

The Monthly Record.

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THE Church of Scotland has of late been making more progress than her most sanguine ministers and people could have expected. Some time ago a scheme was devised by which one hundred parishes would be endowed in ten years. That this measure might be a success and a really felt want supplied, the people came forward readily and entered into it heartily; so that, in *five* years, the work of ten will be all but accomplished. Neither is this the only direction in which her attention is turned, and her energy put forth. The "Association for augmenting smaller livings" has not only been organized, but its promoters and supporters have for some time been working with an earnestness and a determination which can only be found where there is real life, and where there are men who see what is ultimately to be for the good of the church. We shall take a glance at this smaller livings scheme, to give our readers an idea of what the Mother Church is doing, and because it is akin to the purpose for which we are writing this article.

Annually, for this fund, the sum of £15,000 is required. How is it, it may well be asked, that this large amount is to be raised? Large as the sum is, the Association did not anticipate any great difficulty, and arranged the following plan, which is of a threefold nature:

1st.—The subscription of a capital fund of £125,000, yielding a yearly revenue of £5000 from interest.

2nd.—Annual contributions amounting to another £5000.

3rd.—Contributing from local sources the remaining £5000. When we reflect that there is already the subscribed capital of £46,500, the interest of which, last year, amounted to £1826—that this part of the scheme is farthest behind, and that the wealthy are coming forward with their two thousands there is no doubt that this will be as great a success as any scheme which the church has yet attempted.

Now, if such is being done on the other side of the Atlantic, are we not able to accomplish a somewhat similar work on this side, though not on such a gigantic scale? We are, and to such a work, the Presbytery of Pictou, at a meeting on Oct. 24, have set their shoulders with the expectation and earnest hope that the people to a man will give their hearty support. The scheme the Presbytery has agreed upon is for the purpose of making the church, in due time, self-sustaining. The plan on which it is to be worked, is somewhat similar to that of the Association for augmenting similar livings, viz. by raising a capital sum, say \$16,000 by annual contributions and otherwise, the interest of which will render the Presbytery self-sustaining. We do not look for this being done at once, but we are convinced that in seven or eight years that which to some appeared an impossibility, as the eye first rested upon the figures, will be accomplished.

For many reasons, to some of which we hope to refer in our next, it has been considered advisable to enter upon this scheme. In the meantime the committee is to meet on the 15th inst., in order to mature the scheme. C. D.