

small sum of 7½d. were asked and obtained from each of even only 8,000 members each six months, the sum of £500 would be yearly raised, and that without any sacrifice after all being rendered by a professed Christian people in behalf of the cause of Christ." But are there none of our members in country places, as well as in our towns, who, if properly applied to, would contribute beyond this? Surely they would, or shame betide them. Cases of poverty doubtless will be found, but these are rare. We are happy to understand that it is the intention of some of the country Ministers, to propose to their Congregations their being divided into districts with Collectors to receive, at the end of each six months, their contributions in this way, meaning to take no less and to ask for no more than 7½d. though more might be given; this plan not to interfere with the usual Annual Collections appointed by the Synod. Though it may at first be difficult to work, this plan augurs well of success ultimately.

We trust our readers will bear with us in urging upon them liberality in this cause. It will be seen that the Financial Committee of Laymen appointed by the Synod, have an unpromising work before them, yet they have cheerfully undertaken to do their best, confidently resting in the hope of being supported by their Lay brethren throughout the Province. It will be seen that they are without funds, nay, with an existing debt of about £350. They are required to meet, on the 21st instant, the first Quarterly payments of the Salaries of the present year to the Missionaries, requiring three hundred and forty dollars. The Ministers of the Church as a body have done their duty in starting this Scheme, and they are willing to support it by all means in their power. Shall the Laymen feel supine in this matter? We believe not. It has long been proverbially said that our Church is the Church of the people, that they love it, and are ready to support and defend it. In this case, which it is the interest, privilege and duty of the whole body to support as well as the Ministers, let us hope that a cordial co-operation with our Pastors shall not be lacking. We have great satisfaction in assuring our brethren, that, from the true Christian zeal, devoted piety, and hearty anxiety in their work on the part of our Missionaries, there is every hope of success under the blessing of God. But, we feel, it is not enough to prove ourselves to be a Christian Church, if we rest contented merely with wishing, or professing to wish, well to religion either in our own hearts or in those of others, if we are backward in affording the means of support to those who devote themselves to their Master's Work.

As the existing debt has evidently been caused by many of the Congregations not having Collections, it is hoped that such defaults will be immediately implemented

and that our Town Congregations will follow up an after recommendation of the Synod of having their Extra-ordinary Collections in this current month of September instead of the month of May, which was considered more suitable to those in Country localities.

REPORT OF THE FRENCH MISSION COMMITTEE GIVEN INTO THE SYNOD ON 14TH JULY, 1848.

The Presbytery of Montreal, in presenting to the Synod a Statement of the present condition and prospects of the French Protestant Mission in Canada-East, beg leave respectfully to refer to the accompanying Reports of Mr. Lapelletrie detailing the work of his late Mission to the United States, Britain and the Continent of Europe, in raising funds in behalf of erecting buildings connected with said Mission, and which Reports are herewith laid on your table. Your Committee also lay on your table a list of the various sums received in Collections and Private Subscriptions by Mr. Lapelletrie, from which it will be seen that upwards of £500 Halifax currency was collected in the United States, and in Scotland upwards of £900 sterling, besides some smaller sums from other Countries.

It is with great satisfaction that your Committee can assure the Synod of being furnished with every evidence of the diligence, zeal, and ability of your Agent in the discharge of his work, and of the cordial response given on the part of those to whom he applied for aid. During his absence Mr. Lapelletrie has been constantly engaged in preaching and addressing public meetings, in forwarding the great object to which he has dedicated himself. From his Journal it appears that he has never spent a Sabbath without preaching the Gospel, and has frequently dispensed Divine Service three times in different Churches or parishes on the same day, on each of which occasions collections were taken up in behalf of his cause. Your Committee would express their high satisfaction at the kind Christian reception experienced by Mr. Lapelletrie, and the lively interest generally felt in behalf of the object of his advocacy by all classes and denominations of the Church of Christ with whom he met; and, while they rejoice to see their brethren of the Church of Scotland alive to the objects of your Mission, they cannot refrain from recording the liberality of our brethren in the United States, not merely in the amount contributed, but in the generous affectionate manner in which this branch of the Church in Canada was regarded and spoken of by them. It is with pain, however, your Committee refer to one solitary exception of a narrow-minded and contemptuous spirit displayed by one body of the great Presbyterian Family; but over this exception they would draw a veil, merely regretting that any professing brethren in the Lord should allow their feelings to be warped, or their countenance in behalf of a good work to be denied, either from a time-serving yielding to popular prejudice, or a fear of offending a particular Church to which they had yielded their sympathies.

But the receiving of pecuniary assistance is but a small matter gained during your Agent's absence, compared with the invaluable information personally obtained by him regarding the state of Religion in France, Switzerland and Germany. At the same time an affectionate interest in other Churches has been created in the object you have in view. The extent of the Correspondence carried on by Mr. Lapelletrie can best be conceived by your Committee presenting to your Court, in a heap contained in a large bag, an immense collection of letters received by him while on your work. This voluminous Report and Journal afford much valuable information in Church matters in other lands, much to cheer and much to sadden the hearts of Christians. It is recommended that Extracts from these, on the state of the Protestant Bodies of the Continent, were in some way furnished to the public, as calculated to enlighten the minds of many who may otherwise form, from the vague reports generally current, a very imperfect and erroneous notion of the real state, progress and prospects of vital religion on the Continent. On the part of our Christian brethren in other Countries,

many of whom, but from the visit of your Agent, might have remained ignorant even of your existence as a Christian Body at all, at least of this your Missionary Scheme, there is every hope that your work will share an interest in their prayers at a Throne of Grace, and in case of need you will receive from them, as referees, much valuable aid in obtaining suitable Missionaries, if required,—aid which in many respects is better than silver or gold. It were certainly desirable as a Church to maintain a correspondence with our Protestant Brethren on the Continent.

Owing to the want of labourers, your Committee are not prepared to give the Synod any account of the progress of your Mission in evangelizing our Romish brethren of French origin, farther than when the last Report was given in. About nine months ago, however, two Evangelists, Messrs. Jacquemart and Baridan, arrived in Montreal, having been engaged by Mr. Lapelletrie, and immediately put themselves under the direction of your Committee. It appeared desirable that, until Mr. Lapelletrie's return, one of them should labour in Quebec, and the other in Montreal. Accordingly Mr. Baridan was appointed to go to the former city, where he has been engaged in his work since November last, Mr. Jacquemart devoting his attention to the Congregation in Montreal. This Congregation Mr. Lapelletrie found on his return to be the same as at his departure, with the exception of two families, one of whom had gone to the United States, and the other, it is not known whither.

From the long absence of Mr. Lapelletrie, the practical working of the Mission has been in a stagnant state. The contributions raised on the part of Congregations, during the last three years, have amounted only to £207 11s 10½d, while the disbursements, including £49 10s 11d of debt in giving in the Report in 1845, in salaries, &c., to Missionaries, amount to £546 6s 5d, besides a standing payable of £5 15s 9d, making in all the debt at the present time on the Mission, £344 10s 3½d. A list of the Receipts and Payments will be found appended to this Report.

During these last three years, from all the Congregations, of our Church with our sixty Ministers and Missionaries no fewer than twenty-one have contributed nothing, twenty-four have contributed only once, eleven have contributed twice, and only four have contributed three times. From the whole amount of Collections made by Ministers within their respective charges, the average amount of which, raised by each Minister, is £3 11s 7d, it appears that, if the average Collections which have not been made, amounting to £122, had been regularly made, and yielded the same ratio, the whole sum of £436 13s would have been received in addition, which would more than have liquidated the existing debt. This whole amount, it is matter of regret to say, has been lost to the objects of your Mission, simply from Ministers not obeying the repeated injunctions of your Court. Besides, your Committee cannot forbear remarking, that, in their opinion, while the collections given by some of the Congregations have been creditable, yet those given by others have fallen far short of what the accredited means of the people, if they had been properly appealed to, would have yielded. In addition, it may be noticed that the amounts of late Collections are considerably lower, than those given in by the same Congregations during previous years.

Your Committee would earnestly direct the attention of the Synod to the fact, that, unless more strenuous and united efforts are made by the Ministers and Congregations of the Church, they can see no prospect of even maintaining the Mission with its present staff of three labourers, requiring at least an annual income of £340 to pay the salaries, besides meeting other incidental expenses. It is gratifying to notice that the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland have granted the sum of £50 annually for three years. Your Committee, however, would suggest the propriety of a strong application being made by the Synod to the Church of Scotland, to take the Mission into their more favourable consideration, and to extend their fostering care beyond what at present it enjoys.

Your Committee are not without strong hopes