

PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU.

26. French River..... \$60

PRESBYTERY OF TRURO.

27. Painsboro..... \$100

28. Acadia..... 100

(in case of settlement.)

29. Truro, 2nd Cong..... 80

(in case of settlement.)

PRESBYTERY OF HALIFAX.

30. Clyde..... 120

31. Kempt..... 120

32. Mahone Bay..... 120

33. Annapolis..... 200

34. Lawrencetown..... 120

35. Musquodoboit H..... 100

It will be observed that the number of congregations on the list this year is 35, being a decrease of two as compared with last year. The amount asked for this year is \$3480, being also a small decrease on the amount appropriated last year.

Your Committee have further to report that they received an application for a grant of \$60 from Brown's Creek, P. E. I., which grant was recommended by the Presbytery and supported by a petition from the congregation itself. Looking at the size and circumstances of this congregation, they cannot see their way to recommend this application. But they would make this suggestion, which perhaps will meet the views of the parties interested,—that the minister of the congregation be sent to Cape Breton for six weeks or two months, and that the sum of 60 or 80 dollars be guaranteed him by the Home Mission Board for his services there.

Your Committee have also agreed to refer to Synod for consideration, which they now do, the sums recommended for the Presbytery of Victoria and Richmond. It is their opinion that on the whole, Plaister Cove should receive the sum asked for, and they are prepared to give their reasons, if required; but as to Baddeck they are not so sure. In neither case should there be any need of a grant. The same remarks apply to three congregations at least in the Presbytery of Cape Breton, i. e., Grand River, Glace Bay, and St. Ann's, and perhaps to Boularderie as well. Your Committee have reduced the grants of last year, and given notice of their discontinuance in future.

Your Committee feel the duties imposed on them to be in some respects very pleasing, but on the whole to involve more of praise than of pleasure. It is pleasant to be the medium of communication for those funds, by which the churches express their brotherly interest in each other, not only as members of the same ecclesiastical body, but as members of the mystical body of Christ. But on the other hand it is painful

to feel themselves in circumstances so straitened that they cannot sufficiently supplement the stipends of these ministers who are labouring in poor and weak congregations. The demands made upon the funds of the church for this purpose, viewed in one aspect seem to be large, but in another point of view the amount is very small indeed. It is not sufficient to raise the stipends of the recipients to a comfortable maintenance. It is not what the church ought to be and might be contributing, without deducting anything from their contributions for other purposes.

Your Committee feel pained at being under the necessity of reporting unfavorably as to the state of this fund. The whole amount received last year was \$2696, of which \$500 was a grant from the Free Church of Scotland. This sum, however, was insufficient to meet the claims against the Fund, and we have been under the necessity of drawing upon the Home Mission Fund, till it also is nearly exhausted.

The Synod remitted to your Committee the devising of some means whereby the liberality of the church might be stimulated on behalf of this scheme and its funds replenished. This they found to be no easy matter. They have, however, agreed to the following suggestions, which they recommend to the Synod:—

1. It will be in the Synod's knowledge that for the last two years they have been receiving a grant of \$500 yearly from the Free Church of Scotland. Your Committee had hoped to be able to dispense with the sum for the future, but in present circumstances they feel the necessity of asking for its continuance. They therefore recommend to that effect, and also that Professor McKnight be asked to transmit this application to the Colonial Committee of the Free Church, with a full statement of all the facts upon which it is based.

2. They would also recommend that Presbyteries be enjoined to see that a collection is made by each congregation within its bounds, in behalf of this scheme, during the current year, and if possible before the end of 1870.

The Synod received the Report, expressed high appreciation of the labours of the Committee, made the grants proposed, and adopted the Committee's recommendations.

Common Schools:

The following committees were appointed on Common School Education:—*For New Brunswick*—Rev. Messrs. Bennet, McKay and Houston. *For P. E. Island*—Rev. Messrs. Isaac Murray, James Allan, and David Laird, Elder. *For Nova Scotia*