

tants. "Just as the twig is bent the tree is inclined," is a saying, which applied in this connection, reminds us that a young and rising community may be *pre-occupied* by the gospel, and by evangelic influences fortified against infidelity and secularism, much more easily and successfully than *reclaimed*, after it has been left to lapse into semi-atheism. The mark of an evangelic ministry, and we make bold to say of a faithful Presbyterian ministry, is perfectly distinct and legible on many parts of these Lower Provinces; and with a very reasonable and perfectly practicable increase of liberality on the part of our people, and of zeal on the part of our office-bearers, there are many wastes in Newfoundland, in New Brunswick, in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, which would soon become as Eden, and rejoice and blossom as the rose.

Another circumstance to be considered is that the country has already *taken a new start* in a career of progress. This is visible in all these Lower Provinces, but especially in the rapid development of the mineral treasures of Nova Scotia, and in the immense impetus given to education, so that we cannot expect to continue even to retain the hold we now have of the public mind and heart, without *pushing* our Home Missionary agencies. But, surely, this Body will not be content merely to *exist*, to retain its old congregations, and be content within its ancient landmarks. If not *more* honourable than its brethren, we, at least, expect to find her animated with so much of holy ambition as will dictate the prayer, "Oh, that thou wouldst enlarge my coast, and that thou wouldst bless me indeed!"

This blessing indeed—the blessing of God, the blessing which enricheth, which exalteth a nation is what the church should be ambitious to secure for the country in which it exists as a Divine Educator. The real welfare and true happiness of these Provinces do not depend, at all events, in the first degree on the progress of their manufactures and trade, nor on their extent of population, nor in any measure of external prosperity. These rest on *character*, and connect themselves with intelligence, morality, and the Fear of the Lord. What

more glorious mission can this church have than to mould the rising communities of the Lower Provinces, than to help to decide the fate and the future of our Acadia, to aid her progress and to sanctify her prosperity, to conserve her Sabbath, arrest the progress of intemperance, and to advance the reign of the King of Kings in our own beloved land? But these results will never flow from indolence and the parsimonious giving of cents. All who love Christ and their country must *work*, and a new standard of contribution must be acted upon.

ONE BODY.

In every large ecclesiastical body there will be large and also small congregations, churches of old standing and others recently formed, some wealthy and some poor, and yet all constitute *ONE BODY*. Unquestionably the pastors in the smaller, and newer, and poorer, are as well entitled to support as those in the larger, older, and richer congregations.

The payment of supplements is one step in the recognition of this great principle of justice and of finance. Whether a separate fund be instituted for the more successful carrying out of this great principle, or otherwise, this Board may be allowed to express their deep conviction, that the time has fully come when the sustentation principle must be practically recognized, when those receiving aid shall be distinctly recognized not as receiving alms for which they ought to be thankful, but the proper right of those who are bearing the burthen and heat of the day. If distinctions are allowed in honour, *they* are to be esteemed *most* honourable, who, for the Master's cause and love for souls, endure the greatest privations and self-denials, who make the nearest approach to Foreign Missionaries, and who are, in one word, *laying foundations* on which other men are to build. These men are the servants, not of one congregation, but of the whole church, its outposts and pioneers, to guard the hazard of our rear, and to open up, with hard labour, our advance. May their labours be at once blessed by the great Master, and appreciated by His church!

CLOSE.

In conclusion let us all remember that