

HOME MISSION WORK.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE WORK OF SOME OF THE STUDENTS DURING THE PAST SUMMER.

Missionary enterprise and zeal have, in all periods of the Church's history, been regarded as true measures of spiritual activity and progress. From the days when the first disciples sought by their own individual efforts to publish the glad tidings of a newly found Messiah, to these days of united efforts in missionary work, one of the most unmistakable signs of spiritual life has been this desire to spread abroad the knowledge of the truth. History proves conclusively that the periods of greatest missionary enterprise through which the Church has passed, have been also periods in which she has manifested the most marked advancement and spiritual growth. The true Church of Christ in every age will seek to publish and proclaim His Gospel throughout the world, believing, as she does, that it is the very power of God unto salvation to as many as accept it.

And if the importance of missionary work in general is so great, being, as it is, an evidence of life and activity in our church, what shall we say when we come to speak of that particular phase of the work carried on in our own land? The importance of Home Missions can hardly be over-estimated, for in them we see, not an evidence of the growth of our Church, but the very growth itself. Canada with its vast extent of territory and sparse population, stands first in the rank among countries where home missions are absolutely necessary for the true prosperity of any church. Look at our numerous mission fields, scattered as they are from the Atlantic to the Pacific; it is upon them that the future growth and prosperity of the Presbyterian Church almost wholly depends. If our mission fields

are neglected and uncared for, growth is retarded. If they are well supplied and properly organized, prosperity is certain.

It follows from what we have now said, that those who have a true interest in the growth of Presbyterianism are also in deep sympathy with our home mission work. But, on the contrary, is it not a matter of much regret that but little is generally known of the work carried on year by year in the numerous mission fields in connection with the Church. Foreign missions carry with them an interest which home ones apparently lack, and though not seeking to belittle the cause of foreign missions or endeavoring to minimize our obligations regarding them, we would yet earnestly remind our readers that home and not foreign missions should be of greater interest to us; for it is to them that we have almost wholly to look for the future prosperity of our Church. It is from home and not from foreign missions that all material extension of the bounds of the Church is to come; and it is in order to do some thing towards awakening a more general interest in home missions and missionary work that this brief article has been undertaken.

By far the larger proportion of our mission fields are occupied during the summer months by the students of our several theological colleges; and no less than thirty of these fields were appointed last spring to students of this institution. We regret to say, however, that owing to an over-plus of modesty on the part of some who gravely object to having their names appear in print, we can speak with confidence only of twelve of these; and to them alone the