

Supplementing Fund.

THE COMMITTEE'S OPINION :

"Virtually our aid from abroad has ceased. The time has therefore come when some of the congregations hitherto helped must take the place of self-sustaining charges, and the sooner the better for themselves and for the Church. But the time has also come when the larger and wealthier congregations must take up this business of helping the weaker on a broader foundation, with a livelier sense of duty and with some display of Christian earnestness and enthusiasm."

OPINION OF MARITIME SYNOD :

"Agreed to direct Presbyteries in appointing delegates to advocate the schemes of the Church, to give prominence to the claims of the weaker charges, and consequently of the Supplementing Committee, to a more liberal support from our people."

OPINION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY :

"Adopt the reports from the Maritime Provinces on the subject of Home Missions and Supplementing; rejoice in the work accomplished under both Committees; grant the request of the Supplementing Committee for temporary delay in the payment of debt unavoidably incurred; but instruct the Committees to adopt measures for removing the debt at the earliest day practicable, and for drawing out the liberality of our congregations in the Maritime Provinces, so as to become entirely self-sustaining; and farther direct the Statistical Committee to open a column for contributions to the Supplementing Fund from congregations in the Maritime Provinces."

EXTRACT OF LETTER

from an active, public spirited member of a Supplemented charge :

September 29th, 1881.

"I send twenty dollars for Supplement Fund, being a collection taken on one of the very few Sabbaths on which we had preaching this summer. Our congregation has no business in my opinion to be getting a supplement; and I for one would be quite willing to pay a part of it, if the congregation would voluntarily give it up, as I wish they would. There are other places that need it far more."

We add no remark except that this sounds like the ring of the true metal !

A Sketch of Miramichi Presbytery.

The Presbytery of Miramichi comprises 16 congregations and 5 mission fields, and covers not a little territory. From Richibucto and Kingston in the South to Dalhousie and Campbellton in the North is a stretch of about 140 miles: and further, this enterprising and expansive Presbytery, not content with New Brunswick (a Province which it divides with the Presbytery of St. John), claims territory also in the Province of Quebec, and has loyal congregations and settlements extending from mouth of Upsalquitch and Metapedia to Port Daniel on the Bay Chaleur, a distance of 120 miles. Plenty of scope here: and a nice compact Presbytery to overtake on Presbyterial visitation an mission work, especially in the "Black North" part of it, or down the Quebec side of the Bay Chaleur, or up the great rivers with their solitary stretches! Some of the individual congregations afford within themselves plenty of diversion in the way of travelling. The minister of Bathurst for instance appropriates to himself some 90 miles of territory on occasion, and takes an annual constitutional adown that bleak, interminable Caraqueet and Tracadie coast and so onwards and inwards to parts unknown. The minister of Campbellton has the main part of his congregation in New Brunswick and the rest of it in the Province of Quebec: to say nothing of settlements and settlers up the rivers where there are no roads, and where it takes days to reach. The minister of Charló once upon a time preached in almost all the Protestant settlements on both sides of the Bay Chaleur, and has still a whole seaboard to himself. In some parts of this Presbytery, the minister of the gospel has spent the greater part of his life on the road: in other parts—I speak of a generation ago—he has wished to but couldn't, because there was no road to spend it on—nothing but tracks on the beach and canoes and snowshoes.