

there be four regular Quarterly Meetings held in the evenings of the Ordinary Meetings of Presbytery, viz. ; the first Wednesdays of August, November, February, and May ; that two Sub-Committees be appointed,—one at Quebec, Dr. Cook, (Convener), and Messrs. Shanks and Thomson, and one at Montreal, Rev. Robert McGill (Convener), Dr. Mathieson, and Messrs. Brodie and Bruce, Mr. Lapelletrie a member of both, to superintend the affairs of the Mission in their respective localities and neighbourhood during the intervals of the Regular Meetings of the General Committee ; the Sub-Committees through their Conveners to give in at each Quarterly Meeting, either in person or in writing, Reports of their proceedings and of the progress of the Mission.

Mr. Lapelletrie was requested to go to the Lower part of the Province, and put himself in communication with the Sub-Committee at Quebec, and instructed to send Reports of his proceedings to the Convener (Mr. Simpson).

Mr. Baridan was instructed to put himself under the direction of the Sub-Committee at Quebec, and Mr. Jacquemart under the direction of the Sub-Committee at Montreal.

The Committee agreed that the Salaries should be as follow, commencing from 21st September next—Mr. Lapelletrie £180, Mr. Baridan £75, Mr. Jacquemart £75, with an addition of £10 to Mr. Jacquemart in lieu of house-rent.

It was resolved that the Moderator of the Synod be requested to write a letter of thanks to Messrs. Courtois, of Toulouse, for the generous donation of Religious Books and Tracts to the amount of 900 francs in behalf of the Mission.

The Convener was instructed to apply, in the name of the Committee to the British and Foreign Bible Society and the American Bible Society, in behalf of this Mission, for donations of French Bibles, Testaments and Tracts.

FRENCH MISSION.

We publish to-day the Report of the French Mission Committee, presented to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada at its last meeting, to which we refer the especial attention of our readers.

The members of our Church will be aware that it is now seven years since the Mission was undertaken by the Synod, it being considered by them an imperative duty on a Christian Church, as such, to promote the great principles of Truth and Protestantism. This Scheme has hitherto had many difficulties to contend with—the generally deplorable state of ignorance of the Canadians on the score even of ability to read, their natural simplicity of character, ever ready to believe what is told them by those considered more learned than themselves,—

and the strong hold which their superstitious system of religious faith, accompanied with its gorgeous display of rites and ceremonies hallowed by early associations, coupled with the grateful thought of its having been the saving hope of their fathers, has taken of their minds—and, above all, the want of efficient labourers of devoted zeal, genuine piety, prudence and perseverance to devote themselves to the work of reformation. It is altogether a hopeless task, however, for the Synod to have resolved upon such an undertaking, or to continue to persevere in it, if not warmly supported by all the members of the Church. In reading the Report, we confess having felt ashamed at the so little concern felt in such an important work both by ministers and members of our Christian community. It appears that the sum of £207 11s 10¹/₂d only had been contributed on the part of all our congregations during the last three years, hardly affording £70 per annum. Now, if we are right in calculating in round numbers the members of our Church in Canada to be, say only 10,000, the low average amount then of a mere fraction, mere three halfpence yearly, has been given for each of our communicants. Considering that many of our congregations have not contributed at all, for which certainly Ministers are responsible in not having regularly afforded an opportunity to their flocks for so doing according to the instructions of their Superior Court, yet on the whole it may be safely said, that even those who have assisted have fallen far short of their duty, and we do not except ourselves of the city of Montreal. Seventy Pounds a year ! And is this all ? Can our Church in Canada do no more in behalf of this work ?—Forbid the thought ! Seventy Pounds a year ! Why this is less than one pound from each of our Congregations, including vacant charges ! Really this is shameful. What has our Church been about ? She has been slumbering and sleeping so far as Missions are concerned ; and surely it is high time for her to arouse out of that state. We have been looking over the printed Reports of this Mission since its formation, wherein we find again and again the most mournful accounts of the apathy of our Christian brethren in prosecuting this good work as they ought, or might have done. We could (but it would shame us) quote many affecting and humbling remonstrances in all of them on the want of a cordial support on the part of our Congregations ; but one extract we cannot forbear noticing, and we take it, as referring to the time previous to the Disruption of our Church in Canada ; not that thereby we would justify ourselves in saying we are no worse since, than previous to that time. No ! No ! We know we have come far short. “ Will it be believed,” says that Report, “ that of the

ninety-four Congregations on the Roll of the Synod during the year 1843-4, only twenty-seven have contributed to the Funds of the Mission, whole twenty-eight have contributed nothing since its commencement. If this apathy continue, it would be better to leave the streams of Christian benevolence to flow through other channels ; better that the Synod should leave the work it has aspired to perform to others more faithful to their Divine Master, and who are more willing to unfold to an ignorant and superstitious people the Living Oracles of God.”

It was recommended in the Report that the Church of Scotland be applied to for a more extensive grant. We are pleased that this suggestion has not been acted upon, for really confusion might well cover our faces if, after such a statement of our own backwardness or lukewarmness in so good a cause, such an application had been made. Why, we might naturally expect to meet with an indignant reply. “ We have already in good faith of the Church of Canada doing its duty consented to give you a sum nearly equal to what is raised by your whole body. What ! shall the Members of the Scotch Church in Canada, who are as wealthy, if not more so, as other bodies in the Province, who enjoy even privileges by way of supporting their own Clergy over other sects, contributing at such a miserable rate, expect farther encouragement at our hands ?” Yes, we are assured, it is in vain to look for foreign assistance till we ourselves have done our duty, and, having submitted to *some* self-denial, can conscientiously declare that we can do no more. We are convinced that the great fault in not raising support lies not in the covetousness or poverty of our Churches ; for it cannot be said that there is any want either of means, or of generosity with our people ; but the thing lacking is the want of a system—a well organized system being adopted in all our Congregations in support of Christian Missions. It would be incredible that such sums have been raised and are still raising by other bodies, were we not furnished with indubitable evidence to the contrary. We trace their success to the method adopted. We find, for instance, that laymen exert themselves in raising funds much more in other bodies than in our own, whether by way of collecting or contributing. And why should the laity in our own Church show less zeal or make less sacrifices of time in helping forward the cause of Zion ? We remember having been present at the late meeting of the Synod during the discussion on the French Mission, and having struck with a remark made by one of its respected members “ that the amount of Missionary contributions on the part of our people did not press heavier upon their temporal estate than the weight of a fly upon the spoke of a wheel ; that, if even the