

alternative of curtailing our Home and Foreign Mission work, greatly emphasizes the necessity of giving earnest attention to the subject of Systematic Benevolence, but is by no means the only reason why the Assembly took the action which it did. It is of much importance that we should continue to hold the fields, at home and abroad, already in our possession, but it is still more important that an intelligent and conscientious liberality should aid in developing the Christian character of our people, and should provide for the steady and continuous extension of the Church's work.

The total revenue of the Church last year, for all purposes, as reported by the Finance Committee, was \$1,580,818. Of this amount \$193,453 was devoted to the Schemes; all the rest went for congregational objects. The amount which will be required for congregational uses during the current year, will be somewhat in excess of last year; the estimates for the Schemes are as follows:—

Home Mission Proper (Western Section)	\$46,000
Stipend Augmentation, " "	30,000
Foreign Missions (East and West).....	79,000
French Evangelization, including School and Buildings at Pointe-aux-Trembles, etc.	52,000
College Fund—Montreal, Queen's and Knox.....	14,500
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund (Western Section).....	10,000
Widows' and Orphans' Fund, " "	5,000
Manitoba College, exclusive of amount from Synod of Mani- toba (East and West).....	10,000
Assembly Fund (East and West).....	4,000
Home mission (Eastern Section).....	7,000
Stipend Augmentation (Eastern Section).....	8,100
College Fund, \$10,000, from Congregations.....	3,000
Bursary Fund " "	700
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, \$2,600, from Congregations	800

It is unnecessary to show the importance of maintaining all these Schemes. Their very names are their sufficient vindication. The duty of bearing our part in providing supply of ordinances for our fellow-countrymen through this wide Dominion is not questioned. As little can it be doubted that we should use our utmost effort to send the Gospel to those who have it not, in every part of the world. Neither of these great objects can be accomplished unless the Church is provided with properly qualified labourers. No humane or Christian man will deny that we should care for aged and infirm ministers who have spent their strength in our service, and for the widows and orphans of ministers.

In comparison with most other branches of the Church, the record of our own Church in supporting missionary and educational work is highly creditable. We cannot but observe, with gratitude and encouragement, that the liberality of the Presbyterian Church in Canada on behalf of missions has been steadily rising. Not only are larger sums annually contributed, but the increase somewhat exceeds, we think, the ratio of our increase in wealth. There are many individuals in connexion with our Church who are giving very liberally, and, according to the standard commonly applied, there are not a few congregations that are doing well. It is right to say this in acknowledgment of the grace bestowed upon the Church, and in commendation of the sincere devotion to the Redeemer manifested by growing numbers. But we cannot—we dare not—say that the Church, as a whole, comes up to its duty and privilege in the matter of giving, so that nothing farther is to be expected in this regard. What is given by our people for all religious and benevolent purposes is a long way short of the proportion of revenue required of God's ancient people. We do not here attempt to estimate the percentage of income devoted by the Presbyterian Church in Canada to the Lord, but it is probably not greatly different from that of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, which has been recently computed to be rather less than the sixteenth part of income, or about six per cent. The question of the permanent obligation of devoting the *tenth* to the Lord would require fuller consideration than we could here give it, but surely it cannot be maintained that the Christian Church has discharged her duty when she has fallen short of this standard. In any case, we should strive to do the utmost possible for that blessed cause and