

So deep is our sense of the value of these services, that we would earnestly deprecate the breaking up of the system. We feel satisfied that without visitation the treasury of the Mission would most grievously suffer. The visits of a paid agent are out of the question; the present voluntary plan is far healthier and more efficient. Nor is it a mere question of money: nothing would take the place of the missionary meeting, as a means of keeping up the fellowship of the churches. Doubtless, there can be great improvements made in the actual working of the present plan; and these are well worthy of the best forethought of all friends of the cause. The whole subject of raising missionary funds is under the immediate supervision of the District Committees; and we would respectfully suggest to these bodies, that, before the next annual meeting of the Society, they consider the subject afresh, and bring it before the "collective wisdom" of the body in June.

It is a trite remark, but it is a very true one in respect to this subject, that "it is impossible to please every one." There are some difficulties in the conciliation of Ireland to Great Britain, and of Nova Scotia to the Dominion of Canada, and in the reconstruction of the Southern States: but the statesman that could solve all these problems would still be baffled in drawing up a missionary programme that would exactly suit every pastor and every deputation.

## MATERIALS FOR OUR CHURCH HISTORY.—No. IX.

THE ANCIENT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AT SHEFFIELD, N.B.

BY JAMES WOODROW.

The River St. John, from its discovery by De Monts until the latter part of the eighteenth century, was the scene of many a combat. On its waters and on its banks the French and Indians met from time to time their English foes. Sometimes the French flag waved, sometimes the English. At one time it would seem as if the Roman Catholic faith would predominate, and in turn the Protestant would have a fair chance. There were settlements and forts at the mouth of the Gemsec, the Nashwaak, and St. John, and a village at St. Ann's (now Fredericton). At length the crisis came. Governor Cornwallis sent Major Lawrence to Cumberland, now the border county of Nova Scotia, to drive out the French, but he failed. There was no retreating with him, however, and he set to work to keep the French in check. Building a fort called Fort Lawrence, he held his ground with a handful of men; until a force, mainly of Massachusetts Puritans, came to their aid. The French were soon compelled to capitulate, and were allowed to march away with military honors. A part of the Massachusetts expedition sailed for the mouth of the St. John, which they captured, and the French retreated up the river to St. Anns, which they subsequently burnt, and then went on to Quebec. The demolished fortress at St. John was soon built and garrisoned by a company of Rangers. Major Lawrence having become Governor of Acadia or Nova Scotia, and desiring the settlement of the country by New England people, issued a proclamation in 1758, announcing his readiness to receive proposals for the settlement of the vacated lands or any others within the Province. This proclamation met with a response among the New England Puritans, a number of whom agreed to settle on condition that civil and religious liberty would be guaranteed, the Church of England being then the legally authorized Church in Nova Scotia. The