

at least £300 or £400, the first year. Messrs. Jardine & Boyd might do something of the kind in Halifax.

T. H.

Excerpt of a Letter from a Merchant in Pictou, to his Brother in this City.

Pictou, 12th January, 1858.

DEAR BROTHER,—I send you, by this mail, a few copies of the Constitution and Rules of the Lay Association, and I hope the young men in Halifax will take it up and carry it out successfully there. You will observe the fee entitling to membership is so small as to exclude none, however poor, and it is expected that the collectors will collect from old and young, male and female, and in this way foster an interest in the Church. It is expected when a collector goes into a family, all of whom are able to pay something, or the parents for them, that he will take the names of each and their subscription. I hope you and other young men will take this scheme up and carry it out. It is intended that in every congregation the young men (and young women too) will be the active members of the Association, and, if they take it up with the right spirit, there is no doubt but it will be successful, and do more for the Church in this Colony, than any Scheme that has ever been suggested. I suppose you will think this a little egotism, as I am one of the originators of the Scheme; but I think we are not without proof of what an Association of this kind can accomplish. Only look at the Diocesan Church Society in connexion with the Church of England, and see the large sum of money that is raised by it, and that in small subscriptions! I believe almost every Church in the Province has a similar Association to this, although not by the same name; and there is no Church in the Province requiring the aid of such an Association more than ours. Look at the many congregations without pastors, and many of them not able to pay the whole salary of a settled clergyman, who, if they had a fund such as this Association will raise, from which to get supplementary aid, could have settled pastors, and in this way, in a very few years, our Church would be put in that position which the number of its adherents entitle it to. Branch Associations have been started in many of the congregations in this County, with every prospect of success—and indeed, so far, it is very encouraging; clergy and laity are enthusiastic in the Scheme, and it has, so far, not only met with the approval but support of all to whom it has been submitted. But I suppose you will think I have written quite enough about the Association. My reason for so doing is that I want you, if the thing approves itself to you, to take an active part in getting up the Branch in Halifax. I believe Mr. Jardine has promised to do what he can for it. Hoping you will get some of the young men along with yourself interested in the Scheme, and get a Branch established in Halifax at once, I will conclude my lengthy epistle.

### Influence of Missionary Associations.

With a view to stimulate our friends in these Colonies to greater missionary exertions, we directed their attention in our last number to the strenuous and successful efforts of other religious denominations for the propagation of the Gospel among their adherents. When we informed our readers a month ago that the Diocesan Church Society of Nova Scotia had collected more than two thousand, and the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society above three thousand pounds last year, in these colonies, for religious purposes, some of them may have conjectured that these prosperous institutions possessed hidden mines of wealth, large landed properties, Bank Stocks, Railway debentures, and other valuable securities, yielding them a large annual revenue; or perhaps they may have supposed that some wealthy friends had bequeathed them large legacies for missionary purposes. They could hardly have believed, without previous information, that it is not to any of these sources of revenue, however useful and legitimate they may be in themselves, that these funds are to be traced, but to the free voluntary annual donations of attached friends who are earnest in their behalf and anxious for the prosperity of their respective Churches.

Collections are made, as among ourselves, in the different congregations, for different purposes: these realize a considerable amount of funds. But besides these annual collections, other efforts are made to raise missionary funds. Active and zealous persons, (female friends are always the best collectors), offer their services, or perhaps are solicited to collect subscriptions, among the wealthy and liberal members of each congregation. Some are much more successful than others. The individual subscriptions are in some instances very small indeed; but when a number of collectors are employed, the aggregate sum soon swells up to a considerable amount. Office-bearers are appointed to receive and to appropriate those funds as directed by the constitution of the association. All that is required to insure success, is a willing mind, an earnest desire to do good, and laudable perseverance in well doing.

When persons animated with such laudable feelings, go forth among their friends and fellow-christians, to commend the cause of religion to their liberality, it is astonishing what good is accomplished. An active and healthy agency is introduced into every congregation, private individuals become acquainted with the missionary movements of the whole Church, the hands of ministers are strengthened, and their hearts comforted,—new fields of labour are opened up on every side, the moral wilderness is cleared and cultivated, and the desert made to rejoice and blossom as the rose.

This is no imaginary representation. We can point to stubborn and undeniable facts in confirmation of our statements. Let us turn to the pages of the missionary reports of

the societies already referred to, and see the happy fruits of united and devoted exertion.

St. Paul's church in this city contributes above £290 to the funds of the Diocesan Society; St. George's, £40; Dartmouth, £44; Liverpool, £78; Pictou, £19; Ship Harbor, £26; Truro, £19, and Lunenburg £20. A zealous friend at Wilmot collects £11; and a diligent and faithful missionary at Beaver Harbour collects £34 among the fishermen on the Eastern Shore.

The Methodists are not less diligent and successful in raising missionary funds, than the Church of England. In their last report we meet with numerous instances of their zeal and liberality. A wealthy family in this city gives a donation of £24, another a donation of £40, a third of £50, and a fourth of £70 to the funds of the Halifax circuit. Two female friends collect upwards of £33 pounds in the same circuit. Collections are made by other zealous friends: at Lunenburg, £19; Petite Riviere, £18; Windsor £62; St. John, £53; Charlottetown £54 by two collectors, £46 by another, and £24 by the Youth's Branch. But it is unnecessary to enumerate the sums which are collected by individual members in other places, when every congregation and every district has its branch association.

It is inconceivable how much good may be accomplished by such missionary efforts, in a new country like this, with such liberal contributions, when they are judiciously and faithfully expended. Last year the Diocesan Society received and appropriated £341 13s. 3d. for the Widows' and Orphans' Fund; £649 6s. 11d. for Endowment of Parishes, and £913 19s. 9d. for General Purposes. The large contributions to the Methodist Missionary Society are all expended in the same way for the support of their different missions throughout the Provinces.

To inspire confidence among the people, and secure order and regularity, a society is formed—a constitution adopted,—office-bearers chosen,—regular meetings held,—missionaries and colporteurs appointed,—the proceedings of meetings published,—annual reports prepared and circulated,—and every possible means adopted to keep alive and stimulate the zeal and exertions of their members. We recollect the time when the Diocesan Society was first established, for it is now only in the twentieth year of its existence, and the receipts for 1856 amounts to £2201 10s. 6d.

The Report of the Methodist Auxiliary Missionary Society for 1857, is the second under the present Conference organization. The seven districts into which the Conference is divided, have contributed, as already stated, £3123 17s 5d in one year for Missions.

We have made these brief remarks with a view to assist and encourage our friends who are now endeavoring to form similar associations in our congregations; and we shall be happy to communicate from time to time, in our pages, any additional information which we may possess, or be enabled to collect on the same subject.