

ulated forms now in use have however obviated this difficulty to a great extent.

The latest returns give the total number of members as 21,279.

Although these figures seem large, the fact must not be concealed that by far the larger proportion of the women of the Church have not yet seen their way to unite with the Society.

While it is certain that our present strength could never have been attained without Presbyterian organization, the isolated Auxiliaries deserve honorable mention. From Quebec, in the East, to the Pacific Coast, we find here and there little bands of faithful workers persevering nobly without the stimulus of association with neighbouring societies. Ormstown, organized in 1877, was one of the earliest of these. We have also two Auxiliaries composed of Christian Indian women in the Northwest.

The Scattered Helpers, introduced by Mrs. Thorburn, of Ottawa, in 1880, have given valuable aid, both in contributions and in interesting many who otherwise would have been precluded by force of circumstances from sharing in the work. Many invalids have thus helped by prayer and gifts, and who shall say how large a part such may have had in the results of to-day? In some cases Scattered Helpers have formed the nucleus of new Auxiliaries. The contribution from this order of members in the twenty-fifth year amounts to \$1,068.58.

The plan originally contemplated of having an Auxiliary and a Mission Band in every congregation and all branches within Presbytery bounds grouped together in Presbyterian order, has now at the end of twenty-five years to a large extent, at least as regards Auxiliaries, been carried out, and during recent years the energy of workers in the older sections of the Church has been directed principally to strengthening the Society in an intelligent knowledge of the work. Improved methods are being used in many places. Great development in preparing for the monthly meetings may be noted. Programme committees have become quite general. They are materially assisted by the publications of the Society, especially *Foreign Missionary Tidings*, where full information regarding our own Missions may always be found. Systematic Bible study has also become a marked feature. Circulating libraries have been formed in a few places. The first of these were reported from the London and Chatham Presbyterials in 1887.

Thank-offering meetings begun in 1885 and now held annually almost everywhere, have always been looked forward to as the central point of interest of the year. These have been an untold blessing, not so much from the amount of the offerings, though that has been large, as in the quickening of spiritual life.