

The responsibility of seeing the Home Missionaries remunerated devolves chiefly upon the Board of Home Missions. Deficiencies of payment arising from the supply of weak congregations, and of Missionary Stations, are met by a draft on their funds. Those who have been recently engaged in supplying our vacancies, can testify to the advantages of the system, and to the anxiety of the Board to do justice to the claims which come before them, without being lavish of the funds at their disposal.

For the payment of the passages of ministers coming from Scotland to our aid, the Synod is pledged, and these expenses, it appears, are expected to be provided for by the Home Mission Board. Farther, it has hitherto been the duty of the Board to encourage by pecuniary aid, young men of piety and promising talents, in struggling through difficulties to take part with us in the work of the ministry. In addition to all this, the Board are directed by their constitution and by the Synod, to afford aid to congregations, which, after duly exercising their own energies, are scarcely able to claim the rank of self-sustaining congregations.

To all these objects the Board has appropriated its funds for 1849. Missionaries and Students have been benefited. All our Missionary Stations have been revived to some extent. Forty pounds have been voted (only a part being yet paid) to two congregations, the one recommended by the Truro Presbytery the other by the Pictou Presbytery, as requiring aid. The passage of one minister, who has proved quite an accession to the body, has been paid, and by the opening of the spring, we may have the gratification of welcoming another. Now to meet all these urgent and necessary claims, it will be seen by an examination of the account for 1849, that in free contributions, the congregations have not given one hundred and twenty pounds, a sum scarcely equal to what the children have collected for Boats for Messrs. Geddie and Archibald. Most of the congregations have contributed liberally to the Foreign Mission, and have again a second time contributed in Boat Money a larger sum than was solicited or required. In the mean time, it should not be forgotten, that only one

half of the congregations have given any thing to the Synod's Board, for extending the gospel in Nova Scotia, and that of the whole sum freely contributed, two congregations, without diminishing their aid to the Foreign Mission, have given more than the fourth part. In these circumstances, can it be believed that Ministers and Sessions have set before congregations the wants and the claims of the Church at Home? Had they all done so, there would not now be any deficiency in our funds.

The different churches are hereby informed that the Home Treasury is empty. The expenditure has not been lavish, for in nearly all cases, it has been made at the request of one or other of the Presbyteries. Yet at this moment, they have not one farthing at their disposal, and unless funds are supplied, no farther appropriations can be made until the meeting of Synod. Having stated this matter plainly, the Board, I presume, will leave the matter to the action of Sessions and Missionary Societies throughout the body? Until convinced by painful experience, they will not believe that our church is content to be a Stationary Society. But unless we are willing first to stand still, and then to fall behind, we must move forward steadily to possess the land. It is conceded on all hands, that our opportunities for progress were never greater; shall we at such a juncture, by a stinted liberality, paralyze the energies of our Domestic Board? On the contrary the Board believe that their funds will be sustained, handsomely sustained, if the different Sessions will give the subject that prominence before the congregations, which it is, on all grounds, and in every aspect in which it can be viewed, fairly entitled. If the proper means be used, the desired ends will be attained, but not otherwise.

Writing at a late date, I add no more, lest I should thus be excluded from your Feb. No. I have written hastily by direction of the Board, but as they have not seen the letter, I alone am responsible for its contents.

P. G. MCGREGOR.

Sec. pro tem.

Halifax, Jan. 23d, 1850.