

creased to £25, but the pastor having felt it his duty to resign his charge, no further grant is required for the present.*

FUNDS.

In one way the Board are happy to say that the funds at their disposal, have been more than sufficient to meet all demands upon them and that there is now in the Treasurers hands the sum of £.—But looking at the cause of this state of things—that it arises not from any increase of liberality on the part of the church, but from the simple fact that our probationers have been so few and that the stations have received so small a supply of preaching, the surplus instead of being matter of congratulation, is a cause of pain and lamentation.

REMARKS.

The state of things as thus elicited calls for serious consideration on the part of all who love the prosperity of Zion. On the one hand it is matter for congratulation, that the deficiency of labourers arises from no actual diminution of the ministry of our church.—The number of the members of this synod never was as large as at the present moment. Though we have had some of the fathers removed, yet death has not been visiting us in any remarkable manner, we have not suffered indeed in this way to the same extent as other bodies; and the young and the vigorous labourers have all been spared, so that never at any time did our church exhibit so large a number of active and devoted men serving God in the ministry of his Son, and yet as it appears, never were our vacancies more numerous, nor the calls for additional ministerial service more urgent. It is gratifying to think that the cause is to be found entirely in the demand for increased labours on those fields already cultivated, and in the opening up of new fields for occupation. In the former instances we find that in most cases it may be held as an evidence of increased religious vitality, that there is such a demand. When a congregation which imagined itself unable to take more than the half of a minister's time, will

* Since this was written an agreement has been made for the supplementing of the congregation of Cove Head to the amount of £20 P. E. Island Pby. on their raising £100.

now not be content with less than his whole time, and show themselves ready to give the whole sum requisite for a minister's support and more punctually than they formerly did the half, (and of instances of this kind the church everywhere affords examples), we may believe that in these calls for labours, there are indications that the Great Head of the church has been in the midst of us, blessing us with his presence, rendering us more fruitful in his service. The second cause of this deficiency is equally gratifying, viz: the new fields at home and abroad that have called for our services. God has been setting before us open doors.—The cry for help has reached us from many quarters.—He is presenting before us fields white unto the harvest, and saying to us, "Cast ye in the sickle and reap."

But gratifying as it is thus to reflect upon the causes which have led to the increased calls upon us, it is saddening to think of the imperfect means at our disposal to meet these demands. During the past year we sometimes had not at the rate of one probationer for each Presbytery, and this while more than one of the Presbyteries had three vacancies beside mission stations. Any of the three Presbyteries, and perhaps also the fourth could have given full employment to all the preachers at our disposal for some months of the year. In this state of things, with demands coming from all the Presbyteries, and each representing the peculiar condition of stations under their own charge, we need not say, that to the Board it has often been almost sickening to contemplate the inadequate means at their disposal to meet such demands.

But an additional circumstance which renders our condition the more distressing is the small number now in attendance upon the Theological Hall. During the last three or four years the number in attendance has sometimes been as low as five, and last year there were only nine belonging to our own church, of whom only one will complete his course this season, so that if all who are now at the Hall were licensed and proved successful, there would not be more than enough to supply all the places in the church now demanding ministerial service. Such a state of things call for serious consideration.—The Board may be permitted to suggest