

to this matter for the current year.

Rev. W. Donald read the report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools, which shewed gratifying progress throughout the church.

The report of Committee on Sabbath observance was submitted by Rev. Edwin Smith, and the attention of the Synod directed to some of the more open forms of Sabbath desecration in our land, especially in connection with Sabbath railway traffic.

The next meeting of Synod is to be held in Charlottetown on the last Tuesday of May, 1882.

## Report of Committee on Supplements, 1880-81.

During the year covered by this report, the number of congregations on the list was forty; but as four of these had no pastor, the number receiving aid was thirty-six, being more than one-fourth of the contributing congregations for the year.

The subjoined figures will show increase in the number of congregations contributing, as compared with last year, of ten, and of receipts by \$99.71, but it will be seen that congregational receipts do not come within a thousand dollars of meeting the payments to congregations, without any reference to other outlay.

NAME OF PRESBYTERY.	Congregations contributing.		Paid in.		Received out.	
	1880.	1881.	1879-80.	1880-81.	1880-81.	
Pictou .....	22	16	\$ 346 49	\$ 400 58	\$ 50 00	
Halifax .....	22	21	863 54	724 77	672 50	
Truro .....	11	11	523 54	464 34	324 50	
St. John .....	15	18	261 74	343 54	1530 50	
Marion .....	15	12	207 73	212 60	140 45	
Wallace .....	15	19	79 73	59 00	146 85	
P. E. Island .....	16	18	350 38	287 28	216 10	
Sydney .....	7	8	41 00	63 28	260 00	
Victoria & Richmond .....	7	7	35 54	37 31	7c 00	
Lunenburg & Yarmouth .....	2	1	62 50	87 73	330 00	
Newfoundland .....	2	1	104 00	100 00		
	117	127	\$5815 03	\$5974 71	\$5987 44	

## REVIEW.

It seems, therefore, necessary to review the last few years, so that the existing financial condition of the fund may be fully understood.

During the last four years this fund has been in a state of financial difficulty. In May, 1877, the Treasurer's report showed that \$2600 was required to meet payments maturing on the first of July; and to meet the emergency, the members of Committee agreed to write to the wealthier congregations, and to apply personally to liberal donors for special contributions. Temporary relief was thus obtained, but next year at the same season, the situation was unchanged. The same course could not well be pursued again, but something had to be done; and it was agreed, 1st, to send to Presbyteries the names of congregations which had given nothing, and ask an early collection; 2nd, to place the situation before all the churches by circular; 3rd, to borrow money to meet the deficiency. In December of the same year, rather than disappointing expectations, the Treasurer was directed to pay by loan.

This mode of procedure was not satisfactory to the Committee, was noticed by the auditors in their annual report, and the General Assembly gave directions that in the future administration of the fund, expenditure and income should be equalized.

The Committee having repeatedly tried to bring up the income to meet the whole expenditure, without success, found them selves now under orders to reduce expenditure, and did so to a small extent, not by any arbitrary decision of their own, but by a gradual application of the existing regulation of the General Assembly, which up to that date in the Lower Provinces had not been fully acted on, but not till the fullest notice had been given to every Presbytery, minister and congregation affected. It is known that this step was not acceptable, but the Committee has never been informed of any other, involving reduction, which would have been more welcome.

Last year, viz., 1879-80, the debt, previously incurred, being allowed to remain the Committee with the sanction of the Assembly made temporary loans to secure punctuality of payment, and the receipts met the expenditure, and reduced the debt from \$1084.28 to \$1017.33, a reduction of \$66.95, small but very welcome. Precisely the same course has been followed during the year which has just terminated, but with a very different