

Church could be ascertained, and the Convener was directed to write to the Presbyteries explaining their position, endeavouring to remove misapprehensions and asking the advice of the Presbyteries as to their future action.

To the letters most of the Presbyteries replied, and at the next meeting of the Committee those replies were read, and the Committee unanimously agreed to dispense with the services of an agent, and to obtain a Colporteur who should devote a small part of his time to the business of the depository. Accordingly, arrangements were made with Mr. Inglis, who retired from his office, the Board voting him the sum of £100. Mr. S. Armstrong, formerly a Colporteur within the bounds of the Hamilton Presbytery, was employed at a salary of £30 per annum, his travelling expenses being paid. The depository was removed to a small room at an exceedingly moderate rent. The Convener was directed to write to the publishers to whom we were indebted, asking indulgence as to the time when their bills should be paid, and we have to express our gratitude for the kindness of those gentlemen in this respect.

The progress of our effort from this time has been encouraging. Mr. Armstrong has laboured in the bounds of three Presbyteries, has been everywhere kindly received, and has been eminently successful in circulating our books. He has been employed in Colporteur work 138 days, has visited 900 families, has held religious conversation, or engaged in devotional exercises with upwards of 400. He has sold 2168 books—98 copies of the Scriptures, of which 12 were family Bibles; and a large number of Catechisms and Confessions of Faith, together with Tracts, Pictures, Cards, &c.

The following table will present a view of Mr. Armstrong's labours:—

Average number of families visited per day 7
 " Value of books sold each day £1 7s. 4d
 " Number of books sold each day, 153.

Mr. Gillies and Mr. Cameron, have also been engaged in the sale of books; they receive a per centage on sales.

Your Committee have only to add, that notwithstanding the three months during which nothing was done while large expenses were incurred, there is only a balance of liabilities over assets to the amount of £32 17s. 10d.—The expenses being more than met by the amount of £28 17s. 2d., of which were received as donations from churches and individuals the sum of £21 9s. 4½d., leaving £7 7s. 9½d. of actual profit on sides over expenses, for the last 9 months.

The Committee respectfully submit this report and leave the whole matter with all confidence in the hands of the Synod.

D. INGLIS, Convener.

REPORT OF HOME MISSION COMMITTEE OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MAY, 1857.

In the Report presented to the Synod last year, it was stated that there were 55 organized congregations, and 33 stations, requiring supply.

During the year now past, 21 pastoral settlements have taken place, viz., in the Presbytery of London, of Rev. Mr. Findlay, at Mitchell, Mr. Troup at Plympton, Mr. McMillan at Mornington, Mr. Young at St. Thomas, Mr. McMillan at Fingal, Mr. Straith at Tilbury, Mr. Forrest at Ridgetown, Mr. Renne at Beachville, and Mr. Beattie at St. Mary's. In the Presbytery of Hamilton four ministers have been settled, viz., Mr. Jamieson at Dunnville, Mr. McLean at West Puslinch, Mr. Hogakin at Doon and New

Hope, Mr. Cockie at Berlin. In the Presbytery of Toronto four ministers have been settled, viz., Mr. Mitchell at Milton and Boston Church; Mr. Swinton at Markham, Mr. Lowry at Whitby; and Mr. Sharp at Rear of Whitby and Reach. In the Presbytery of Kingston two settlements have taken place, viz., of Mr. Hume at Huntingdon and Sydenham, and Mr. Wishart at Madoc. In the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa, Mr. Smith has been settled at Brockville, Mr. Melville at Edwardsburgh, and Mr. McMeekin at Pembroke. Of these settlements in the several Presbyteries, two or three have been merely transitions from one charge to another within the bounds of the same Presbytery, and thus have been no real addition to the effective strength of the ministry.

The following are the vacancies and stations requiring supply in the several Presbyteries, viz., in the Presbytery of Montreal, 2 vacant charges, viz., 1 St. Therese, St. Eustache and Grand Friere; and 2 Martintown and Williamstown; and 7 Stations requiring supply, viz., Richmond, Lagnerie, Lingwick, Kenyon, Grenville and Harrington, Finch, and Chateauguay Basin. Seven Missionaries at present supply these vacancies and stations.

In the Presbytery of London there are organized congregations vacant or requiring Pastors, 14; and 14 stations besides where congregations have not yet been organized, but where a constant supply of preaching is required. All the organized congregations are looked upon as self-sustaining, and 2 of the stations, so that in this Presbytery alone, 16 pastors might be settled almost immediately.

In the Presbytery of Hamilton there are reported five congregations which may be viewed as self-sustaining and ripe for settlement, viz., Woolwich, Niagara, Jarvis and Walpole, Alansville, Grimsby and Clinton. One of these congregations has just given a call to a minister. Six mission stations or rather groups of stations, for in several cases three congregations at least are connected, are also mentioned, viz., Arthur, where 3 churches are being built—Mount Forrest with adjoining stations where there are also 3 churches in course of erection—Durham, with East Durham, Rocky Saugeen and Glenelg, connected with which stations there are also 3 churches being built—Sullivan and Derby forming a regular field—Minto—Sydenham.

The Presbytery of Toronto report that during the past year new missionary ground has been broken in four townships, viz., Adjala, Osprey, Artemesia, and Holland. In the Presbytery, besides Knox's Church, Toronto, (Cooke's Church having called the Rev. W. Gregg) there are fourteen localities looking to the Presbytery for supply, each embracing from 2 to 4 stations. Of the fourteen, 7 may be regarded as ripe for settlement. The Presbytery have been lately adopting steps, by the issuing of a set of queries to obtain more full information in regard to the wants of the field committed to them and of the circumstances of the several congregations and stations.

In the Presbytery of Cobourg there are two organized congregations which for a time have been seeking the settlement of pastors, but both have in the meantime called ministers.—Besides these there are 2 mission stations requiring supply, viz., 1 Bethesda Church and Alnwick, and 2 Smithtown, which receives supply from Rev. John Roger of Peterboro'.

In the Presbytery of Kingston there is one vacancy, Chalmers' Church, Kingston, without counting Belleville, which has now to be added. There is also a group of stations in the neighbourhood of Kingston which may be regarded as almost if not altogether in a self-sustaining state.

In the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa,

there are 4 vacancies, viz., Ramsay, Kemptville, Osgoode and Russell, and Westport. There are also 3 other stations, or groups of stations nearly self-sustaining, one of them at least entirely so. These are, 1 Cumberland and Lochaber—2 Fort Coulonge and Westmeath—3 Yongo and North Augusta. No new stations have been opened during the year, but the newly formed settlements to the north are engaging the anxious thoughts of the Presbytery.

It will thus appear that without taking into account a few congregations which have called or are just preparing to call ministers, there are about 31 organized congregations requiring pastoral labour, and nearly 40 stations besides where supply is necessary.

At present about fifty Probationers and Students are employed throughout the several Presbyteries, supplying the congregations and stations referred to, but a very considerable proportion of these are students who have not finished their Theological studies.

Two or three Probationers have come to us from Scotland, and one or two from Ireland during the past year. From the circumstance that several of our ministers have visited Scotland particularly during the year, whose attention was directed a good deal to the obtaining of ministers for Canada, and that so few have been led to come to our help—we are more and more shut up to the conviction that it is to our own young men to whom we are mainly to look for our future supply.—We state with pleasure however that some ministers of experience and standing are expected soon. Mr. Alexander, formerly of Cobourg, has just arrived and will no doubt be welcomed back to this scene of his labours for many years. Several students have come, and some others are expected.

There is one point connected with our Home Mission work which claims the attention of the Synod, and which no doubt will be brought before the notice of the Synod at its present meeting. We refer to the necessity of considering the position of some congregations most important in many points of view, but numerically and financially weak. There are not a few congregations, in various localities, but principally in the Eastern section of the Church where it is of the highest importance to have influential ministers, but where the congregations themselves are not able to sustain an efficient ministry. We feel the difficulty of that question, but it is one which demands the cautious but serious consideration and action of the Synod.

Another question which may require ere long to be considered is the question as to the claims which Probationers once in the service of the Home Mission Committee have on its continued employment. In other words, is the Home Mission Committee, or the Presbyteries of Church bound to give appointments to all who are received as Probationers of this Church?—And if there is any obligation, how long does it continue? It is right to state to the Synod that no case has occurred as yet, where this question has become necessary. But it is a question which may, in our circumstances, force itself upon our consideration.

It is a question too whether the Synod should modify, or alter the regulations requiring all ministers not regularly called, to labour as missionaries for one year before being inducted into pastoral charges.

During the past year, the Convener in consequence of a correspondence with Rev. Mr. Bonar, obtained the services of one of the Gaelic-speaking ministers of the Church to visit a Gaelic settlement in Illinois. The people at this place (Elnira,) had been corresponding with Mr. Bonar for several years with the view of obtaining a Gaelic Minister, without success. The minister who visited these inter-