

Lesson Helps has been published in St John, N.B., for the Assembly's Sabbath-school Committee, by their energetic Convener, Rev. T. F. Fotheringham. These Helps are excellent and have won wide favor. From a small beginning they have grown to many thousands. The work, however, has become so great that it is no longer possible for Mr. Fotheringham to attend to it and do the work of his congregation as he would like to do, so that if these are to be continued, some change is absolutely necessary.

On the other hand, considerable debt has been incurred in the undertaking, and to appoint one whose special work it would be to attend to them, would mean additional expenditure, which the Assembly could not see its way clear to undertake.

The editor of the "Record" was asked if a combination of these publications with the "Record" was possible or feasible. He said that if the Assembly could see any possible way of continuing the Lesson Helps under the management of Mr. Fotheringham, who has wrought so long and faithfully at them, he would much rather they should do so, as he had all he could in trying to make better the missionary periodicals of the Church, to which he hoped soon to make an addition. If, however, the financial difficulties in the way prevented this, rather than allow these lesson helps to cease publication, he would undertake for a time the management of them in connection with the "Record."

The Assembly then decided to place the Sabbath-school Lesson Helps in the meantime in charge of the "Record" Committee, and beginning with January, 1898, they are to be published from this office. We bespeak, in advance, the hearty co-operation of all our ministers, elders, and Sabbath-school teachers, in the effort to provide Lesson Helps by our own Church for the children of our own Church.

The Assembly also instructed the Sabbath-school Committee to take steps towards raising a sum for the removal of the existing debt and for some recompense to Mr. Fotheringham for the years of hard work he has so freely given. It is hoped that the friends of S.S. work will give a hearty response.

#### COLLEGES.

The reports of six Colleges were submitted and considered.

Pres. Coll., Halifax, had 46 Theological students the past session, of whom 14 graduated. The college was never more prosperous or more worthy of hearty support. The Board is authorized to ask the Synod's approval for a Library Building. Morrin College, Que., has eight of its undergraduates preparing for the ministry, some of whom were taking Theological classes. From the Presbyterian College, Montreal, eighteen students graduated for the work of the ministry, the largest class in its history. Queen's had 49 in Theology, the largest number ever registered in that faculty, and of these, 16 completed their course of study. Knox College, Toronto, sent forth a graduating class of 22 to the work of the ministry; while Manitoba College has 23 students attending its summer session in Theology, most of whom were in winter supplying Home Mission Fields in the North-West. Our six Colleges this year have had an "output" of nearly 80 ministers for the work of the Church.

Are all these Colleges needed? There is not room just here to show how necessary each one is in its place and sphere. Suffice it to say that each was thought so necessary by the founders that they sacrificed much to establish it; that much of the money given for their founding was from friends near where they are established, which would not have been given to the Church in any other way; that each college is doing a special and necessary work in its own sphere; that the neighbourhood of such a college keeps alive a deeper interest in the whole work of the Church; and that while some of them may seem more necessary than others, no one of them could be closed without more or less of hurt to the work of our Church, and the cause of Christ.

#### HOME MISSIONS.

Friday evening was "Home Mission night," and, as usual, a good one.

In the Eastern Session, the debt of \$3,690 at the beginning of the year has been reduced to \$1,597, of which \$1,264 was given by the C. E. Societies, many of which last Autumn voluntarily undertook to give 25 cents per member for this object. The Committee expects like generous help from the Young People this year, toward the grand work of winning our country for Christ. The total