

HOME MISSIONS.

To the Ministers and Congregations of the Canada Presbyterian Church.

The Home Mission Committee at its last regular meeting in October, instructed the convener to present the pressing claims of the scheme upon the liberality of the church at large.

The committee began the present year considerably in debt; and since that date pressing claims which demanded immediate payment, such as grants to missionaries and supplemented congregations, have increased these liabilities, to the amount of several thousands of dollars beyond the contributions forwarded the treasurer of the church. In these circumstances, it is evident that unless immediate and largely increased contributions be made to the fund, the grants must be at once diminished, and several most important fields, left entirely destitute of the means of grace. The committee are most unwilling to take such a step, having faith in the willingness and ability of the church to meet every requirement, when the actual facts of the case are properly understood.

The amount required this year according to present estimates will approach twenty thousand dollars. This to a church of 50,000 members is but a small sum, contrasted with other denominations; and bearing in mind the ample resources of our people, we have hitherto done comparatively little, in this most important department of christian work. No denomination in Canada has greater inducements to devise liberal things for the Home Mission field. The large emigration of late years into the newer settlements of our country, and the earnest call for ministers in the Province of Manitoba, lays the church under solemn obligations to provide gospel ordinances for those who desire in these distant localities to attend the Presbyterian church, and maintain the Presbyterian faith in all its purity and efficiency.

The congregations of our church, need hardly be reminded, that the field of Home Mission operations, embraces British Columbia, Manitoba, the stations on Lake Superior and the Muskoka district, in addition to the regular mission stations and supplemented congregations in the Province of Ontario and Quebec. In last year's statistics, 122 mission stations and 60 supplemented congregations were reported as aided by the funds. These numbers will in all likelihood be considerably increased during the present year.

The committee respectfully but earnestly requests the ministers of our church to bring the claims of the Home Mission fund before their congregations at an early date, and that contributions be sent as soon as possible to the treasurer in Toronto. The office-bearers of the several congregations, can also do much, in enlisting the sympathies and calling forth the liberality of the people.

It remains with the members of the Canada Presbyterian Church to say, whether we shall go forward in our great work as in past years, or restrict the field of our operations. The committee dare not make grants beyond their means. Many new fields of great promise could at once be entered, did the liberality of the church warrant such action. If, as a Church of Christ, we are to maintain our position and extend our influence and usefulness;—if we are to support our colleges in greater efficiency;—if we are to increase our staff of labourers in the Foreign Mission field, and successfully prosecute the other enterprises in which we are embarked, the Home Mission Scheme, must take deeper hold of the affections of our people, than it has ever yet done in our past history as a church.

In name of the Committee,

Brantford, Nov. 18th. 1872.

WILLIAM COCHRANE, *Convener.*