

THE
Home and Foreign Record
OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

APRIL, 1864.

COLLECTIONS FOR THE SCHEMES OF THE CHURCH.

The time is approaching when the supreme court of our church will hold its annual meeting, and we wish now to call attention to the various funds of the church. Most of our ministers bring up their collections at that time, though we think that in most instances it would be better to take them at intervals during the year, than to have them crowded together into the few weeks preceeding the meeting of Synod.—Our funds instead of being full at Synod and begging during the greater part of the rest of the season, would in that way be in a position to meet more regularly the demands made upon them through the year. Our design however, at present, is not to consider the mode or times of raising collections. This the Synod leaves at the discretion of Sessions. Our object is briefly to set before our readers the state of each fund, and the claims which each presents to their liberality.

It is unnecessary to speak of the Foreign Mission Fund. That fund appeals for itself. It never needs advocacy. Since the Foreign Mission commenced among us, there may have been times when from special expenditures the funds have been reduced, but there never was a time when our Board was straitened for want of funds. We are happy to say that it is still in a position, that the inquiry is not, how can we induce the church to give what we require to carry on our operations, but how can we enlarge our operations, so as to keep pace with the liberality of the church. At the meeting of

Synod last year, there was in the Foreign Mission funds the sum of £1239, and though there will be a considerable extra expense this year, connected with the sending out of three missionaries, yet this will be more than sufficient to meet the whole expenditure. We do not say this with the view of discouraging contributions for the present year. As the remittances to missionaries are made soon after Synod, it is necessary to have a large sum on hand at that time, and during the present year, the Board will likely be involved in extra expense by Mr. Geddie's expected visit to this country.—Still we have no fear of want of funds, and we do think that the Synod is earnestly called on to devise liberal things, and endeavour to extend her Foreign Missionary operations. We are only now as to the number of our Missionaries in the same position as the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia alone was before the Union.

When we turn from the flourishing state of our Foreign Mission Treasury it is with pain that we contemplate the state of our Home Mission fund, from year to year making piteous appeals to the church for the means of carrying on that important branch of the church's operations, even on a scale very inadequate to the wants of the country, and the necessities of the case.—During the last year the receipts of this fund amounted to £379. 14s 3d while the expenditure amounted to £376 6s 11d but besides this there was expended the whole balance of a legacy, left by Mr. Matheson for Home Missions, amounting to 71 12s 9d. So that the whole expenditures of the year were 447