

of their hope of assistance from Scotland has been (says Principal Snodgrass, in a letter received a few days ago) that the Trustees of King's College, compelled to borrow, are now "about eight thousand dollars in debt." In the view of all these circumstances, the Colonial Committee propose to vote £200 as a donation in aid of current expenditure, and as some token of the cordial sympathy of the General Assembly with the Canadian Synod and the University Trustees in their anxious efforts to maintain and increase the efficiency of their college. From the Presbyteries of Ottawa, London, and Perth, the committee continue to receive very satisfactory reports of the mission work within their bounds, to which grants-in-aid have been voted.

**SYNOD OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES.**—The operations of the Home Mission Board, under the able presidency of the Rev. George M. Grant, of Halifax, N. S., have amply fulfilled the excellent promise of growing efficiency. In view of signs of increasing energy, so creditable to the life of the Church in the Maritime Provinces, it is matter to the Colonial Committee of great regret and anxiety that they have been unable to respond so inadequately to the urgent demands for missionaries, both Gaelic-speaking and English. In the suburbs of Halifax, for example, Richmond and North West Arm, are two stations increasing in importance. Mr. Thomson, who laboured there, has left for the Pacific coast, and for months the committee have endeavoured to find a successor. From the changes that have taken place, Cape Breton has been left without a single minister or missionary of our Church. Amid so much to cause regret and anxiety in fruitless efforts to supply this lack of service, the Colonial Committee have been gladdened by receiving most encouraging reports of the success of labourers already in the field, whom it has been a privilege to assist in their work. Chief among these is the Rev. George J. Caie, of St. Stephen's, St. John, New Brunswick. He deserves the utmost credit for exertions which have succeeded in giving our Church a new position in St. John. The committee have had much pleasure in acceding to the suggestion by the Home Mission

Board of a small building-grant to finish some necessary additions to St. Stephen's Church, and to leave it free of debt. They would thus convey to Mr. Caie the assurance of their high appreciation of his unwearied labours. The committee have also received with the utmost satisfaction an excellent report of the result of the first year's labours of the Rev. Peter Melville, an assistant to the Rev. Dr. Brooke, Fredericton, N. B.

**UNION AMONG PRESBYTERIANS IN CANADA** has for some years past engaged the anxious deliberations of many ministers and members of the Presbyterian Churches in the dominion. At the last meeting of the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, the subject was brought up by overtures from three out of the six Presbyteries in the Synod, and by a letter from the Rev. Dr. Ormiston, United Presbyterian minister in Hamilton, and, after serious consideration, the Synod "heartily and unanimously agreed" to a motion approving of the object contemplated by the overtures, appointing a committee to meet with similar committees of the sister Presbyterian Churches, in order to prepare, should they deem it expedient, some basis of union to be proposed to the several Churches, and, among other preliminary steps, resolving—"That intimation of the Synod's action be given as soon as possible to the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland, and their opinion on the subject be requested." In pursuance of that resolution, the Moderator of Synod, the Rev. A. Pollok, of New Glasgow, addressed a letter to the convener of the Colonial Committee, asking "their advice on the matter." Mr. Pollok's letter reached its destination early in September, when it was very difficult, if at all possible, to convene a meeting of any kind in Edinburgh. As many members of committee, however, as were within reach were immediately consulted, and a reply despatched, of which, when laid before them at their next meeting, the committee "cordially approved." The purpose of that reply was to maintain the policy of non-intervention in all such matters which the General Assembly has hitherto consistently pursued towards the courts of the Colonial Churches.