

In rendering my annual statement, I submitted a list of the Churches contributing to this fund, the number of contributions, and the last date of collection. I trust it will be published, as I am sure some of our friends will feel surprised, if not pained, to find that though they had formerly done something to help the fund, for years they have forgotten it. The circumstances of every Church, heretofore contributing, must be improved with the progress of time; and it can only be by oversight on the part of the Deacons, or a false delicacy on the part of Ministers, if the matter is not, for the future, regularly presented as one of the claims, which the Churches are bound to respond to.

Yours truly,

J. C. BARTON,
Treas. Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

MATERIALS FOR OUR CHURCH HISTORY.—No. VI.

COLONIAL SOCIETY'S AGENT SENT TO MONTREAL.

BY REV. H. WILKES, D. D.

While considering the question sent from London by those who were desirous of helping the Colonies, and especially Canada, and the call from Montreal accompanied by an urgent letter from the Rev. Richard Miles, the writer was visited by Mr. Joseph Savage, of Montreal, who had done much in establishing the cause in that city, and in erecting the place of worship recently opened in St. Maurice Street. It is not needful to the object of these notes to dilate on the many considerations that must occupy the mind of a conscientious pastor, whose labours God had blessed abundantly and was still graciously acknowledging, when it is proposed to him to dissolve his connexion with an attached church and congregation, and to go forth on a new and as yet untried mission. It were easy to fill a separate sheet with instructive personal experience on this point. Suffice it here to say that in April, 1836, the writer took leave of a most loving people among whom he had spent three years of his pastoral life—his first love—and set forth per stage coach for Birmingham and London.

At the "May meetings" the Colonial Missions were organized, as a committee of the Congregational Union of England and Wales. In after years the nature of the connexion was greatly modified. And at the time when so modified, the name was altered to "The Colonial Missionary Society." Immediately on its organization, the writer was publicly designated at the Weigh House Chapel, Fish Street Hill (Mr. Binney's) by solemn religious services, to the work which he went forth to accomplish, and which, through the good hand of God upon him, he has been enabled under various forms of action, to prosecute until this day. It so happened that at the time "The Congregational Hymn Book" was in the press, and as there was no hymn in it precisely applicable to Colonial Missions, Mr. Binney was asked to write one for the Designation service, which might be inserted in the new hymnal. He excused himself, and the late Josiah Conder, who was editing the book, was asked to perform this service. He wrote the hymn No. 905 in the new book, commencing with the following verse, which was sung for the first time at said Designation service:—

"Churches of Christ, by God's right hand
Thick-planted on this favoured land,
If to your heart, His word be dear,
O think of those who pine to hear,
Far from their native shores exiled,
A pastor's voice amid the wild."