

paring himself for the ministry, and of the demands of various kinds made upon him in that position. This holds in respect of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, but there are reasons for a somewhat more liberal treatment of those who are called to labor in the North-West. In order to be placed, or continued, on the list of Augmented charges, congregations, except under certain special conditions, must contribute, at least, \$450 per annum to their ministers' stipend (\$500 in cities, Manitoba and the North-West) and a manse, or rented house, or make an allowance of \$50 (\$100 in cities) per annum, towards house rent; and not less than at the rate of \$4.50 per communicant, or \$8 per family, in cases where the disproportion of members to families is exceptionally large or small, towards stipend, at the same time contributing to the Augmentation and other Schemes of the Church. Let it be testified to the credit of such charges that they have almost, if not entirely, fulfilled the obligation laid upon them, and that their liberality has been greater than in the generality of self-supporting charges, the average contribution of the latter being \$8.07 per family, and \$4.44 per communicant, and of the former \$11.82, and \$6.34.

At the 1st April of the present year there were 156 congregations on the Augmented list, there being only 3 Presbyteries of the 40 in the field which had none, namely, Whitby, Superior and Edmonton. The total number of families in the 154 Augmented charges for the year ending with the March previous was 8,244, with 1,284 single persons, representing a population of about 42,404, of whom 14,743, or about one-third, were members in full communion. The amount of stipend promised by these charges was \$98,383, giving the average per family and communicant above stated; and there were also contributed to the Schemes of the Church \$21,957.73, or an average to each charge of \$142.60. Manses were provided in 97 instances.

That ample safeguards are provided against undeserving congregations being placed or continued on the list will be acknowledged when it is stated that applications are in the first place subjected to a careful and rigid scrutiny by the Presbytery within whose bounds the charges are

situated; that there is also a Committee in each Synod before which each must come yearly, thus supervising the action of Presbyteries; and finally, that there is a Committee of Assembly, before which each one is discussed in all its details, and the fullest pains taken to ascertain and decide upon its merits.

The history of the Scheme shows that it has accomplished praiseworthy ends in very many cases, and it may be said in every Presbytery, it has helped Mission Stations to attain the standing of settled charges, and many of these charges to become self-sustaining. Did circumstances permit full proof of this could be adduced by an induction of examples. Reference is made to instances mentioned in the Report of the Assembly's Committee for last year, and there are several charges now on the Fund which in a year or so will decline any further grant and fall back upon their own resources; and it is to help them in their efforts, and to allow of others being taken on from Mission Fields, and which are sadly in need of aid, that this appeal is made to your judgment, your heart, and your liberality.

Ministers and Sessions are respectfully asked to examine the Financial Statement of the Augmentation Committee as it appears on pages 106 and 107 of the appendix to the Printed Minutes of last Assembly. It will be there seen that there are only 2 Presbyteries in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec that had no Augmented charges. It will also be seen that there are 13 Presbyteries that have contributed to the Fund less than they have drawn from it, and that 10, or reckoning in the 2 without charges, 12, more. Even in some instances in which the amount contributed has been largely in excess of the amount drawn, there was room for giving on a larger scale. Every minister and Session, and let us add Presbytery, is earnestly asked to examine the list, and solemnly inquire as to duty in the circumstances.

During the past year the Committee, as the Report states, have been unable, through want of funds, to gratify their desire to receive all deserving applications, and grant the help sought. The importance of the claim was felt; the force of the arguments pleaded in their behalf was acknow-