

Union of 1860, have never emerged in any shape or form whatever. Nobody knows who is or who is not a "Voluntary." All are willing to do what they can to promote the cause of Christ and of sound morality in any sphere in which they can exert their influence. The Union of 1866 has also been a blessing to the Church, widening her sympathies, exciting to greater effort, and bringing clearly to view the necessities of our Presbyterian brethren in the great Province of New Brunswick. About this Union we may say as we have said of the first, that none of the evils which were anticipated have arisen in connection with it, and that in the meetings of the Synod Provincial lines of division are unknown. These facts are highly encouraging. They show that if we follow the path marked out for us by our Master, His presence will go with us and He will prosper and establish the work of our hands.

The work of the Church in all its departments has prospered. There are but few of our old congregations that have not been materially strengthened within the past ten years. Souls have been gathered into the Redeemer's fold, sometimes in large numbers, but more generally the increase has been steady and slow. Our Communion rolls are probably one-third larger. We have more than kept pace with the increase of population around us. This is not much to say: it is truly nothing to boast of: yet it is at least calculated to stimulate us to more zealous and self-denying effort.

The salaries of our ministers have been handsomely increased, not everywhere, we are sorry to say; yet the increase has been sufficient to raise the general average. There is a feeling abroad that it is disreputable to starve a minister, or to cheat him, or break faith with him. Manses have multiplied on every hand. A good, comfortable, house for the minister is coming to be considered a congregational necessity. The system of paying the stipend in advance is also becoming popular—as it certainly deserves to be.

We have a reliable Fund for the Widows and Orphans of our ministers. The Fund is not yet eight years old, but it has already

proved its usefulness. We have also made a fair beginning with an Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund.

A Supplementing Fund has been organized and administered with most beneficial results to the weaker sections of the church, and to the stronger sections too; for it has been the means of drawing forth their fraternal liberality towards those who require their aid. This Fund enables the Church to give practical expression to the christian principle, that we should bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ,—and that the strong should help the weak.

The Home Mission work of the church has been very liberally supported, and has been attended with marked success. The Gospel has been carried to lonely and desolate places heretofore rarely visited by any one with the message of salvation. The number of young men willing to devote themselves to the works of the ministry is increasing—too slowly indeed; yet there is increase.

Our Foreign Mission work has borne a sadly discouraging aspect once and again since the Union of 1860. At this moment we have but one representative—the Father of the Mission—in the New Hebrides. But we have two Missionaries in a new and most hopeful field in Trinidad; and two more on their way to the New Hebrides, and several young men are preparing to enter the foreign field in coming years. Young men appear more willing than ever to devote themselves to the Mission work; and the people are abundantly willing to contribute the necessary funds.

A most hopeful and gratifying circumstance is the cordial feeling which exists between our own church and other evangelical churches, especially other Presbyterian churches. Sounds of strife, or even murmurs indicative of misunderstanding seldom reach us. O happy relief from the clangor and bitterness of sectarian feuds!

But the most encouraging feature of the present condition of the Church is the gracious Revival of religion which prevails so widely, and which has already produced such blessed effects. Never before was our church gladdened with such good news as.