

equally upon all the congregations within its bounds, and, of course, the Presbytery will take care that such an injunction be not disregarded.

And seldom in the history of our Church was there a more urgent call for liberality in this matter, than at present. Through the mercy of God, and the kindness of the Church at Home, many of our vacancies have been filled. We have a zealous and able missionary in the field, doing his work wisely and well among several of our still vacant congregations. He has been sent forth by the Colonial Committee, and his salary guaranteed from Home. Several of our congregations are supplemented from the same source. Another of our missionaries is ministering and doing a good work among our friends in Cape Breton, and we are quite sure that our friends in Cape Breton will at once entirely free the Colonial Committee of every farthing of his salary. Now, what are we to do in Nova Scotia? Shall we still continue to receive monies from Scotland, and make no effort to refund it? Shall it be said of us, that, year by year, we contentedly receive the money collected among a people, for the most part, much poorer than ourselves, and amid a peasantry loaded with heavier burdens than those which we are called upon to bear? Common manliness would certainly answer—No, if we can help it! And surely common gratitude should lead us to make every effort to refund the money we thus receive. How much has the old Church of Scotland done for us in the past! How has she followed her expatriated children in the early history of this country; how earnestly she sought their welfare; how she followed them with ministers and with Bibles; how often were they cheered with the tidings that another minister had been sent out to preach to them in the wilds of America, and to guide them in the way of truth and holiness! And then came those trying times when she had no ministers who could come and live with them always. The unfortunate Secession had taken place, and many of her own pulpits were empty, and her people without their pastors. Still, the Church did not forget us. She did what she could. She sent us Deputation after Deputation. Many of her ablest and most worthy Preachers crossed the Atlantic, and spoke to us words of wisdom and of comfort. Now, again, she has become prosperous. God has been good to her, and her pulpits are again ably filled, and "peace reigns within the walls, and prosperity within the palaces," of our Zion. Still, she has not forgotten us; on the contrary, she has lately sent us out a larger number of missionaries than on any former occasion. And how greatly has this country changed since the first ministers of the Church of Scotland arrived in Nova Scotia! Then the country was nearly a wilderness. There was but little money in the land. The people were scat-

tered here and there through the woods, so that it was impossible to form large or compact congregations. Now, however, things have become strangely altered, and (in so far as the prosperity of the country, at least, is concerned) altered for the better. The wilderness has literally become changed into fruitful fields. The circulation of money has greatly increased. Large congregations have been formed from the scattered few. Now, what ought we to do under those bettered circumstances? There was a time when we could not do much, and when much was not expected from us. In our weakness and infancy, the parent Church cared for us—nursed us—cherished us. She does so still, and does it without a murmur, as fond old parents are apt to do long after the children are in a position to work their own way through the world. And what should we think of that son who has "set up" for himself, and who is really doing well, and is highly prosperous, and still goes back to the parent and begs for some of that money which had been scraped together with difficulty,—and all to save his own pocket and his own purse? He would certainly be considered a very despicable and *unmanly* character. Others would think him very *ungrateful*; for when he ought to strive to repay something of the kindness done him in his days of helplessness, he still makes himself a burden. And is not what is true of an individual, true also of a Church in this particular? If we are *able* to repay the Church at Home the money spent upon our Church in Nova Scotia, and still do it not, we display not merely a want of *spirit*, but a want of common *gratitude*. The *honesty* of our conduct, too, must be considered very questionable; for certainly the funds of the Colonial Committee were never intended for such as are quite able to look after themselves.

Now we believe that we can easily save our own credit, and repay the Church at Home, without imposing upon ourselves any heavy burdens. By carrying out the organization of the Lay Association, we may have money enough for this purpose, and funds still in hand to devote to other important objects. Let us see how this can be accomplished.

The subscription for membership in this Association is the very small sum of 7½d. per quarter, or 2s. 6d. per year. It has a working committee of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and several Collectors. It proposes that those Collectors should visit each family in the congregation, once a quarter, and receive from every adult the sum of 7½d., which is 2½d. per month. The amount is so small that all can afford it. Now, let us see, first, what may be done through such an agency in one congregation, and, afterwards, glance at what might be accomplished were this scheme systematically supported through-