

here, in connection with the Synod of our Church, which promises to strengthen our hands considerably, especially in that which we lack most of all, money. The scheme is this—a branch Lay Association is formed in each of our congregations, with its full staff of office-bearers and collectors. Every person contributing two shillings and sixpence a-year becomes a member, larger or smaller sums being always accepted. Our object is to set a machinery agoing that will reach to the poorest as well as to the richest of our people, to our children as well as to their parents. Our scheme involves the principle, that our children ought to be made aware as early as possible, not only that they are of importance to the Church of their fathers, but also that they can assist in her prosperity; and we believe there is no better way to do this than to have them introduced as early as may be into her organization, by becoming contributors of more or less money to her schemes. Our expectations of success are not based on the receiving of large contributions, but on the multiplicity of small ones.

Besides the Congregational or Branch Associations, we have a central or executive one, composed of delegates from each branch. The Central Association make their yearly report to the Synod, and distribute the monies collected by the branches supplementary to the Synod's schemes. Our Association is exclusively Lay, but we have received great and valuable assistance from all our clergymen. The congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery of Pictou are already fully organised, and we trust ere long to have to say the same of the Presbyteries of Halifax and Prince Edward Island. From the success already had, we have good grounds for believing that our Association will be able to realise more money for the Church, than what is now raised by all the schemes of the Synod put together.

This scheme was not originated by the ministers, nor yet by the eldership of our Church; the whole credit of it is due to two young men, members of the Rev. Mr. Herdman's church, James McDonald and Robert Doul, Esquires, one a member of the bar, the other a merchant of Pictou town. We hold it to be an unmistakable token of the future prosperity of our Church here, when we find our young men thus taking such a deep interest in her welfare.

The first meeting of the Central Association was held on the 4th inst., of which Association I had the honor to be elected president, and, as such, I am requested to urge upon the Colonial Committee the pressing demand there exists for a Gaelic missionary being sent out to us this season, to labor within the bounds of the Presbytery of Pictou. The pitiable condition of our Highland population, for want of religious instruction in a language

which they can understand, has been so often brought before your Committee, both by the Church and by other parties, that I need say nothing on that painful subject, farther than to remind you that there are thousands of our people who do not, from one-end of the year to the other, hear the Gospel preached in a language intelligible to them. Well do we know that none of the blame of this distressing state of things rests with the Colonial Committee. We have abundant evidence around us of your readiness to help us.—The sin lies with the unwillingness of the Gaelic probationers and licentiates of the Church to come to our assistance; and perhaps part of it lies at our own doors, in not giving such encouragement to young men as we ought and might give; and as by our recent organization we feel ourselves in a better condition to do more than we have hitherto been able to do, I am authorised to pledge the Association to the extent of a hundred pounds a year, for three years, in addition to the salary which your committee may give, to any Gaelic missionary you will select, and send out to labour amongst us.

I am, &c.,

JOHN MACKAY.

In advocating the claims of our Gaelic congregations in an editorial article last month, we stated that the Colonial Committee had offered a premium of £100 from their funds in addition to the Committee's usual allowance to any Gaelic preaching Missionary appointed by the Committee to labour in Nova Scotia.—We believed at the time, and we still think, that we had sufficient authority to make this statement, and that we were committing no mistake and inflicting no injury in giving such an announcement. The Colonial Committee, in an editorial article in their July number, assure their readers that they, "the Committee, are still open to applications for Colonial appointments. Information will be given to intending applicants by the Secretary. £100 premium will be given, in addition to the Committee's allowance, to any Gaelic-preaching Missionary, appointed by the Committee to Nova Scotia." Whether they had any reference in this intimation to the liberal offer made to them by the Lay Association of Pictou, it is impossible for us to say, as we can find no allusion to this handsome donation in any of their public notices. It can be no advantage for us to be deceived, and we have no interest in deceiving others. We endeavor to collect facts according to the best of our ability, and we believe there are few who doubt our willingness to do justice to all parties. This is the only defence we have to make for ourselves, and the only reply which we can give to the following letter we have

received from the President of the Lay Association of the Synod of Nova Scotia

FOR THE MONTHLY RECORD:

"In the account given in last Monthly Record of the Colonial Committee's report to the General Assembly, it is said—'And they have (the Committee), since the meeting of the Assembly, given the strongest and most satisfactory evidence of their earnestness and sincerity in this to a most important and urgent business, by offering from their funds a premium of £100, in addition to the Committee's allowance to any Gaelic preaching Missionary, appointed by the Committee to labour in Nova Scotia.'"

"The above is a mistake. The premium of £100 a year is offered by the Lay Association of the Synod of Nova Scotia, out of funds raised in this Country."

"JOHN MACKAY."

New Glasgow, 23d Aug. 1858.

Synod of New Brunswick.

We have much pleasure in laying before our readers in this number of our journal the minutes of the Synod of New Brunswick. The proceedings of the Synod at its different diets were most interesting and satisfactory, and cannot fail to be productive of much spiritual benefit to the numerous members and adherents of the Church of Scotland in that extensive and prosperous Province.

The Synod met at Newcastle on the 15th day of July. The Rev. Mr. Main produced a commission from the Synod of Nova Scotia. The Synod expressed regret at the absence of any delegate from Canada, for reasons explained in a letter from the Rev. William Snodgrass. The Rev. Mr. McRobie was elected Moderator. The Bursary Committee gave in their report. The collection for the year was above £70, and the balance at the credit of the Fund £90; the expenditure for the year had been £76. Three students had been prosecuting their studies in Scotland for the ministry, one of whom, the Rev. H. J. McLardy, had been licensed, and had returned to New Brunswick. Mr. George Caie was admitted on the Bursary Fund as a student at Queen's College, Kingston, and another young man was agreed to be put upon the Fund when sufficiently advanced in his studies.—The committee at the Home and Synod Fund reported. The collection for the year had been £46. The Rev. John McGurdy, of Chatham, and the Rev. Prof. Ross, of Pictou, of the (U. P.) Synod of Nova Scotia, having entered the Synod, were invited to take their seats with the Court, and addressed the Synod. The Rev. James Murray, of Bathurst, was appointed correspondent to the Synod of Canada, and the Rev. Peter Keay to that of Nova Scotia. A letter from Mr. Pate of Kingston, relative to the India Orphanage Scheme, was read, when it was reported that four congregations were supporting orphans, and the Synod anew urged on the members within their bounds to bring the matter under the consideration of their Sabbath Schools. Mr. Donald submitted the report of the Jewish Mission Committee of the Synod of Canada, and reported that there had been contributed in New