

any kind. For some considerable time past, an impression, founded on the best accessible information, has prevailed in the Committee to the effect that the members of our Church in this colony were less energetic and liberal than they might have been for the support of their pastors and the advancement generally of the ecclesiastical system to which they adhered. It would, when taking this view, be grossly unfair to overlook the gradual decay in recent years of the lumber-trade, long the great staple in New Brunswick, which has arisen from no lack of enterprise among the colonists, but simply from the exhaustion of easily and profitably accessible timber. Applying their best judgment, however, to the actual state of the case as it was reported to them, the Committee deemed it their duty to withdraw some of their grants in aid of stipend and considerably to reduce others with the view of stimulating increased local effort. Still, as the tabular statement shows, they have had seven congregations on their list as stipendiaries. Besides, they have sent out as a missionary to St. John, the capital of the province, the Rev. Mr. Cale, a native of the colony, whose studies in the arts' classes were completed at Kingston, C. W., and in theology at our metropolitan University, and whose character, abilities and acquirements have inspired the Committee with the highest hopes of his professional success.

The Synod of *Nova Scotia*, including *Prince Edward's Island*, *Cape Breton* and *Newfoundland*, is, as regards endowments, no better furnished than the adjacent colony of New Brunswick. The spirit, however, and the liberality both of the ministers and the people connected with our Church in these provinces have lately, to some considerable extent, compensated for that deficiency. Salaries to seven missionaries and grants in aid of stipend to two ministers, as stated in the tabular view, were contributed for the last year by the Committee, both classes of payments having been materially modified from the first amount, and admitting of further gradual reduction in consequence of the active efforts which have been made to raise a local fund for Church extension. One Gaelic speaking missionary—the Rev. Mr. Anderson—was sent out a few months ago from home; but there is still a pressing want of labourers, partly in *Nova Scotia* and especially in *Prince Edward's Island*, where, for settlers from the Highlands of Scotland and their descendants, a knowledge of the Gaelic language is, if not quite indispensable, yet certainly of the greatest importance. The transference of the Rev. Mr. Law from *Pugwash*, on the peninsula, to the island just named, which has been proposed by the Presbytery of *Pictou* and sanctioned by the Committee, may infer a better distribution, but obviously cannot increase the strength of the ministerial work within the bounds of the Synod. A contribution of £50 to the cost of building a church at the Mines in *Pictou*, granted on the usual conditions as regards the title deeds and the extinction of all debt against the property, completes the narrative, for the year, of the Committee's operations in this part of the Colonial field.

Instead of the usual report from the venerable superintendent of Missions in *Nova Scotia*, the General Assembly will, this year, meet with a mere blank. Forty years ago, and somewhere about five years after his arrival on the shore of his adopted country, the Rev. John Martin preached at *Truro* on the 31st day of May 1825, the first sermon—said to have been an able one—before the first Presbytery which was constituted in the colony. Throughout a long life, the ardor of his attachment to the parent Church was balanced by its unswerving constancy, and crowned by a measure of professional activity which

may justly be characterized as prodigious. Undeterred by any distance of place or by any inconvenience of time, he was incessantly employed about the great Father's business; often ministering, as he could find opportunity, among the sons of toil, at early dawn, on the quays of *Halifax*; and always ready at the call of duty, reckless alike of fatigue and of storm, to carry the consolations and the ordinances of the faith by which he was inspired to the homes of the remotest settlers in the province. Of few men since the days of the chiefest Apostle could it be more truly said than of John Martin, that he was "instant in season, out of season"; and to his exertions and example, heartily seconded by younger colleagues, the recent awakening and Christian energy of the *Acadian* branch of our Church are, no doubt, under the Divine blessing, in some good measure attributable. Nor were his patriotic labours confined to the strictly professional routine. "His religious paper—*The Guardian*—was devoted principally to the cause of his Church and of sound morality;" and for years, also, he edited *The Monthly Record of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and the Adjoining Provinces*—a periodical which, for interest and variety of matter, may challenge a comparison with any publication of the kind in the old country. Ten years ago, Mr. Martin resigned the charge of St. Andrew's, *Halifax*, and by the Colonial Committee of the time was appointed to the new, and perhaps anomalous office of "Superintendent of Missions," with a salary not more than nominal. It may be presumed that this arrangement was devised with the benevolent intention of providing an honourable retirement for a faithful labourer whose overtaken powers at length needed repose and exemption from both toil and care. But Mr. Martin's was not a spirit which could brook any mere sinecure; and during seven more years, besides exercising a vigilant supervision over the ecclesiastical affairs of the province, the white-haired old man devoted himself, indefatigably as ever, to ministerial work in its remoter and more destitute localities. These later efforts were followed by a seclusion of about three years, imposed on him by increasing infirmities; towards the end of autumn last his health began to fail rapidly; and an obituary notice, quoted from a colonial paper of February, records the rest:—"Died at *Elmsdale*, on the 22nd inst., in the seventy-fifth year of his age, after a lingering illness, borne with humble and pious resignation to the will of his heavenly Master, the Rev. John Martin, for many years pastor of St. Andrew's Church in *Halifax*, and more recently Superintendent of Missions in connection with the Church of Scotland. He has now gone to receive the reward of a good and faithful servant, having laboured long and earnestly in the cause of his Redeemer."

In order that their recent operations in *British Columbia* and the state of the Mission there may be made thoroughly intelligible, the committee venture to prefix a few retrospective remarks to the section of their report which relates to that colony. More than six years ago it was resolved to send a minister of our Church thither; and by a succession of advertisements, offering a guaranteed salary of £300 a year, applicants for the appointment were invited to present themselves. For several years, however, no response was made to these invitations; and the incidental costs of the Special Commission to *British Columbia* pressed so heavily on their resources that the committee were by no means averse to postpone temporarily an enterprise which they had never abandoned or forgotten. At length, nearly two years since, deeming their funds to be sufficiently disburdened for warrantable action, and