

Missionary and Benevolent Funds.

The following are the Schemes for which the General Assembly appoints collections to be made annually in all the Congregations and Mission Stations of the Church:—

I. Home Missions. The Home Mission fields of our Church are in many respects the grandest that any Church was ever privileged to occupy—extending from sea to sea, a distance of nearly 5,000 miles. The work of supplying religious ordinances to Presbyterian families in the more remote and sparsely settled districts devolves upon two Committees—one for the Western, and the other for the Eastern section of the Church, known as the Maritime Provinces. Together, these two Committees employed last summer, more than 300 missionaries, of whom upwards of 100 were ordained ministers, who conducted services at about 730 different places. The expenditure was \$56,605. The amount required for the current year is estimated to be \$61,500, calling for enlarged contributions from the congregations all along the line. The number of missionaries employed in the *Western section* in May last was 229. The expenditure was \$48,953. This year, owing to the extension of the work in the North-West and British Columbia, the Committee ask for \$53,000.

II. Augmentation of Stipends. This fund was instituted six years ago by the General Assembly with a view to supplementing inadequate stipends in some of the smaller and financially weaker congregations, the desire of the Assembly being that none of the ministers should receive less than \$750 a year with a manse. The effort has thus far been successful. But last year there was a deficit of \$3,768 in the Western section, which this year requires \$30,000. The Committee of the Eastern section ask for \$8,000. Many of the congregations, at different times receiving aid from this fund, have now become self-sustaining, but on the other hand, new congregations are being added to the Church every year, some of which require assistance for longer or shorter periods. On the principle that the strong should help the weak, this fund should be generously supported, for "*whether one member suffereth, all the members suffer with it.*"

III. French Evangelization. There are 38 ministers and missionaries employed in serving 89 preaching stations, in which are 1,062 families, 1,417 communicants and 1,075 Sunday-school scholars. 2,796 copies of the Bible and 23,800 French tracts and pamphlets were distributed last year by the colporteurs of the Board. The attendance at the mission schools was 912 pupils, of whom 324 were the children of Roman Catholic parents. In the Pointe-aux-Trembles Schools there are at present 140 pupils. A new institution was opened last October in Ottawa, under the auspices of the Board, for the higher education of young women, and in which special attention is given to instruction in the French language, it is named Coligny College, and occupies the spacious building formerly known as the Ottawa Ladies' College. The total amount required this year by the Board is \$73,000, viz: \$30,000 for the general work; \$9,000 for the maintenance of the Pointe-aux-Trembles Schools; \$9,000 for the enlargement of the buildings at Pointe-aux-Trembles, and \$25,000 for the purchase, repairs, and equipment of Coligny College, Ottawa.

IV. The Colleges. Since 1887, when the Common College fund was done away with, the congregations contribute to the respective Colleges as their judgment sees fit to dictate. So far as they have been published the estimates for the current year from congregational sources are as follows:—For Knox College, Toronto, \$6,500; for Queen's College, Kingston, \$4,400; for the Presbyterian College, Montreal, \$4,500, and for Halifax College, \$9,500.

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