such multitudinous labour, I sometimes feel my physical energies giving way. I have no desire to complain, but would cheerfully submit to any toil so that I may be instrumental in bringing souls to Christ. I bless God I never feel so happy as when making known Jesus Christ and him crucified, Jesus and the resurrection. But notwithstanding all my exertions, I feel that it is absolutely necessary that an additional Clergyman be employed if the Mission is to be successfully sustained.

“A Clergyman ought to be stationed at Barrington, from whence he could visit the settlements of Wood's Harbour, 10 miles on the west, and Port Latour, 10 miles on the east. At Port Latour nearly two acres of land have been secured for a burial ground and site of a Church, and the people last Spring voluntarily procured the timber, and on a fixed day assembled and fenced it. There are now on the ground the frame, lumber, shingles, nails, glass, &c. &c. ready to commence the erection of a Church in the Spring.

“Recently the Ladies held a bazaar there, from which the sum of £21 was raised in aid of the erection of the Church. At Wood's Harbour an acre of land has been given for the site of a building to answer the purpose of a Church and School House. At Tusket we have commenced the erection of a Parsonage House. Mr. Hatfield very generously gave an acre of land for the site. The House is now rough boarded and shingled. I succeeded in collecting from abroad £120 in aid of the building. During the autumn a Seraphine was added to the Choir of the Tusket Church at a cost of over £30, which the Ladies of the Church succeeded in raising, partly by contributions and partly from the proceeds of a bazaar.

“I have commenced preaching a series of Missionary Sermons at the various settlements, in order to indoctrinate the people with what the Church of England is doing at home and abroad. I hope to raise the subscriptions to the D. C. S. more than the amount of last year. I have endeavoured to observe all the Fasts and Festivals of the Church, and explain them to the people”

CHURCHES.

The following Amounts have been paid for this object:

Second moiety of grant to Church at Ship Harbour .....	£10	0	0
Amount of grant to Church at the Forks, near Windsor.....	7	10	0
First moiety of grant to Church at Cox Heath, C. B.....	5	0	0
Do do Tracadie .....	5	0	0