

own machinery agoing, free from the encumbrance of past debts. Many of our people will doubtless contribute their large sums for this most important object, and we hope that every member will endeavour to give not less than twenty cents. Presbyteries will also require to deal faithfully with Mission Stations which are in arrears. If these things are done well and generally this year, the prospect is fair that so far as finances go, our New Mission Scheme will be successful.

The Committee after much earnest thought adopted the following as the principle by which grants in aid should be made to Mission Stations:—that the Presbytery having determined how much should be paid by the Station per Sabbath, the Committee would grant a sum varying from \$1 to \$4 per Sabbath, to such for every Sabbath on which a Missionary laboured there. A plan containing the proposed grants to each Station, has been prepared and sent to each Presbytery for consideration. Till such time as the proposed system of Grants has been reconsidered and completed by the addition of stations and congregations not yet reported, it would be premature to say more on this point.

Attention is particularly called to the scarcity of Missionaries. We fear that because there are a few men on the probationers' list who do not receive calls, some people suppose that we have too many missionaries. This mistake will surely be corrected by the above figures: *Forty one vacancies and twenty-eight probationers; Fifty-five groups of Mission Stations and three Missionaries.* As a general thing our efficient probationers are readily settled, and we hope, by timely grants to weak congregations, to be able, by and bye, to prevent the necessity of many of the resignations which now occur. Our probationers' list will be much reduced in size, but we can never expect to have a list on which no unacceptable preachers will be found.

In many of our Mission Stations Catechists, both English speaking and Gaelic, might be advantageously employed, and Presbyteries that can procure the services of suitable men will render the church good service in doing so. There is in many quarters a prejudice against employing laymen in mission work. The Synod, however, has sanctioned the measure, and there are among us not a few men of piety, intelligence, and speaking-talent, whom Presbyteries might recommend to be employed as catechists. The visitations, exhortations, and labours generally of such men have been useful in the past, and as there seems, in the present dearth of licentiates proper, a call to the Church to employ them again, we may expect a blessing to follow our doing so.

Our Theological students, to the number probably of thirty, will be available during the summer months, but that number will not do more than give half the supply required. The present demand for labourers is very clamant, and we hope that ministers and people alike, will unite in prayer to the Master: "Send forth labourers," and at the same time *do what they can* to provide and educate them. Let us bear in mind the extent of destitution the "Fifty-five" stations reported, probably should be in all "Sixty-five" Mission Stations; including, *one hundred and thirty-five preaching stations, and*