

are filled, and giving, for both congregational and missionary purposes, is vastly improved.

During the year, Union Centre and Lochaber, Sherbrooke and Goldenville, Scotsburn, Hermon and Saltsprings have been settled. The congregations of Glenelg, Merigomish, and Little Harbor are still vacant.

Within our bounds are 39 churches. The same number was reported last year. It is expected that a church will be erected at Port Mulgrave during the Summer. The number of families reported this year is 2811, 29 more than last year, Merigomish reports 20 families less than in 1886. Vale Colliery shows a decrease of 40 families. On the other hand Blue Mountain and Barney's River report 215 families; last year this congregation reported only 165 families.

We are persuaded that the column devoted to "single persons not connected with families" is one of much interest and importance to congregations in towns and villages. In 1885, 86 such persons were reported, in 1886, 198, and in 1887, 139. United Church reports 20, Hopewell 30, Snaron Church 12, Vale Colliery 25, Antigonish 7, Knox Church 19, Isaac's Harbor 10, and Glenelg 5.

In 1885 the number of communicants added to the roll by profession of faith was 265, in 1886, 473, in 1887, 572. The total number added during the year by profession of faith and certificate is 657; from this we deduct removals, 331, and we find there is a gain of 326. Thus our roll which in 1885 was 4739, in 1886, 5191, is now 5653.

The number of baptisms was, infants 267, adults 11, total, 278.

In 1885 the attendance at weekly prayer-meeting was 2400, 1886, 2592, in 1887, 2736.

In 1886 Merigomish, enjoying the services of a pastor, reported 200 attending weekly meetings. In 1887, now a vacancy, the number is only 100.

In 1885, 2565 were reported as in attendance on Sabbath schools, in 1886, 2771, in 1887, 3119. The number engaged in Sabbath school work is 380. There are 3925 volumes in congregational and Sabbath school libraries.

Eight missionary associations are reported and 18 auxiliaries of the W. F. M. S. We now come to finances.

The amount of stipend reported as paid

by congregations is \$16,424. It is worthy of note that none of our charges receives anything from "Augmentation of Stipend Fund."

Arrears to the amount of \$75.00 are reported by our congregations.

The total expenditure for strictly congregational purposes in 1886 was \$28,266, in 1887 \$27,783.

The following congregations have contributed to all the schemes of the church. United Church. Hopewell, Prince St., James Church, East River, Union Centre, Vale Colliery, Antigonish, Knox Church and West River and Green Hill. Stellarton and Westville contribute to all excepting Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund.

In 1885 the Presbyterian College received \$330, in 1886 \$336, in 1887 \$433. Manitoba College received \$39. Nothing was received for Home Missions from Merigomish, Sherbrooke and Scotsburn. To this Fund our contributions were \$924. An increase of \$425 in two years.

It is gratifying to be able to report that all pastoral charges have contributed to the Augmentation Fund. This is one of the most worthy objects within our reach and the Presbytery of Pictou, which draws nothing from the Fund, has been year after year one of the first to report that "the amount asked for has been forwarded."

All congregations have contributed to French Evangelization excepting Merigomish. This Fund received \$743.

There are no blanks under the heading, "Foreign Mission Fund." The amount acknowledged in this column was in 1885 \$2573, in 1886 \$2861, in 1887 \$3550. This indicates substantial progress.

Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund received \$104. In 1885 the amount was \$80. In 1886 \$275.

To the General Assembly Fund \$58 was contributed, in 1885 \$58, in 1886 \$73.

Our total payments to the schemes of the church amount to \$7047. The total in 1885 was \$5902, in 1886 it was \$6316. This comparison indicates progress. The total from each congregation is as follows, United Church \$1400, Prince St. \$735, Antigonish \$641, James Ch. \$564, Stellarton \$526, West River and Green Hill \$443, Knox Church \$388, Hopewell \$369, Vale Colliery \$326, Westville \$296, Blue Mountain and Barney's River \$230, East River \$206, Union Centre \$198, Scotsburn \$190, Sherbrooke \$141, Glenelg \$131, Little Harbor \$118, Merigomish \$65.