

fellow countrymen; to try and cheer them in their troubles, and encourage them in the discharge of duty, looking for better and brighter days even here for themselves and for their children, and at last a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

In my present field, owing to intervening streams, I cannot use a horse to advantage, and I walk 9, 13, and even 20 miles on a Sunday. But so regular is the attendance, so attentive and devout the manner of the people that the pleasure of preaching Christ is greatly intensified. The Sabbath, even with its long journeys, is to me by far the happiest day of the seven. I am not attempting to explain away the peculiar difficulties of Home Mission Work, I am merely giving prominence to the pleasure which the sower has in scattering seed on such congenial soil.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES AND HOME MISSIONS.

From the Home Mission Report the following facts are gleaned:—

There are six Young People's Societies organized in congregations in the Presbytery of Quebec; these gave last year \$160 to Home Missions.

One Young People's H.M. Society has been formed in Glengarry Presbytery, and some of the C.E. Societies have given to Home Missions.

A Presbyterian Young People's Home Missionary Society has been organized in the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew, with promise of good results.

In Whitby Presbytery is a Presbyterian Union of Young People's Societies, which is supporting in part, a mission in Glenora in the North-West, and last year gave for this purpose \$134.

In Toronto Presbytery 40 congregations have Y.P. missionary organizations which last year gave \$1,172 for Home Missions.

In Owen Sound Presbytery a Presbyterian Union of Young People's Societies was formed last year, and from these \$150 was given for a Home Mission Field, the Indian Peninsula.

In Saugeen Presbytery there are Y.P. Societies or C.E. Societies in nearly every congregation. A Presbyterian Union will likely soon be formed and Home Missions is kept before them all.

A Presbyterian Union of the Y.P. and C.E. Societies of Paris Presbytery has been formed, and the gifts go to the Home or Foreign Missions of our Church.

Eighteen Young People's Societies are now organized in London Presbytery, and about \$500 was last year given from this source to Home Missions.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.

THE PROPOSED PLAN.

The General Assembly in June last instructed its committee on Young People's Societies to propose a plan by which the doctrine, polity, history, and work of the Church may be brought more adequately before the young people through their societies.

At the meeting of the committee on September 9th, a plan was agreed on, and will shortly be sent in detail and with full explanations to all ministers, missionaries and societies throughout the Church.

The committee was unanimous and hearty in its recommendations, and it is believed that these will meet with the approval of the young people, and of the Church generally, and will accomplish great results, not only in leading to a wider knowledge on the part of the young people, of what our Church believes, how she is governed, what she has done and may hope to do, but also in imparting an additional interest to the meetings of the societies.

The basis on which the plan rests is the ordinary meeting of the Society, whether Christian Endeavor, Mutual Improvement Association, Mission Band, Boys' Brigade, or any other. It was felt that it would be foolish to suggest additional meetings, and unnecessary as well. A very slight modification of programmes already in use will meet all the requirements of the committee's plan.

This is, in short, (a) a brief period, say five minutes at each meeting, devoted to the shorter catechism, and (b) one meeting a month given to the study of the polity, history and work of the church. The details are to be perfected by a small sub-committee appointed for the purpose; but it may be stated that for the catechism a very simple exercise is contemplated, the recitation in unison of a question and a brief address or paper on some principal point involved, with, probably, a review or preview once a quarter. The whole catechism may be gone through in this way in three years; and it need scarcely be said that there is no fuller or more compact expression of the doctrine of Presbyterianism.

In regard to the remaining subjects, it is proposed that the year 1897 be occupied with a general survey, six meetings to be devoted to the polity and history, and six to the main schemes of the Church.

In the detailed plan to be issued reference will be made to helpful literature, and arrangements are under way and will be announced in due time, whereby assistance in preparing for the meetings will be offered, through the columns of the *Record* or otherwise. It is expected, also, that, for Christian Endeavor Societies, an issue of the uniform topic card may be secured, which will embody the subjects now suggested by the committee.

R. DOUGLAS FRASER, Convener.