

timation was made to the Church in New Brunswick that such aid could not, under these circumstances, be continued to any of the Maritime Provinces, and "that it was desirable that Presbyteries and people should understand it." An earnest appeal was made not to withdraw assistance at once, on the ground that many of our ministers would have to leave the country for want of competent sustentation. The Committee then agreed to continue giving to the Church. These facts being known to the H. M. Board, when it was first organized in 1868, it was wisely resolved that as many of our congregations as possible should either be made self-sustaining or be supplemented by our own Home Mission funds. It was urged, with this object, on supplemented congregations, that henceforth they should do as much as possible for themselves, and that our stronger congregations should be more liberal in their Home Mission collections. The result has been most gratifying. Our supplemented ministers and missionaries have been regularly paid the usual salary, and, for the year ending August 1, 1874, we have only to draw from the funds of the Colonial Committee £180 as against £1308 five years ago. Of this sum named for the present year, £20 10s. 9d. is for the Rev. Simon Halley, who came out last October to act as assistant to the Rev. Dr. Brooke of Fredericton. As Fredericton has never applied for assistance to either the Presbytery of St. John or the H. M. Board,—Mr. Halley remaining at Fredericton in virtue of a private arrangement between Dr. Brooke and the Colonial Committee, the Board cannot, consistently with the duties imposed on it by the Synod, continue to include the amount received by him with the amount ostensibly given only to weak and supplemented charges. The balance, as can be seen from our financial statement, has been divided in various sums between River John, Pugwash, McLellan's Mountain, Tabusintac, Nashwaak, Woodstock, and St. Andrews. The last three congregations named have drawn very much less this year than formerly. If this could be said of all, it would be more satisfactory. It is to be feared, however, that in some cases supplements have been received so regularly, year after year, that they will be asked as long as they are likely to be given. These have paid no regard to the urgent appeal of the Board to do as much as possible for themselves. It would be gratifying to find all supplemented congregations resolving to draw less and less annually, let the amount of reduction be ever so small.

Ever since the Board was organized, almost nothing has been done in the way of Church extension. Indeed, we have not been in circumstances to extend. When it is remembered that we have in the field only the same number of ministers and missionaries that we had five years ago, it will be apparent that our work has necessarily been confined almost entirely within our usual limits. With the exception of a new congregation at Spring Hill in the Presbytery of Halifax, nothing has been done or attempted in the way of Church extension. Much credit is due to the Presbytery of Halifax for their activity and energy in this matter. In the report of last year, to supply the charges then vacant, it was shown that we required at least six ministers—three Gaelic and three English-speaking. We have since been crippled by the lamented death of the Rev. Peter Keay of St. Andrews, and by the departure of the Rev. Allan Pollok of New Glasgow, the Rev. Geo. J. Caie of St. John, N. B., and the Rev. Mr. McDougall, of St. John's, Newfoundland. The loss of these ministers to our Church can scarcely be over-estimated. They were able, zealous and devoted laborers. But, while we have lost these, we have received the Rev. Mr. Coull, the Rev. Mr. Galbraith and the Rev. Mr. Neish, who have been inducted into the vacant charges respectively of New Glasgow, Bathurst, and Musquodoboit. We have also received the Rev. Mr. Robertson, who is now acting as missionary within the Presbytery of Halifax. Thus, within the year we have lost four and gained four. Consequently, as to numbers, we are now where we were last year. The Board had been informed that in a few weeks the Rev. A. J. MacKichan, from Scotland, will be in the field, and, as he is a Gaelic preacher, his services will be invaluable in the Presbytery of Pictou. The Rev. James Murray has resigned his charge in Dalhousie, but, as there is a probability of his being inducted into the Church of Wallace, vacant by the translation of the Rev. James Anderson to Newcastle, he is not to be lost to the Synod. The Rev. Donald McRae has been called by the congregation of St. Stephen's Church, St. John, N. B., and has notified his acceptance of it. It should also be recollected that Mr. Moffat's connection with the Presbytery of P. E. Island has ceased. Consequently, the Board will have in hand, at the close of our Synod, eight vacant charges, not including Cape Breton, viz :—St. Andrew's, Dalhousie, West and East Branches East River of Pictou, Barney's River, Springhill, St. Peter's and Brackley Point Roads, Orwell Head and De Sable, and St. John's, Newfoundland. We have only the certainty of two missionaries—Mr. Robertson and Mr. MacKichan. Thus the work of