

efforts in supplying Preaching Stations and vacant congregations. It is true, also, that many of the Ministers, in endeavouring to supply the destitution of religious ordinances that prevails, undergo an amount of labour and of personal sacrifices unsurpassed by those Missionaries who are carrying on their work in the land of Idolators. But is it not a right and befitting thing that all the Presbyteries of the Church should bear an equal share of the expenses incurred in carrying on such operations. It may be some of the Presbyteries are able to contribute more largely than others, in temporal things, and these very Presbyteries, within their own proper limits, have less demands made upon them for supply; and hence the propriety of a common Synodical Fund, that the wish of the Apostle may be realized, "For I mean not that other men be eased and ye burdened; but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance may also be a supply for your want, that there may be equality," and does not the adoption of this course form a beautiful exemplification of the unity and catholicity of Presbytery, and of its consequent admirable adaptation to evangelistic undertakings, both in Home and Foreign fields? By reason of the great distance of many of our congregations from each other, even within the bounds of the same Presbytery, there is a great liability on the part of these congregations, to act apart and for themselves, and thereby practically to slide into something like Independence. And, perhaps, there is no better way, in the circumstances, for obviating this, and preserving this important characteristic of Presbytery, than for the Church, through her highest Judicatory, to call upon all her congregations, to contribute to general objects, in which all are alike interested, according to the blessing of the Lord our God upon them!

Last year, the first attempt was made by the Free Church of Nova Scotia, to have three Missionary Collections, at fixed periods, in all the Preaching Stations and Congregations; and though the result in regard to some of these schemes was not so great as might have been anticipated, it was, considering the many obstacles to be overcome, in a country like this, sufficient to impart encouragement, and to make us entertain high hope for the future. In the subjoined statement, the receipts and expenditures

of the Home Mission Scheme, for the past year are given. From that statement it will be seen that the sum of £87, 4 11½, was raised, by which the Committee were able to give assistance in supporting three Catechists, all of whom, from the testimony of the Ministers under whom they are placed, seem to be devout, and laborious, and useful men. Prince Edward's Island is still the most destitute locality within the bounds of the Church, and the Committee has as will be observed, expended a considerable amount of the money placed at their disposal, in defraying the travelling expenses of Ministers to and from that Island. No small portion of the Fund too went to the payment of the Salary of the Rev. Mr. Honeyman, who acted as Tutor of Hebrew in the College, and otherwise rendered his services available to the Church. As the Church at large became responsible for his support, and received the benefit of his services, it seemed advisable to the Committee to allow their proportion assigned out of this Fund.

And now, let me express the hope that the collection this year will far exceed the collection of last year. However creditable that collection was, in the case of several congregations, I am thoroughly satisfied that much more might be raised, both by the amount of the collections of various congregations, and by the number of the congregations contributing towards this object. As will be seen from the statement, some large congregations, and not a few preaching stations, did not make any collection last year at all. This may have arisen from a variety of circumstances. No Minister may have preached in these settlements at or near the time when the collection was ordered to be made, and our adhering population may not thus have been duly apprized. It is earnestly hoped that there will not be one Preaching Station, either in Nova Scotia proper, or in Cape Breton, or Prince Edward's Island, that will not have a collection this year, and the various Presbyteries will I trust endeavour to make such arrangements as shall afford all an opportunity of giving unto the Lord, on behalf of this Fund. The preaching Stations are the most deeply interested in this scheme, and unless they shew a willingness to contribute according to their means, it cannot be expected that they can be helped by its Funds.

And now, let me express the hope that all our Ministers, Office-bearers, and