

PRESBYTERY OF HALIFAX.

28. Annapolis.....	200 00
29. Kempt and Walton.....	120 00
30. Lawrencetown.....	120 00
31. Musquodoboit Harbour (in case of settlement).....	100 00

PRESBYTERY OF LUNenburg and YARMOUTH.

32. Clyde River.....	\$110 00
33. Mahon Bay.....	110 00
34. Cheboque and Carleton (in case of settlement).....	150 00

One or two remarks upon the foregoing recommendations, may now be submitted. Two congregations, it will be observed, have been dropped from the list, as compared with the past year, viz., Glassville in the Presbytery of St. John, and Blackville in the Presbytery of Miramichi, although in the former case, as no settlement was effected, the reduction is more apparent than real. Three congregations have been added, viz., Lake Ainslie in the Presbytery of Victoria and Richmond, Gabarus in the Presbytery of Cape Breton, and Cheboque in the Presbytery of Lunenburg and Yarmouth. Further, upon the recommendation of their respective Presbyteries, a reduction of \$20 has been made in the grant to Tryon and Bonshaw, and \$10 each in the grant to Clyde River and Mahone Bay. In all the other cases the grants recommended are the same as last year.

To sum up the whole, then, the amount asked this year is \$3,470—about the same amount as last year; and as there are but three vacant congregations on the list, it is not at all probable that a less sum will be needed, and will have to be raised by the churches.

And this leads to the consideration of the means likely to be in your Committee's hands to enable them to meet this proposed expenditure. And we would not conceal from Synod our serious misgivings, as to our ability to fulfil the recommendations we have made, unless means be adopted in some degree fitted to the urgency of the case. The receipts for the past year, as you have already heard, have been \$2,921, leaving the fund in debt at the close of the last financial year, viz., June 1st, 1872, \$531 54. Now, so far as this debt is concerned, we would recommend, as we did last year, and for the same reasons, that it be paid by the Home Mission Board. Before, however, proceeding to remark further upon our prospects for the coming year, we would bring this fact to the Synod's notice, that on the 1st of July half of the Supplements granted last year falls to be paid. The amount needed will be somewhere about \$1,500, while at present there are in the Treasurer's hands little more than \$300. What are we to do here? The

brethren have come up no doubt depending upon receiving the grants promised them, and are we to send them empty away? Your Committee do feel themselves in a great strait, and can do nothing else but come before you and ask your direction.

But to come back to the immediate point, our prospects for the coming year, you will remember that in the receipts for 1871-72 were included a grant of \$500 from the Free Church of Scotland, which has now come to an end. Besides, we should not, unless compelled thereto, draw upon the funds of the Home Mission Board, as, had they men enough at their command, their funds would be all too small. It is plain, then, that to put the scheme in a proper position, an additional sum of \$1,000 will need to be raised. Either this must be done or the grants already small enough must be reduced. But if this latter alternative be not, as we trust it will not be, seriously contemplated, then it is plain that another scale of giving must be adopted by our congregations. About thirty of them have made no contributions to our funds. While in the case of those who have done so, the inequality is very marked and very great. In either case, it would perhaps be invidious to mention names. But while some have done very nobly, others have not come up to what might fairly be expected from them. In view of these considerations, therefore, we would suggest:

1. That the balance now due the Treasurer be paid by the Home Mission Board.

2. That in the present state of the Fund, power be given to the Committee to take such measures, either by Deputation or Circular or otherwise, as in their judgment may tend to improve its position.

3. That an addition be made to their number, with the view of enabling them to meet more frequently.

4. That should the required amount fail to be realized, the grants be paid *pro rata*.

5. That Presbyteries be enjoined to appoint one of their number, whose duty it shall be to see that all the congregations within their bounds contribute to all the schemes of the Church: or to make it the duty of the Clerk of Presbytery, after he has tabulated the Statistical Returns, to report all cases of delinquency, that Presbytery may deal with them as circumstances may require.

To conclude, your Committee cannot but feel that the present condition of the scheme is far from being a satisfactory one; but they are not the less convinced that it ought to be maintained as a matter of the utmost importance to the church's prosperity. And they would call upon the Synod to remember that other churches have, in this respect, to contend with the