

superfluous here to recal to mind the parties, individual or congregational, that have been benefited by the liberal grants of the Association, as these recorded in the Annual Reports, have been from time to time brought under the notice of the readers of *The Presbyterian*.

There having been no applications for relief from any of our congregations during the past year, the operations of the Association have been almost entirely confined to the *Bursary* and *Publication Schemes*. It may be for the consideration of the Association whether, under the altered circumstances brought about by the secularization of the Clergy Reserves Fund, there may not be devised some means of aiding the more recently organized congregations of our Church, whose pastors must feel their comfortable maintenance so seriously affected by the passage of the late Act.

#### BURSARY FUND.

There are at present 3 Students of Divinity of Queen's College receiving aid from our Association. When it is borne in mind how hardly licentiates of the Parent Church can be induced to emigrate to the Colonies, and how much we must consequently rely upon Queen's College for supplying vacant congregations and those in the state of formation, let us not undervalue the amount of good that may result from this department of our labours, viz: that of affording to promising young men, having a view to the ministry, aid in the prosecution of their studies. In connection with the above it is gratifying to reflect that about 20 alumni of Queen's College have been auspiciously ordained as pastors of congregations, several of whom were aided by this Association.

#### PUBLICATION FUND.

The receipts for *The Presbyterian* considerably exceed those of last year, but are yet insufficient for rendering it entirely self-supporting. Accounts of arrears, amounting to nearly £100, were enclosed along with the December No, and several parties have since transmitted their dues. Should these be generally transmitted, to judge from a considerable increase in the circulation of the periodical, we may entertain, on good grounds, the hope that it may soon defray all the expenses incidental to its publication. The intelligence regarding the Parent Church would have been considerably lessened for several months past in consequence of the unaccountable omission of sending *The Home and Foreign Missionary Record*, had not the deficiency been in a great measure compensated by receiving the *Edinburgh Evening Post* and *Northern Standard*, two sheets whose columns, in advocating the claims of the Church of Scotland, are readily thrown open for the insertion of ecclesiastical intelligence. One leading object of *The Presbyterian* being, that its pages may afford a medium of communication for recording whatever of interest, occurring in individual congregations or presbyteries, might be advantageously brought under the notice of the Church generally, the Publication Committee embrace this opportunity of recording their grateful sense of the important co-operation of those parties, clerical and lay, who have regularly supplied our columns with their contributions.

In conclusion, the office-bearers would earnestly impress on the minds of the members of the Association, the urgent necessity that is laid upon them of encouraging their successors in office in their labours by extending to them their cheerful co-operation in forwarding successfully the objects of the Association.

The whole respectfully submitted,

T. A. GIBSON, Recording Secr.

It was moved by Thos. Allan, Esq., seconded by Jas. Goudie, Esq.

"That the Report be adopted and published in the ensuing number of the *Presbyterian*."

Hugh Allan, Esq., after a few preliminary remarks, in the course of which he took occasion to express regret that the audience was not far larger, moved, seconded by George McDonald, Esq.

"That this Assemblage, composed of adherents deeply attached to that portion of the Church of Christ with which they are immediately connected: viz., *The Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland*, and believing her doctrines to be pure, her form of worship spiritual, and earnestly trusting that under God's guidance she will prove of much benefit to the people of this land, to whose sympathies and feelings her Presbyterian form of worship and Church Government are peculiarly adapted, and farther believing that she will contribute in some measure to the spread of pure and undefiled religion in this Province, heartily pledge themselves in their several positions to do what in their lies, to strengthen her and extend her influence.

Alex. Morris, Esq., after taking a faithful though rapid retrospect of the labours of the Association, and warmly recommending it to the support and prayers of the friends of the Church of Scotland in this Province, moved, seconded by John Smith, Esq.

"That in the present peculiar circumstances of our Church, when for the future she will in all probability rely mainly for sustentation upon the voluntary exertions of her people, it is important that this Association should be generously supported, as one of those efforts which, if evoked and sustained in the spirit of self-reliance and Christian trustfulness, may prove of some service to our Church by aiding, however slightly, in the maintenance of her efficiency."

T. A. Gibson, Esq., moved, seconded by Jas. Mitchell, Esq.

"That the *Bursary Scheme* of this Association has already proved of much service, and is likely, if supported and extended, to prove still more beneficial to our Church, and is therefore eminently deserving of our countenance and support as well as of that of the members of our Church throughout the Province."

Wm. Edmonstone, Esq., moved, seconded by John Armour, Esq.

"That this meeting commend to the generous exertions of all those of their brethren, who believe that a medium of communication between the several congregations of our Church is desirable and useful, *The Presbyterian*, a monthly published under the auspices of this Association.

It was moved by Hugh Allan, Esq., seconded by E. McLennan, Esq., and carried unanimously.

"That the Annual Meeting be henceforth held in the first week of January."

The Rev. Dr. McGill thereafter addressed the Meeting at some length in very appropriate terms.

It was moved by Alex. Morris, Esq., seconded by Hugh Allan, Esq.,

"That the Rev. Dr. Mathieson be requested to deliver a discourse on the occasion of next Annual Meeting."

The Rev. Dr. at once expressed his willingness to comply with the request.

The election of Office-bearers for the ensuing year resulted as follows.

President.

HON. P. MCGILL.

Vice-Presidents.

JOHN SMITH, HUGH ALLAN,  
HEW RAMSAY, JOHN GREENSHIELDS.

Treasurer.

ALEXANDER MORRIS.

Recording Secretary.

T. A. GIBSON.

Corresponding Secretary.

J. S. HUNTER.

Managers.

Wm. Edmonstone, Thomas Allan, J. M. Ross, George Templeton, D. D. Mackenzie, Wm. McNider, George MacDonald, J. Burns, Robert Adams, James Mitchell, David Shaw, E. MacLennan, and James Goudie.

Chaplains.

REV. ALEX. MATHIESON, D. D.

REV. ROBERT MCGILL, D. D.

A vote of thanks to the chairman for his worthy occupation of the chair, moved by W. Muir, Esq., seconded by John Armour, Esq., was unanimously carried.

The Rev. Dr. Mathieson having pronounced the benediction, the proceedings closed.

T. A. GIBSON,

Recording Secretary,

Montreal, January 8th, 1854.

#### Synodical Collections in Canada.

For the information of our readers, and as affording a means of ready reference to the ministers, we subjoin a portion of the Statute of our Church relative to these collections, as modified in 1854. The Synod enacts that all ministers of this Church shall annually have collections made in their several congregations on behalf of each of the following objects at the time specified, viz: 1. for *The Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund* on the first Sabbath in January; 2. for *The Synod Fund* on the first Sabbath of March; 3. for *The French Mission Fund* on the first Sabbath in June; 4. for *The Bursary Fund* on the first Sabbath in September; 5. for *The Home Mission Fund of the Presbytery of the Bounds* on the first Sabbath of November. If the collection fall on a sacramental occasion or an unsuitable day, it is to be made in 4 weeks after, and provided that the congregation may raise the contribution in any other way, if they think fit. The Synod also enjoined ministers to explain and advocate the object for which the collection is to be made upon a previous Sabbath, and the Synod also empowered Presbyteries at their meetings next after the times specified to enquire and take account of how ministers have attended to the injunction of Synod in giving their congregations an opportunity to contribute.

We trust that the collections for the *Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund* have been general and liberal. It has strong claims upon our sympathies. Already a very considerable number of annuitants are cast upon it, and, when we reflect that the position of pastors rarely enables them to provide for the wants of their widows and children when Providence calls them to leave them without an earthly