

the numbers so much as the distances by which these Presbyterians are separated, that constitutes the greatest difficulty in supplying them with religious instruction. Scotchmen may be clannish, but Presbyterians are not gregarious. You find them everywhere, and always with such a hereditary love for the Church of their Fathers as prevents them from readily connecting themselves permanently with any other denomination—a trait of character which, however commendable in other circumstances may, and not unfrequently has occasioned consequences the reverse of beneficial to their children, in this new country.

In all the Provinces of the Dominion there are, in what we call the older settlements, groups of Presbyterians who for many years have been organized into congregations. They have had ministers settled among them. They have had their Kirk-sessions and other office-bearers, but from a variety of causes they were never self-supporting. Perhaps when the time came that this might be expected of them a failure of crops, or a succession of failures, checked their progress, and this would possibly be followed by a rising tide of emigration which carried away the best young blood of the district to newer settlements. Whatever the cause, they became "weak congregations," in some instances grew weaker and weaker, until they reached the stage when either they must close the doors of their churches or apply to the Church for aid, to enable them to maintain the ordinances of religion. So that now we find, in the Eastern Section of the Church, about forty congregations receiving aid from the "Supplementing Fund" to enable them to retain settled pastors; and in the Western Section, eighty-seven such receiving supplement. It must be borne in mind, however, that many of these were till very recently only mission stations, and that now, having settled pastors, there is every reason to believe that they will soon become self-supporting charges, able in their turn to extend a helping hand to others. These make an annual draft on the Home Mission Funds of the Church of about \$15,000. Then, in each of the Presbyteries, you find, in outlying settlements, little groups of families, a few here and a few

there, with no immediate prospect of attaining the status of even a supplemented congregation. But they are Presbyterian families, and naturally look to the Presbyterian Church for such services as she may be able to give them; and the Church as naturally looks to the older and wealthy congregations for the means to supply, in some measure at least, to these the blessings which they themselves possess and appreciate. But this is not all. New districts are opening up every year. New Provinces even are coming into existence, where the pioneers of settlement have to undergo all the privations and hardships incident to their new circumstances. For a considerable length of time they must be entirely dependant upon the Church with which they were previously connected for the ministrations of religion. "Where there is no vision the people perish;" and the church that does not take sufficient interest in its members to follow them to their new homes, misses its opportunity, and loses its prestige.

So great is the area of our Home Mission field, it has been found necessary to place the work and administration of the Funds under the charge of two committees. The head-quarters of the one is at Halifax. Its Convener is Dr. Waters, of St. John. This Eastern Section embraces all the Maritime Provinces. The committee of the Western Section takes the oversight of the Province of Quebec and all to the west of it until the Rocky Mountains are reached. Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford, is the Convener of this committee. These two sections, extend from Newfoundland to British Columbia, a distance from East to West of four thousand miles. In both Sections, the committees have what they call "special" fields of labour, that is to say districts where new stations have been opened up which for a time claim a larger share of attention, and more money for their support than the older ones. Among these are, in the East, Bett's Cove, Bay of Islands, and Little Bay in Newfoundland, and New Kincardine in New Brunswick. In the West, by far the larger Section, there are, outside of the regular bounds of Presbyteries, the Madoc district, the Muskoka and Parry Sound districts, where within a few years past, not less than fifty stations have been opened: the Algoma district, comprising Sault Ste. Marie, the Bruce Mines, St. Joseph's Island, and the Manitoulin Islands; Silver Islet, Prince Arthur's Landing and Fort William, on Lake Superior. Over and above these, are Manitoba and the great North West Territory, where our missionaries have pushed their way over the prairies to some ninety different points. At the time of the Union, there were only eight ordained missionaries of our Church in Manitoba, now