

Dominion of Canada. The means of communication by railways and steamboats between Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island having become easy and cheap, the greatest barrier in the way of union has been removed. And when the same facilities of travel open up intercourse with the west, the relations of the Church in the maritime provinces with the Synod of Canada, may be expected to become more intimate for effective co-operation in their common work.

*Nova Scotia.*—In the return to this country, for a time at least, of the Rev. James Macdonald and the Rev. W. M. Philip, and in the transference of the Rev. A. McKay, M. A., from Gairloch to Alexandria, Lochiel in Glengarry, Canada, and of the Rev. D. M. Gordon, B. D., from Truro to Ottawa, the capital of the Dominion, the Church in Nova Scotia has lately suffered serious losses.

A new demand for help has at the same time arisen out of the abundant success of the labours of the Rev. Messrs. George and Charles Grant at Halifax; a demand which the Committee are most anxious to be able immediately to meet by sending out a suitable missionary to that Presbytery.

The Committee continue all their former grants in Nova Scotia, and are encouraged by satisfactory reports of the work which these grants sustain.

*Cape Breton.*—From this interesting field of Colonial Missionary work the intelligence bears ample testimony to the untiring energy and devotedness of our missionaries, the Rev. N. Brodie and the Rev. James F. Fraser, and to the courage and earnestness of their people in circumstances of peculiar trial.

At Plaister Cove, the families adhering to the Church of Scotland prepared to build themselves a church. During the previous winter they had supplied wood required for the building, and laboured in the erection (Mr. Fraser reports) with earnestness and enthusiasm. After performing personally "much of the work required, their hopes were sadly disappointed. Early in July, when the building was nearly completed externally, it was maliciously set on fire, and entirely consumed. The value of the property destroyed was estimated at not less than 600 dollars, none of which was covered by insurance. This is a sore blow to our people there. It was not without self-denial they contributed towards the erection of the church, and most of them are poor. All that is known as to the origin of the fire is, that it was undoubtedly the work of an incendiary, and though there are grounds for suspicion, the crime has not yet been brought home to any one." Undaunted, however, by the discouragement, "at a meeting called for the purpose of considering the matter, the congregation unanimously resolved to begin and erect another."

*Prince Edward Island.*—In their Report of last year the Committee referred to the prospect of openings in Prince Edward's Island to wide and important fields of Colonial Mission work. Allusion was thus made to the fact, that, by the death of the Rev. Donald Macdonald, a ministry of singular popularity among the highlanders of Prince Edward Island had been brought to a close, and that many congregations—some of them large—gathered by the indefatigable labours of a wide itinerancy, had been left as sheep without a shepherd.

The Presbytery of Prince Edward Island met the appeal made to them by the bereaved flocks as best they could. The visit of Mr. Brodie, our missionary in Cape Breton, was taken advantage of, and for part of last summer he laboured to supply the lack of service in Prince Edward Island. But more permanent arrangements to help the Presbytery were demanded by the circumstances.—The Colonial Committee, therefore, resolved to send them a missionary, and the Rev. Jas. MacColl accepted the appointment.

From the Rev. A. M'William, Georgetown, and the Rev. G. W. Stewart of St. Columbia and St. Andrews, the Committee continue to receive the most satisfactory intelligence of the progress of their work.

*New Brunswick.*—The capital of this province has claimed the attention of the Colonial Committee through representations made to them by the Rev. Dr. Brooke, whose long and faithful labours in Fredericton have well deserved the respect of the Church both at home and in the colony. As the result of anxious consideration of all the circumstances, the Committee have resolved to send, and to aid in supporting, an assistant to Dr. Brooke.

Both missions at Portland, St. John, and Rothesay, continue remarkably to flourish, under the blessing of God on the ministry of the Rev. George Caie.

From Richmond the Rev. J. Kidd reports gratifying proofs of the progress of the work he pursues with so much fidelity among his widely scattered flock.

The retirement from St. Andrews of the Rev. John Ross, after more than thirty years of faithful service, has led to the call of the Rev. Peter Keay to fill that charge.

From the Missions in the Presbytery of Miramichi, the Rev. Frederick Home has been called to the Church of Bathurst, in the neighbouring Presbytery of Restigouche.

The Committee receive encouraging intelligence of the earnest labours of the Rev. William Wilson at Campbellton, Restigouche, to whom, with the Rev. James Murray at Dalhousie, they have continued grants in aid; besides a grant, in special circumstances, for one year to the Rev. John Well's New Richmond.