

Christian experience, and with a fair knowledge of the word of God, should give a "word of exhortation." Elders especially should be ready to speak a word in season, in the absence of a pastor or preacher. There are very few congregations where God has not placed some men—one or two or three—upon whom He has bestowed ability enough to take part in such meetings. Catechists and "men" in the Highlands of Scotland, and in some sections of these Provinces, have often been of great use in this way. "Local Preachers" have been the right hand of the evangelistic machinery of Methodism. The Presbyterian system, theoretically and historically, authorizes such work. Many sections of the Maritime Provinces would wear a different moral aspect to-day had we been careful in the past to make the most of our privileges and advantages.—Well: we cannot recall the past, but we can, and we must, care for the present and the future.

We hope that Presbyteries will take order, in declaring a Pastorate vacant, that public worship shall be maintained in the vacant charge, whether there be supply of preaching or not. It may in some cases be necessary to *enjoin* upon sessions to do their duty; but, generally, they will only require a little judicious encouragement. Let, then, the whole machinery of the congregation be kept in operation. Let the people bring their gifts and offerings as usual to the House of God. If they have no pastor to support, that is no reason why they should be deprived of the privilege of giving their money to the Lord. There are other schemes of the church that are in want of aid. It would also be prudent to accumulate enough funds to pay the new pastor at least three months in advance.

Of all that we wish to say, this is the sum and substance:—

1. Keep up regular meetings in every vacant charge on the Lord's day,—in all sections of the congregation, just as would be the case were a minister settled in the charge.

2. Keep alive the Prayer Meetings and Sabbath Schools.

3. Let collections be regularly made in

the usual way,—just as if there were a settled minister in the charge.

4. Presbyteries, in declaring congregations vacant, should make the best possible arrangements for securing the regular observance of public worship, and the regular gathering in of the free will offerings of the Christian people.

IMMIGRATION.

Active steps are now being taken in our sister province of New Brunswick to promote immigration. Fifty families from Kincardineshire, Scotland, purpose coming out in the Spring, and are to be located in Victoria County. Information has also lately been sent across the water that the new colony will receive one hundred families, and it is quite likely that this number will come out. These families will all be Presbyterians, and the colony is to be divided into four districts, each district having a church and school-house. It is also considered highly probable that 500 Scottish Emigrants will land in St. John next spring, and proceed north.

This may be just the commencement of a tide of immigration to our shores, which shall eventually people a large part of our forests. Upon the church then will devolve the duty of supplying with the Bread of Life those who leave the land of their nativity, and make these Lower Colonies their adopted home. To neglect these parties as they come among us, or to refuse to supply them with ordinances of the gospel, would be recreant to duty. Their spiritual wants must be attended to, and when they come from a land where the means of grace have been richly enjoyed, the demand is still more pressing to supply them with the bread that never perisheth.

Through immigration then our Home Field may rapidly widen and extend. A large number of people may yet be thrown upon our hands, demanding some attention from us. New settlements may yet be formed, springing up into mission stations and eventually congregations, requiring the care and culture of Presbyteries. The nourishing of these stations and the