

vision for the hour of misfortune and death. The needs of the case might be met in either of two ways:—1. The income of the clergyman might be made equal to the income of other professional men of equal diligence, intelligence, and application, or his income might be made equal to the average income of the merchants or tradesmen or farmers to whom he ministers. 2. Or some such Fund as that before us, to be worked up perhaps partly by the ministers themselves, according to their ability, but certainly chiefly by the Church at large. We need not say that the scheme under consideration is the much more likely one to succeed, as many, nay, all, seem to look upon the minister who has a large salary as a very questionable and very dangerous member of the community. So much so, that men scout the very idea as being preposterous, to put the income of a minister upon a footing of equality with the income of a merchant. Therefore our hopes in this matter is to see a much greater interest taken in this very important and interesting work by our Church before the commencement of next Synodic year. Surely no one will question the propriety of such a measure. In the mother Church it is wrought with such success that it is a common proverb that a minister's widow of the Church of Scotland or his orphan during minority has never been in want! The dissenting Churches of Scotland have followed the good example of their venerable mother in this respect, and their endeavour is to place their ministers on a footing of financial equality with the ministers of the Established Church, and they have done so. The Free Church have their Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund; the U. P.'s have a similar Fund; the United Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces have theirs, and, in short, every Church of which we have any knowledge makes some provision for those depending on its ministers for their daily bread. We hope that our Church will not be an exception in this worthy and noble undertaking. She has conceded that the principle is a sound one, as she has done something, though very little, in the right direction. A fund there should be, and we feel assured that a fund there shall be; but a fund there shall not be till a vigorous effort is made by the Church to build up a consolidated fund, the interest of which will be sufficient to meet the ordinary necessity of widows and orphans. The present is the time to make a move in the matter. Never was there a more fitting opportunity, and never will there be. We fully hope, therefore, that those who feel an interest in any such movement will not be backward in this good cause. Dr. Donald of St. John, N. B., is at present ready to receive donations. Our Church people are as generous as the people of any other Church, and we therefore hope, when the time comes round of making a report to the Synod of the state of the funds at next meeting in St. John, that a large sum will by that time have accumulated in the hands of the Committee. When a commencement is made honestly and prayerfully in the sight of God, good fruits will at some date, in God's own way, flow from the effort. And if men wish to be blessed by the sorrowing and bereaved in days to come, to lend a helping hand in this worthy scheme of disinterested benevolence is a certain means of having their wishes realized. We feel certain, therefore, that we can safely commit the success of the Fund, under God, to the good hands of the Committee and its Col. vener, Dr. Donald.

HOME MISSIONS.

LAST year we contributed nearly twice as much for Home Missions as we did the year before; but any one who will take the trouble to turn to the report in the Appendix to the August Record, and see the particulars, must be astonished that we did so little. We find that the Colonial Committee did twice as much for our poor charges as we ourselves did; that it even had to pay for sending out assistants to some of our oldest and wealthiest congregations;