

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE.

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IMPORTANT.

Five years ago the Endowment Committee having, by the blessing of God on the growing liberality of members of the Church, succeeded in erecting 150 new parishes, were led by the urgent claims of many districts still unprovided with proper pastoral superintendence to propose a plan for endowing *another hundred churches*. That plan was framed on the supposition that, in the event of a certain central fund being secured, the same rate of progress which had been maintained for some years previously would be continued, and that the hundred churches contemplated might be all endowed in the course of ten years. On this condition the central fund required was contributed by the liberality of a portion of the Church and of her more manifold friends. The plan was put in operation four years ago, and its progress hitherto has far exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its success. The first four years of its history have seen *sixty-five* new parishes erected; and during the currency of this its fifth year its progress has been so much more accelerated by the recent very remarkable increase of the Church's life and strength that now, if the Committee had funds sufficient to meet the local claims for aid, the work which it was supposed would occupy ten years could be readily completed in half the time. Warned by increasing applications last year, the Committee have been doing what they could to increase their resources this year, and were disposed to congratulate themselves as having succeeded in this endeavour, when, on taking into account the results of prepaid subscriptions and fresh donations, they found that they were able to vote grants averaging £1500 to each of 22 cases. The claims for grants are, however, at present greatly in excess of this number; and in

order to enable the Committee to meet cases, the rejection or postponement of which would be productive of serious injury to the Church, no less a sum than **TEN THOUSAND POUNDS** is immediately required. Much more than this can be profitably expended by the Committee, but with less than this they cannot overtake what is essential to the interests of the Church. For this sum, therefore, I have respectfully, but most earnestly on behalf of the Committee, to beg. There are surely some as deeply interested in the welfare and prosperity of the Church as those who have so willingly given us subscriptions or donations of one thousand pounds and upwards, who might realise it as a great privilege to send us sums of like amount in this our not dishonourable exigency. *Ten* such donations would free us from immediate difficulty. *Will you be one of such a Ten?* At all events none will dispute that there are, among the many wealthy members and friends of the Church of Scotland, at least *one hundred* who, whether they have previously subscribed to the Scheme or not, could without any difficulty send us at present each £100. To such I appeal anxiously for aid, with the confident assurance that no money which they have ever contributed to Church objects has yielded such abundant and early fruits as this will do in the furtherance of a work, whose arrest at present would be most disastrous to the Church of Scotland and to the cause of national religion.

WILLM. SMITH,

Convener of the Endowment Committee.
THE MANSE, NORTH LEITH,
January 1876.

In the May number of the *Presbyterian Record* of the "Presbyterian Church in Canada," the Convener of the Home Mission Fund, reports an indebtedness of \$20,500 at that date! Poor prospects for Missionaries! What are congregations doing?