

esting people was Mr. McDiarmid, who spent three or four Sabbaths with them in the course of last October. His visit was most gratefully received, and the people have earnestly requested the visit of a Gaelic-speaking minister, even if it were for one sabbath in the course of a year.

It is only necessary to state in a concluding sentence, that lately a legacy of one hundred pounds, H. Cy., (the first which to our knowledge has been left to the Schemes of the Presbyterian Church of Canada,) was left for the Home Missions of this Church by the late Mrs. Ferguson of Woodhill, which bequest was handsomely paid by the Hon. Adam Ferguson without the deduction of legacy duty, and with the interest accruing from the period of its having become payable. It is for the Synod to say how this amount shall be appropriated, whether it shall be made the nucleus of a fund for assisting struggling congregations, or mission stations, or in some other way which may be regarded as more likely to prove ultimately useful to the church.

W. REID, *Convener.*

**THE SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUXTON MISSION, PRESENTED AT THE MEETING OF SYNOD IN KINGSTON, 16th JUNE, 1857.**

In presenting the Seventh Annual Report to the Synod, we, first of all, desire to acknowledge with gratitude, our obligations to the Great Head of the Church, for the measure of success with which he has crowned our labours during the past year.

Although the season that has just gone by has been one of great commercial distress, and both the mission and settlement have felt the pecuniary embarrassment, still we have to record a gratifying progress in all departments of the mission work, and particularly in the spiritual part of the work, there has been a deep religious awakening. It was first observed in the beginning of winter, in the Sabbath School, afterwards it extended to the Church and settlement. Since that time there has been a marked increase in the attendance, both of the Sabbath and week-day meetings, and especially of the Bible-classes and prayer-meetings. A brief review of our past labours will show how far the mission has accomplished the object for which it was instituted. It will be necessary to advert to the two departments of the work as they appear to be imperfectly understood. They are known as the Elgin Association, and the Buxton Mission; the one is secular, and the other is spiritual. With the secular this Synod has nothing to do; its affairs are managed by a Board of Directors, who meet in Toronto, and publish Annual Reports of their proceedings. The object of that department is to provide the colored families with homes, and improve their social condition. It will be gratifying to those who have taken an interest in the Association to know, that since the first settler entered on the lands in December, 1849, till the present time, two hundred families have been provided with homes, covering fifteen square miles of country and numbering about eight hundred souls. (See Annual Reports of Elgin Association.)

The Church was organized in December, 1849, with only four members and twenty hearers, now there are fifty members and two hundred hearers, when the roads are good, and the weather fine. The Sabbath School was opened three months after the Congregation was organized, with two scholars and one teacher; since that time, it has been carried on regularly with a gradual, but steady progress, and now numbers one hundred pupils, and eight teachers. The scholars have formed a mission society, and during the last two years have sent their collections to old Calabar, on the

coast of Africa. Nearly all who are able to read, have committed the Shorter Catechism to memory, and have made considerable advancement in Scriptural knowledge; some, we trust, have been hopelessly converted;—one has become a member of the Mission Church, and six more are now in the class of Catechumens, receiving religious instruction, with the view of becoming members of the Church. During the last year a greater interest has been felt, both in the Church and Sabbath School, on the great question of salvation. A number are now under deep conviction, and not a few have been brought to ask "What must I do to be saved."

The Day School was opened in May, 1850, with fourteen pupils, now there are ninety-eight on the roll. There are two teachers, a male and female. The boys are instructed in English, Latin, Greek, and Mathematics. The girls are taught the common branches of an English education, together with sewing; and such as desire it, the higher branches of a female education. Both in the male and female School the Bible is taught as a religious exercise, and a portion of their time is devoted to vocal music.

As one of the objects of the mission is to prepare young men for future usefulness, by giving them a good education, it requires this branch of the mission to be placed on a permanent and efficient basis; hitherto it has suffered much from a frequent change of teachers; this was in some measure unavoidable:—the teachers employed were students from Knox's College, and were under the necessity of retiring to complete their own studies. Although those teachers were good, and discharged their duties well while there, yet, having to change almost every six months, it has had a paralyzing effect on the efficiency of the School.

This defect we now hope will be remedied by the appointment of Mr. George Thompson, as a permanent teacher to the male department. Mr. Thompson has taught, for several years with great success, the Free Church School of Kintore, Aberdeenshire.

Since the opening of the Schools in 1850, two hundred and fifty pupils, male and female, have received their education, either in whole or in part. Of these, a large number remain in Canada, but some of them have gone to the United States, and Australia, where it is to be hoped that their religious training will make them useful members of society. I have already received favorable accounts from some of them. Two are now teaching with success in the Western part of the Province, others are preparing for the same field of labor. There is a class now learning Latin and Greek, some of them will enter College as soon as they are prepared. Two were ready to enter last November, but their parents being unable to support them at College, they were under the necessity of returning home. The same difficulty will be felt by the class now preparing. Of one of the boys farthest advanced, who is reading the second book of Virgil, the parents are in humble circumstances, and will not be able to support him at College. A Bursary Fund, capable of supporting two or three students, during their first and second years at College, would be a great boon. Unless some assistance be rendered to those, who with much difficulty have prepared themselves for College, very few will have the means to enter. Already have we seen two youths of piety and talents, turn reluctantly from College, because they had no means to enable them to enter. Unless this can be remedied one great object of the mission will be frustrated, namely, the training of young men of piety and talents, for further usefulness in the Church. Never was there more need for such young men as at present. Already "the fields are white to harvest,"—the light is breaking in on the dark

continent of Africa, from almost every direction. There is no portion of the heathen world that has yielded richer fruit, in proportion to the amount of missionary labour bestowed, or where there is a more urgent call for the extension of the work.

The Slave Trade is still carried on along the coast, notwithstanding the vigilance of the British navy. Nothing but the preaching of the everlasting Gospel will put an end to that inhuman traffic.

From the coast, and from the interior, the Macedonian cry is wafted to our ears, "Come over and help us!" We trust the cry will not be heard in vain, that means will be forthcoming to provide the men to carry the Gospel to their benighted countrymen.

In reviewing our past labours we have great reason to thank God for the measure of success which has already attended our efforts, encouraged by the past we would look for greater triumphs in future, but above all we would look for the Divine blessing upon all our labors.

WILLIAM KING.

**REPORT OF WIDOWS' FUND COMMITTEE FOR YEAR ENDING 31st MAY, 1857.**

The principal items which the Committee have to report, are the following. During the past year the congregational collections have been £306 9s. 3½d., the amount arising from the payment of Minister's rates, £164, and from interest £229 9s. 10d. The total accumulated fund is now £5358 13s.

The number of annuitants is the same as last year, viz. 7. Of the ministers who have been newly settled since last Synod, almost all have become contributors to the Fund. The fund is not to be regarded as having reached a position which renders far the efforts on the part of the Church unnecessary, but still it may be regarded as on the whole satisfactory, especially when compared with some similar schemes.

The committee regret to report that in consequence of the removal of John Fisher, Esq., Convener of the Committee from this Province, it will be necessary for the Synod to nominate another in his stead. Mr. Fisher has, from the commencement of the scheme, taken a deep personal interest in it, and is most justly entitled to the warmest thanks of the Synod.

There are two or three points on which it has occurred to the Committee that some full and explicit regulations may be necessary.—One of these points has reference to the qualification necessary to entitle a minister to the benefits of the Fund. Some misunderstanding has occurred as to whether a minister resigning his charge and accepting another situation, doing at the same time occasional missionary work, should still be entitled to the privileges of the Fund. It would be desirable to have a rule which could not be misunderstood. Another point has reference to those ministers who have been settled, perhaps shortly after 1st November. It is desirable to have it decided, whether in order to enable them to the privileges of the fund, they should pay their rate for the past year or not. According to the constitution of the scheme, no charge can be made in the regulations unless notice has been for at least two months. The Synod may either decide the points referred to or remit them, and any other points which may require consideration, to the Committee, in order that they may maturely consider them and give the requisite notice, in case it should be considered necessary or desirable to make any alteration in the regulations.

W. REID, *Secretary and Treasurer.*