

cause of the Church of Scotland in this Colony, and were animated and encouraged at the first by the services and addresses of the deputations that passed through the Province, (feeling assured that the humblest as well as the more wealthy among us might thus become instrumental in forwarding the good cause,) and from the measure of success that has so far attended their efforts, do now feel encouraged to continue steadfast in the prosecution of their objects.

Acting under a Constitution which directs the annual meetings of the Association to be held in the month of July, perhaps some apology may be considered necessary for delaying the present anniversary till the month of November; but the delay has been occasioned by a variety of circumstances which it would be needless to advert to in this Report. At the risk however of inculpating ourselves, we must avow our deliberate conviction that the efficiency and prosperity of the Association depend in a great measure upon the stated meetings of its members, and a rigid adherence to the precise time appointed by the Constitution for holding the Annual and other meetings.

In reviewing the proceedings of the year, although there are no momentous transactions to record, yet the ordinary business of the Association, as will appear from the documents and letters of correspondence to be submitted, has not been destitute of interest.

Commencing with the missionary operations of the Association, the Committee have much pleasure in stating, that soon after the last annual meeting the Rev. Robert McNair, whose appointment was announced in the Report, arrived in the Province as a travelling missionary for Halifax, Wallace, Pictou, and Prince Edward Island. It is almost unnecessary to mention the satisfaction which the public ministrations of this zealous missionary afforded in many places where he officiated. After a few weeks' stay in Halifax he proceeded in the fulfilment of his mission to the other districts named. His temporary residence in Charlottetown during the winter led to a more permanent connection with the congregation of St. James's Church; and, responding to their call, with the concurrence of the Colonial Committee, he became their stated Pastor. His missionary labours consequently terminated in Nova Scotia several months ago. In advertising to the mission of Mr. McNair it is satisfactory for the Committee to be enabled to state, that from local exertions and missionary funds his salary has been nearly, if not altogether, obtained in this country without the necessity for any draft on the funds of the Colonial Committee in Scotland. Mr. McNair's acceptance of the Pastoral charge over the Presbyterian congregation at Charlottetown necessarily created a vacancy in regard to the other districts within the range of his Mission that has not yet been completely filled up. The friends of the Church in this city soon found it necessary to make another movement for a resident minister, and their renewed and earnest application to the Colonial Committee in March last was happily answered by the appointment of the Revd. Francis Nicol to officiate alternately in the City Churches. At the same time the destitute condition of the Presbyterian Congregations in the country was not overlooked or forgotten. At a meeting of Committee held in May last it was Resolved that means should be immediately adopted by annual subscriptions, donations, congregational collections and otherwise to obtain funds that with the aid to be expected from Scotland might be sufficient for the support of one or two travelling missionaries to visit the destitute settlements and vacant congregations in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward's Island and to dispense among them the ordinances of Religion. To carry out such views collections were made in the city churches and collecting cards, distributed among the members and friends of the Association. The Rev. J. Martin was also requested to visit the vacant congregations in the eastern part of the Province to make collections and obtain subscriptions for the support of the contemplated missions. Duly authorised by this committee and furnished with collecting cards, Mr. Martin per-

formed this service in the months of May and June and met with considerable success. The Rev. R. McNair and Rev. J. Scott subsequently visited the same extensive field of spiritual destitution and thereby rendered temporary but valuable assistance to the bereaved congregations. It is however to be lamented that the efforts made for filling up this extensive mission have not yet been crowned with success.

Since the arrival of the Revd. Francis Nicol, who, with a zeal and promptitude which cannot be too highly commended, left Scotland immediately upon his appointment by the Colonial Committee, he has proved himself a most acceptable and efficient labourer "a workman who needeth not to be ashamed—rightly dividing the Word of Truth." In so far, then, as Halifax is concerned this committee believe that their exertions will meet with your cordial approbation, but they regret that so little has been accomplished for the supply of the spiritual wants of the country. A commencement, it is true, has been made and a foundation laid in the congregational collections and subscriptions for more extended missionary operations, and the Committee in resigning their trust indulge the hope that the Association will make renewed and vigorous exertions to carry out the resolution of May last for procuring the appointment of travelling Missionaries by the ensuing Spring. A considerable sum for this object may be expected from the collecting cards which are being filled up, but of which only two or three have yet been returned. Annual collections, also, could readily be made in the country congregations and Branch Associations that have recently been formed at Wallace, New Glasgow, Pugwash and elsewhere, who have pledged themselves to raise funds for this purpose. It then remains for the Association to determine what further steps should be taken for the accomplishment of this object.

Your Committee have no report to make of any applications of their funds for aid in the erection of Churches. It is proper however to mention that the building committee of a new Church at Wallace having applied to us for assistance, we did not hesitate to recommend and promote a private subscription amongst the members and friends of the Church which, it is hoped, will realize a considerable sum.

It will be gathered from the foregoing particulars that a friendly correspondence has been held during the year with the Colonial Committee of the Church who have promptly and kindly responded to all communications. A friendly intercourse has likewise been continued with the sister Association of Montreal which has tendered by Resolution communicated through the secretary to your associated body the expression of their cordial sympathy in the important labours in which you are engaged. Such friendly gratulations from a large and respectable body of fellow Christians cannot but prove most welcome and encouraging to your Association. A communication has also been received in reference to the publication of a work entitled "Sermons and Devotional Exercises for every Sunday in the year by Ministers of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada"—Messrs. Armour & Ramsay publishers—with a view to promote its circulation in this quarter. Approving of the object of the proposed publication, the Committee did not hesitate to recommend the opening of subscription lists in this city, which, they are happy to learn, have already received a considerable number of names.

First, we believe, in the field as a Lay Association in the Colonies, your Committee cannot fail to hail with the highest satisfaction the increase of similar bodies of fellow Christians in other parts of Her Majesty's possessions, and they allude with pleasure to the formation, under most favorable auspices, of a very efficient Association at Kingston, Jamaica, to promote the Spiritual welfare of the Presbyterian population of that Island. There is one circumstance connected with the formation of the Jamaica Lay Association which conveys a valuable suggestion to ourselves, viz: The admission of their Ministers as members or office-bearers of their body. Acting as this

Committee has hitherto done in conformity with the Regulations of our Church, they conceive that it would have a salutary influence should the several ministers be invited to become honorary members of this Association, and that the public meetings of the body should be opened and concluded by devotional exercises.

Your Committee have only to conclude their Report by recommending a strenuous effort for the promotion of the objects for which we have been associated, as very much remains to be accomplished before the interests of the Church of Scotland in this colony can be considered as placed upon a favourable footing.

Respectfully Submitted,

WILLIAM MERRICK, *Chairman.*
Halifax, N. S., 18th Nov., 1850.

The Report of the School Committee was then read from which we extract the following:

Your Committee beg to report that, since the last meeting of the Association, the Caledonia Academy has been well attended by Pupils. During the last year the labours of Mr. Costley, the Principal of the Association, has so increased that your Committee were obliged to engage the services of an assistant, and entered into an engagement on trial of a person who in a short time proved himself incapable of benefiting the school. The services of Mr. James Mackay, son of a much respected member of our Church, residing at New Glasgow, were then secured, who entered upon his duties on the 1st of January last.

On the 31st July last a public examination was held at the Rooms of the Academy in the presence of a large number of Ladies and Gentlemen, when prizes to the amount of Ten pounds were distributed to the successful competitors in the different classes,—an examination, your Committee believe, equal in interest to any ever held in the City of Halifax. The Students in the Senior and Junior Classes showed great proficiency.

Your Committee in thus rendering an account of the Caledonia Academy for the past year cannot but add their opinion that it is an institution well deserving not only the support and countenance of every member in your Association, of every friend of the Church of Scotland, but the support of those in the community who desire to see a well conducted and efficient Classical, Commercial, and Religious Academy combined, sustained in the city. The benefits and advantages will, your Committee feel assured, be acknowledged in future years by those privileged to have had imparted to them such a course of education within its walls.

The following Resolutions were then submitted to the meeting and unanimously adopted.

On the motion of T. R. Grassie, Esq., seconded by Mr. T. A. Bauer.

That this meeting cordially approves of the means which have been employed during the past year for adding to the funds of the Association by collecting cards, congregational collections, and otherwise, and pledges itself to encourage all such laudable efforts to promote the influence and efficiency of this Institution.

On motion of Alderman Noble, seconded by Mr. J. Doull.

That the thanks of this meeting are justly due, and are hereby given, to those Ladies and others who have collected or contributed funds during the past year to this institution, and that the Secretary be requested to solicit those who have received collecting cards to transmit the sums they have obtained to the Treasurer of the Association at the earliest opportunity, but not later than the month of January next.

On the motion of Mr. J. Hoesterman, seconded by Mr. S. Weir.

That this meeting fully approving of the spirit and tendency of the Guardian Newspaper, as the steadfast advocate of Protestant principles and a chief medium for communicating intelligence respecting the operations and missions of the Church of Scotland in these Provinces, consider it the duty of every friend of the Church to lend it all the