

This large number would be considerably increased, were returns sent from defaulting congregations. It is thus evident, that the claims of the College require to be urged more earnestly upon your Congregations, until every one has contributed its share towards its support. Your Committee regret, that the recommendation of last year, in regard to Mission Stations collecting for the College Fund, has not been carried out, as they have a peculiar interest in its success and very existence.

As might have been expected, the other schemes are still affected by the pecuniary state of the country, and have not yet attained to their former prosperity in 1856, notwithstanding the large increase in the number of communicants. There is, when compared with last year, a slight increase in the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and in the Presbytery's Home Mission Fund, and a decrease in the other three schemes.

The number of non-contributing Congregations to these schemes is herewith given, without specifying names,

FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Presbytery Montreal, 11 Con.,	Presbytery Cobourg, 2 Con.
" Ottawa, 2 "	" Toronto, 2 "
" Brockville, 2 "	" Hamilton, 10 "
" Kingston, 3 "	" London, 3 "
Total.....34	

SYNOD FUND AND BUXTON MISSION.

Presbytery Montreal, 11 Con.,	Presbytery Cobourg, 1 Con.
" Ottawa, 2 "	" Toronto, 1 "
" Brockville, 3 "	" Hamilton, 7 "
" Kingston, 3 "	" London, 3 "
Total.....29	

FOREIGN MISSION.

Presbytery Montreal, 11 Con.	Presbytery Cobourg, 6 Con.
" Ottawa, 2 "	" Toronto, 10 "
" Brockville, 3 "	" Hamilton, 14 "
" Kingston, 5 "	" London, 9 "
Total.....58	

MINISTERS', WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

Presbytery Montreal, 12 Con.	Presbytery Cobourg, 2 Con.
" Ottawa, 2 "	" Toronto, 8 "
" Brockville, 3 "	" Hamilton, 3 "
" Kingston, 1 "	" London, 3 "
Total.....31	

PRESBYTERY'S HOME MISSION FUND.

Presbytery Montreal, 12 Con.	Presbytery Cobourg, 4 Con.
" Ottawa, 2 "	" Toronto, 4 "
" Brockville, 3 "	" Hamilton, 17 "
" Kingston, 1 "	" London, 1 "
Total.....38	

Taking into account the number of reporting Congregations, (120) and multiplying them by 5, the number of Collections enjoined by Synod would be 600; of these the number neglected has been 190, or nearly one-third, and this large number would be increased, were full returns sent in. Your committee consider that so large an omission calls for more stringent action of Presbyteries. In 1856, the number was only 27; in 1857, 39; in 1858 103; in 1859, 57; and in 1860, 190.

It should be remarked however, that during the past year many Congregations did not take up the Foreign Mission Collection, in consequence of there being no mission in operation.

Notwithstanding the great depreciation in the value of all property, He who owns the silver and the gold has been pleased so to add to the property of our Church, that every year marks a gratifying increase. In 1856, it was valued at about \$350,000; in 1857, about \$390,000; in 1858, about \$440,000; in 1859, no return; and in 1860, about \$190,292. This valuable property is not, however, the free inheritance of our Church, being burdened with a debt of upwards of \$100,000, a sum the interest of which alone would comfortably support ten ministers. With a Church so loaded with debt, Congregations cannot be too cautious about involving themselves in expensive Church-building. Your Committee fear, that heaven is working in this respect, which in our towns and cities may lead to disastrous results. Churches as well as individuals, should try to carry out the scriptural injunction, "Owe no man anything, save to love another." In conclusion your committee take the liberty of mentioning that the protracted labor connected with the preparation of this Report, has been lightened by the marked tokens of progress, which such a toilsome survey discloses,—and that too during a period of which the commencement was marked by great material prosperity, and its close darkened by the continuance of a most prostrating crisis. During this latter period, it is not surprising that our schemes have been seriously affected, and that many of our ministers have had to contend with want and poverty, a state of matters which returning prosperity will doubtless remove. On the other hand, though immigration has nearly ceased, and many have been driven from the Province, our Church has nobly passed through so severe an ordeal. The Communion roll of nearly 14,000, in 1856, comprising in a spiritual point of view, the bone and sinew of every Church, has increased to nearly 20,000, as shewn in the returns sent in. The ministers now number 149, instead of 110, being an increase almost of 10 each year. Upwards of 37,000 are reported, as from Sabbath to Sabbath receiving the law at their mouth. More than 300 prayer meetings do homage to a prayer-hearing God. Christ's servants are surrounded by 700 elders, many of them zealous fellow laborers in saving souls, and between 2000 and 3000 little ones have been dedicated to Him, who said—"Suffer little children to come unto me."

Your Committee have no means of correctly ascertaining what sums have been contributed to the schemes of other denominations, and to general religious objects, such as the Bible Society, though it is well known, that the contributions of our people to such purposes, are large and liberal. And in connection with this they suggest, that those Congregations which are visited by the Agent of the French Canadian Missionary Society, be exempted from taking up the collection for that society, enjoined by the Synod.

As, notwithstanding the efforts that have been made, it has been found impracticable to present this Report, along with the Statistical Return and Financial Table, in a printed form at the opening Sederunt of this Court, your Committee, with a view to this desirable object, commend to the attention of the Synod, the plan laid down in an overture from the Presbytery of Cobourg.

They also suggest that the following alterations be made in the columns of the forms of return.

1. That two separate columns, headed "Deacons" and "Trustees or Managers" be merged into one.

2. That the columns headed "Diets of Worship,—Average Attendance, &c.," be struck out.

3. That the column called "If Vacant, amount paid for supply," be omitted, and the sum put under the head of "Contributions" not otherwise reported.

4. That the columns entitled "Value of Church Property" and "Debt on Church Property" be inserted only once in five years.

5. That the column "Is there a Manse?" be struck out, and that the 3rd column of the Financial Statement be "Stipend promised, with or without Manse."

6. That the columns on Stipend Fund, be as follows,—“Stipend promised, with or without Manse,”—“Stipend really paid,”—and “Arrears actually due.”

7. That the various columns be numbered and short explanatory notes annexed when necessary.

8. That a Committee be appointed, for the purpose of preparing Account-books, which shall be available for the various Congregations, as the returns shew great irregularity in keeping Congregational Accounts.

9. That the Presbytery Clerks be ex-officio members of the Committee on Statistics.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN GRAY,
Convener.

Toronto, 14th June, 1860.