

the Board for this year will be similar to the past, endeavoring to find ministers for vacant charges. Herein it is that our circumstances are at this moment perplexing. A glance at the records of our Church within the last few years will show that we have not had so much difficulty in getting ministers to come to the field, as in keeping them. There has scarcely been a year in which we have not had a number sent out from Scotland. But as regularly as these men have come, a corresponding number has departed. If this has been an evil in the past, it will be a much greater in the future, unless provision is made against it. Our country is changing, the expense of living is increasing, the labours are becoming greater, and yet our ministers have had no increase of salary. They are not going to ask the people for such an increase as altered circumstances demand, but, when they cannot live in a way that is becoming to them, and meet the payment of expenses, and at the same time make some provision for those who may be depending on them, they will be compelled to go where they can do better for themselves and families. For this reason it is the feeling of the Board that something should be done with the object of increasing salaries in proportion to the increase of living in the country. Indeed the usual salary should be \$1000 per annum, this being an increase of \$270. There are some congregations which could and should do this without being supplemented. There are others, however, from whom such a large increase could not be expected. This increase we cannot hope to make up by our own efforts. The greatest pressure has been brought on Presbyteries and congregations by the Board, and, as there are so many who will not do their part, there is little hope that, with our present number of churches, our general Home Mission Fund will be largely increased. It is suggested to Synod that Presbyteries should be enjoined to visit those congregations in which the salary is below \$1000, and urge them, if possible, to make up this sum. Where they cannot do so, there should be a grant from the Synod's Home Mission or the Colonial Committee. In connection with this grant, it is the opinion of the Board that it should be in no case a sum larger than the increase by the congregation, and that even then after two years it should diminish annually at least \$20.

Part of last year's report was devoted to showing that the reason why we did not extend as a Church, was because—not having a Divinity Hall—we had no catechists to break up new ground and occupy small stations. The Colonial Committee extracted this part, and embodied it in its report to the General Assembly this year, probably as containing views worthy of the consideration of the Colonial Churches generally. Our history for the past year has further tested and confirmed the correctness of those views. The first catechist employed by this Board was Mr. Geo. L. Gordon, sent us by the Colonial Committee two years ago, with the object of laboring in Cape Breton in summer, and studying in Dalhousie College in winter. The experiment succeeded so well that last year the Board employed another Arts Student acquainted with Gaelic, to labor as Catechist also in Cape Breton. Both succeeded so well that not only have they been re-engaged this summer, but the Halifax Presbytery has engaged two others who are doing excellent work in stations not yet able to support ministers, and for which, even were they able, we have no ministers. These four students draw from the funds of the Board only \$250 in all, and they are as well adapted for the fields in which they labor as licentiates. What, however, can show how anomalous our present position is, more than the fact that in all probability we shall lose the services of these very men when they would be most useful, namely, during their divinity course? and losing them then, we may lose them altogether. It is during a student's divinity course that he is most likely to offer himself as a catechist; and, building up in that period two or three stations into a congregation, he gets attached to the people, while, at the same time, he is training himself for his life-work by that experimental, practical training, which all other professions recognize the value of.

The collections during the past year have increased, but, as usual, many congregations have disobeyed the injunctions of Synod. Fourteen made no collection for the Synod's Home Mission, and twenty made none for Presbytery Home Missions. Comment is unnecessary. Less has been drawn from the Colonial Committee than ever before.

The amount collected by us, great as it is in comparison with what was given a few years ago, by no means represents the real progress of the Church in self-sustentation. To ascertain that, we must add to our \$2616, the great part of \$5000 we drew then from the Colonial Committee over and above what we now draw. That large sum was either wasted from defective organization, or given to supplement congregations that are now self-supporting, and whose collections, while appearing as tens of dollars, are really the hundreds saved to the Colonial Committee. Thus, Georgetown,