

"(1) That in October, 1883, there were 256 congregations giving less than \$750 and manse, and that 46 congregations have since that date been placed on the list, making in all 302. (2) That 160 of these congregations have from time to time been removed from the list; 123 having become self-sustaining, 12 having been removed from the list, though not reaching the minimum, and 23 transferred to the list of Mission stations, and 2 having ceased existence, leaving (on 1st April, 1887,) 142 augmented congregations. (3) That the movement has been the means of securing a substantial and permanent increase of stipend in a large number of cases.

"The report further sets forth that during the year 1886-7 there was an increase of contributions as compared with those of the preceding year in no fewer than *fourteen* presbyteries. Notwithstanding this increase, it would have been impossible to pay the full amount of the grants but for the reserve fund, from which \$6,000 was drawn, and which is now exhausted. It has been necessary to borrow a large amount in order to meet the payments due for the half year ended on 30th September."

The following clause in the circular deserves special attention:—"If the presbyteries of Glengarry, Ottawa, Brockville, Peterborough, Lindsay, Saugeen, London, Chatham, Sarnia, Huron and Bruce would contribute at least as much to the augmentation fund as they ask from it for the weak charges within their respective bounds; and if the strong presbyteries of Guelph, Paris and Stratford, embracing in their territory some of the richest districts of Ontario, and consequently needing little or nothing from the fund, would give on the scale on which the presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew gives, viz., 26 cents per communicant, instead of giving at the rate of 10 cents, 14 cents and 11 cents, respectively, there would be abundance in the treasury to meet the needs of presbyteries like those of Quebec, Kingston, Barrie, Rock Lake, Brandon and Regina, which have large and scattered mission fields. Is it vain to appeal to Christ's people in the most favoured localities to remember the claims of their brethren in the needier districts?"

"Permit me," says the convener, "to emphasize one other sentence in the report already quoted from:

"If presbyteries will carefully discriminate between cases in which the aid of this fund is really needed and cases in which it might be dispensed with, the hands of the committee will be strengthened and objectors will be to a large extent disarmed. I simply know of nothing which has injured this fund so much as the ill-advised action of some presbyteries in a few cases in asking grants which should never have been sought.

"Notice was given at the recent meeting of the sub-committee on augmentation of the following regulation, which will probably be

acted on in the distribution of funds in April next, and which is to be reported for approval to the next General Assembly:—"The augmentation sub-committee may assign to each presbytery in the Western section of the Church a fair proportion of the whole amount required for augmentation, and, should the funds available at the end of the ecclesiastical year be insufficient to pay all grants in full, the committee shall be at liberty to pay reduced grants to augmented charges in any presbytery which falls short of the amount assigned to it."

"The practical effect of this resolution will be twofold: (1) It will enable presbyteries which think the minimum stipend fixed by the General Assembly *too high* to secure that a smaller amount shall be paid to ministers of augmented congregations within their own bounds; and (2) It will prevent the disappointment which would be occasioned in the presbyteries whose contributions are liberal, if the ministers within their own bounds should fail to receive the full amount of the grants voted.

The amount asked for augmentation is the same as last year—\$30,000. The amount contributed last year was \$24,473. We need, that is to say, \$6,000 more that was contributed last year. This increase ought to come, and to come without any difficulty, from the presbyteries named above. Should any congregation desire to use special envelopes in making a collection for this object, packages will be supplied by the Secretary, Rev. R. H. Warden, 198 St. James street, Montreal."

Editorial Correspondence.

PARIS.

PARIS, even to the most casual observer, is a fascinating place. By travellers it is generally accounted the most beautiful city in the world. To those who have the time and inclination to look beneath the surface of things, it is more than fascinating, affording ample materials for study and reflection. In this letter I will confine my remarks to the outer aspect of the city, reserving, until next month, a look at the other and graver side of the picture. Within its walls, twenty-one miles in circumference, Paris contains 2,500,000 people, intelligent, polite and impressive; a people fired with one idea—"Gloire," otherwise expressed by the formula inscribed on every public edifice in the city—*Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité*, adopted as its motto by the first republic, 1792.

Paris never looked better than it does