

THE Home Missionary Society appointed at its annual meeting an executive to meet during the year regularly, and to initiate some new departure in our mission field. This executive met 19th June in Toronto, and agreed to appoint a missionary superintendent. A name was submitted and agreed upon, it being felt that if the friend named accepts the position, humanly speaking, success is ensured. An appeal will be made for special effort in the matter of the superintendent's support, and the earnest co-operation of our friends is most urgently sought.

THE question of the Bible in the common schools was brought before the Union by an "overture" from the Presbyterian Synod of Hamilton and London. The following resolution was submitted, but laid on the table, as the Union did not feel inclined to enter upon the discussion, though the majority would appear to be in favour of the resolution had it been pressed:—"Whereas the law now permits the Scriptures to be read in our Public Schools where the people of the section do not object, and thus recognizing its authority; and as this provision is to a large extent made use of in the opening and closing exercises in our schools, we deem this better than using the Bible as a text-book, to which there are grave objections."

THE election of Mr. George Hague to the chairmanship of the Union marked a new departure. Without drawing any invidious comparisons, the address to the Union fully justified the selection. As this address is to be printed in pamphlet form, and also to be inserted in the Year Book, we shall simply give some general account of the same. Referring to his appointment to the chair, he said it must have been for some special purpose that he was thus appointed. Was it that he might give a practical layman's view? Then what have we learned from the experience of the past year? What have we done to work out the great principles which we hold? The tree is known by the fruit it bears. It is sometimes said we have been leavening with liberty other denominations. He questioned it. The spirit of liberty was in the air. Let us not congratulate ourselves too much thereon, but enquire rather what has been the fruit of our labour for the past year? How many conversions

had we during the year? We have had put in our hands the sword of the Spirit. What have we done for the conversion of our fellow-men during the year? Not less than 10,000 sermons have been preached. Then there have been meetings for prayer during the year; with what results? He would not have us fall into the fallacy of figures which could be made to convey false impressions. He knew some of Christ's most earnest appeals were to single individuals, yet results were to be looked for. Let us take an outlook of our work. By what we have done we are to stand or fall. He referred to his attendance at the jubilee meeting of the Congregationalists in England and Wales, and it was inspiring to listen to reports of the work done by our brethren of the United States; how they followed up the tide of immigrants and planted churches. During the past year 1,500 new churches had been organized. We have a history of fifty years in this land, but have we done all we could? He would like to make us feel dissatisfied with our present condition, in order to incite us to more earnest endeavour. We shall have occasion, when received in printed form, to draw closer attention to this most practical address.

In the spirit indicated by Mr. Hague, in his address, of evoking dissatisfaction to the end that we may be incited to more earnest endeavour, we would draw attention to some items in our statistical reports. These reports are necessarily imperfect, from the fact of churches neglecting to furnish the necessary information. Of ninety churches on the list, thirty fail to report. Last year twenty-four out of ninety-one failed in like manner. The reports give a membership of 5,020 as against 5,653 the year before, with an attendance at regular services of 11,765 as compared with 13,210 last year. If we give to non-reporting churches the average membership of 87, the results will not be very different; in that case last year would realize 7,741, this year 7,630. In like manner, though our Mission Fund manifests a gratifying increase, the general amount of contributions, as reported, is \$15,000 less this year than last. Let these facts call forth our prayerful attention. We know of advance—decided—in several centres. Where is the ground being lost?