

no doubt discouraging and injurious to the interests of the congregation, yet we rejoice to say that there are favorable circumstances in regard to some of them, which it becomes us to mark, with gratitude to the Great Head of the Church, as indicating that they have not been forsaken of our God, though destitute of settled pastors. This appears in the increasing liberality shown by some of our vacancies in providing for the maintenance of pastors, showing increased attention to the subject, a deeper impression in regard to the obligation resting upon congregations in regard to this duty, and also a better acquaintance with what is necessary for the support of a minister in the present day. Other congregations have put forth most creditable exertions in church building, notwithstanding their disadvantages from want of a fixed pastor.

MISSION STATIONS.

The following stations formerly occupied, have been supplied in the ordinary way, viz.: In the Presbytery of Halifax—Rawdon, Cheverie, Annapolis, Digby, Cape Sable Island, Ragged Islands. In the Presbytery of Pictou—Baddeck.—In the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island—East Point, Bay Fortune, and Bannockburn, besides some smaller outstations. In several of these are indications of progress, the Missionaries report increasing attendance on the preaching of the Word, and increased desire after further supply, and in several, good progress has been made in church building. At several points it is extremely desirable that ministers should be settled, either by granting aid from the Home Mission Fund, or by several stations, which are now unable to support a minister singly, being combined in one ministerial charge.

Beside these supplied in the ordinary manner, the stations of Wallace River, West Chester Mountain, Acadia Mines, and Folly Mountain, in the Presbytery of Truro, have been regularly supplied by the Rev. Daniel McCurdy, who has been located among them during the past year; and such has been the progress made that these are now applying for a moderation in a call to one to be their settled pastor.

The Board in their report last year recommended the adoption of this system, and they are still persuaded that it would be much more successful than the system hitherto adopted, by which stations re-

ceive only short and occasional visits from our Missionaries. The insufficiency of labourers must hinder the carrying out of this project at present, to the extent that is desirable, and until our vacancies are supplied we do not expect that it can be largely adopted. We hope, however, that in due time this want will be supplied.

NEW STATIONS.

Besides these, two new positions of importance have been occupied, viz.: Charlottetown and Bridgetown. In the former, according to the resolution of Synod, operations were commenced immediately after the meeting of Synod, a hall was engaged, at first every alternate Sabbath, and more recently every Sabbath. Following up the appointment of Synod the Presbytery of Pictou gave supply as long as the navigation was open. Since that time supply has been given by the brethren of the Prince Edward Island Presbytery, and by Mr John Currie and the Rev. James Thomson. The beginning has been small, but the progress made has been as rapid as could have been expected under all the circumstances. Ground has been purchased in an eligible position for building, and preparations made for the erection of a place of worship. For this an appeal has been made to the congregations, not only in the Prince Edward Island Presbytery, but in other parts of the Church, particularly in the Presbytery of Pictou, and the response has been most liberal. It is due to the brethren of the Prince Edward Island Presbytery to say, that this has been in a great measure owing to their personal liberality, each member having shown his interest in the matter by a large and liberal donation. The amount subscribed in the congregations in Nova Scotia has been £ ; and in the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, about £500.

We cannot but hold up the example here set as expedient in similar cases.—In commencing a formation in towns, where large expense has to be incurred in building, and where a site will cost more than the whole building in a country locality, small congregations are often greatly embarrassed in attempting to erect an edifice and support a minister. They become involved in debt, which is as an incubus to weigh them down and hinder their progress. Were similar liberality exhibited by the older portions of the church, our new formations, in