

where the number of families exceeds that of communicants. It is proposed to supplement all congregations which fulfill those conditions, and which in the judgment of the Presbytery are entitled to assistance in the first place to the amount of \$600. and a manse. It is proposed further that the income which remains at the disposal of the Committee after this has been done, and at the end of the year, shall be constituted a Surplus Fund, the Committee aiming to secure such an income for this fund as shall make a full share in the Surplus not less than \$150.00. In other words, the aim of the Assembly is to secure immediately, and in every case in which the conditions are fulfilled, a salary of \$300. and a manse, and also in addition to that, to do what can be done to raise all salaries still further, to \$750. and a manse.

It is only natural to suppose that those who are interested in the subject will be anxious to know how the application of the Assembly's conditions will effect the congregations immediately interested. A careful examination of the statistics by the Supplementing Committee has led to the conclusion that all our congregations, with the exception of the six which are at present receiving aid from the H. M. Fund, and perhaps two others will be able to comply with the first condition of a salary of \$400. and a manse. Eight have not hitherto done so, but they are all so near that point, that there is little doubt that with proper effort they could easily make the required increase.

Of the 95 congregations which contribute less than \$750. and a manse, 42 have not complied with the conditions of the Assembly's Scheme which requires an average of \$4.50 per communicant, of which no fewer than 34 by fulfilling it, would be raised at once to the required amount simply by their own effort, and without drawing a single dollar from the general fund. On the assumption that all these congregations comply with this condition or work towards compliance to the extent necessary to provide the minimum required by the Assembly, there would be an increase in this class of congregations alone, and as the result of their own efforts, of upwards of \$4000.

There would however still remain 32 congregations requiring Supplements in order to raise their pastor's salary to \$600. and a manse, as well as 33 in addition which would require to be aided from the Surplus Fund, in order to bring them up to the \$750. and manse. It is estimated

that the amount required for the first class of congregations would be about \$4776 and that the additional amount required for the second would be about \$6800 making a total of \$11576. Such is a brief statement of the facts with which the Church has to deal, and of the magnitude of the effort she is asked to make. They are laid before the readers of the Maritime Presbyterian, for their consideration without any attempt, at all events in the present communication, to discuss the Scheme of the Assembly on its merits, or to consider the extent to which it is practicable to attain success.

E. A. M.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF SHEL- BURNE CONGREGATION.

By REV. A. DICKIE.

Shelburne is one of the few Presbyterian congregations in the Western part of Nova Scotia which has an ancient history. Its records show that its origin date as far back as the founding of the town. At the close of the American War in 1783, a number of Loyalists came over to this Province, some of whom settled in Shelburne. They brought with them as their minister the Rev. Hugh Fraser who was chaplain to the 71st Regiment. In thus coming to a new country whatever other privations they may have endured they were not deprived of the means of grace. A Presbyterian congregation was thus translated from the neighboring Republic into Nova Scotia, and is now almost a centurian.

The Loyalists were exceedingly industrious, and in a very short time amassed considerable wealth. The town though situated about 150 miles from Halifax, yet stands at the head of an excellent harbor. Rapidly it grew, and at one time there seemed to be an exceedingly prosperous future before it. Trade flourished, houses were built and filled, and thoroughfares were crowded. The high hopes cherished, however, by its founder were speedily blasted. Its decline was almost as rapid as its growth so that the Shelburne of to-day is very different from Shelburne of 50 or 60 years ago.

Eleven years after the landing of the Loyalists, a Presbyterian Church was built, and since that time few of our congregations have undergone so many changes. Not less than 12 ministers have been settled over them nearly all of whom had short pastorates. Their first pastor