

gations could raise more if every member were to do his part with reasonable liberality. But, alas, liberality seems to be the grace that grows least rapidly in these latter days.

The statistics recently published prove that the brethren in New Brunswick are still more severely tried than those on this side of the Bay. The population is more thinly scattered, and less used to contribute regularly of their substance. Thus toil is increased, while its rewards are diminished.

It is, therefore, only too apparent that as a whole our Church is far behind in the matter of ministerial support. Were we to give facts and figures, as we could do, our readers would be startled and astonished. We prefer at present to speak in general terms; but our statements can easily be verified by reference to the statistical tables published in a recent number of the *Record*. A still simpler and more telling mode of verification, open to a large proportion of our readers, is to look at their own MINISTERS!

It is instructive to note that almost all other Protestant churches are at this moment boldly grappling with this very question. The Free and United Presbyterian churches, the English and Irish Presbyterian churches, the Established churches of Scotland and England, the American churches generally,—all feel the pressure of the same difficulty, and are putting forth strenuous efforts to overcome it. In the Scottish Establishment an association is formed with a view of getting up a "Sustentation Fund," for supplementing all the stipends that are under £200 per annum. It is proposed to raise in this "Voluntary" way £25,000 a year, which would suffice to supplement all the stipends to the amount mentioned. The Free and United Presbyterian churches cannot safely lag behind the Establishment; and there is enough of enlightened zeal in these great bodies to keep them up to the requirements of the age.

What are we to do? The subject was discussed before the Synod at St. John; and Presbyteries seemed determined to confront the problem without delay. Some of them have done so; and the results are

being made public in these pages. We trust that all shall have a good and encouraging report to make the Synod of 1867.

After all, the support of the Ministry is emphatically a question for the laity and the eldership of the church. Were they but to take it up in earnest, it could soon be set at rest, safely and satisfactorily. Will they not take into consideration the facts which we have here submitted to them? One thing is evident, that we must all give more systematically, more liberally, and that the strong must help the weak.

PRESBYTERIANISM IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

The readers of the *Record* are for the most part less intimately acquainted with New Brunswick than with any other section of our church. Until very recently there had been but little intercourse between the Presbyterians of New Brunswick and their brethren of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces. Late fraternal intercourse, however, has developed into cordial and reciprocal affection; and the happy union which took place on the 2nd day of July last, has blended the interests as it has the organizations of these respective bodies. We propose to lay before our readers a few statements respecting Presbyterianism in New Brunswick, which we are sure will not be void of interest to them.

PIONEERS.

The story of Presbyterianism in New Brunswick does not reach back quite so far as it does in Nova Scotia. There yet lives in Scotland the Rev. George Burns who, some fifty years ago, as minister of St. Andrew's Church in the city of St. John, was the only Presbyterian minister in the Province. Numbers of Presbyterians, however, had arrived, and were yearly arriving in different parts of the country. These were chiefly from Ireland and Scotland, and in thin, remote and scattered settlements were seldom visited by the heralds of the truth. Occasional visits, however, were accomplished by the few pioneer preachers then in the Provinces; and it is pleasant to reflect that some at least of this timely aid was from Nova Scotia. Dr. McGregor made