

Church, Pictou, on the last Tuesday of June, 1882, at 7.30 P. M., of which public intimation was given, and this Session was closed with praise and the benediction.

R. McCUNN,
Synod Clerk.

COPY LETTER.

REV. R. McCUNN, CONVENER HOME
MISSION BOARD TO REV. DR. GRAY,
CONVENER, GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S
COLONIAL COMMITTEE.

The Manse, River John,
10th March, 1881.

REV. AND DEAR SIR:—I am instructed by the Home Mission Board of the Synod of the Maritime Provinces in connection with the Church of Scotland to write to you as Convener of the General Assembly's Colonial Committee, to desire you to have the goodness to place before the Committee the statement I am now to make.

I can state, in a very few sentences the substance of what I have to say.

The committee is probably aware, in some measure, of the embarrassed position in which we have been placed on account of the reduction last year of their grant in aid of stipends. We are well assured that the reduction was made, not willingly, but of necessity.

Our chief cause of concern is, lest, in the present state of your funds, any further reduction should be necessitated. We have reasonable ground, however, for expecting that the same grant be voted this year as last, and accordingly that is the request that I am authorized very earnestly to place before you, and I am asked very urgently to plead that if at all possible it may be granted.

Last year's reduction caused a considerable reduction of the stipends of our four supplemented ministers, and any further curtailment would probably lead to the withdrawal of most of them from our field. One writes a few days ago, "I very much fear I shall be obliged to demit my charge on the ground of inadequate support."

It seems a pity that anything should occur to hamper us, or hinder our progress, especially at the present time, when we have attained the very best position we have ever reached in Pictou County. We have now eleven settled ministers, while the single vacant charge, W. B., E. River, has called the Rev. P. Melville, M. A., on whose settlement we shall have reached for the first time in our history the happy condition of having twelve settled ministers, and not a single vacant charge. All that is wanted to ensure the continuance this state of things, is the committee's grant for another year or two, when our own supplementing fund will be operation.

When it is remembered that there is not another locality in any colony of the Empire with so compact an ecclesiastical organization in connection with the Church of Scotland, we feel assured that the Committee will, if at all within their power grant a request so exceptional in its urgency.

I enclose a concise statement, reprinted from the RECORD, from the pen of the Rev. R. Burnet of Pictou, describing the progress made, during twenty years, by one of the four supplemented charges. Unquestionably to the fostering care of your committee this congregation owes its very existence, and it is hoped that another year or two would place it beyond the necessity of help.

Every one acquainted with our agricultural districts in Nova Scotia knows that our people, though staunch and steadfast adherents of the Church of Scotland, are slow to move in matters financial, and we have to be content with very moderate improvement in this direction.

The four charges requiring aid are situated in rural districts, with the exception of part of Rev. Mr. McKichans' which now embraces the Vale Colliery, and in consequence of this extension the congregation may soon become self-sustaining.

The Board will consider it a very great favor if you can possibly let us have a reply to this our application, say by the end of April, our semi-annual