

HOME MISSIONS EAST, 1898.

THE general features of our Home Mission field change but little from year to year. Consequently there are no striking facts to be narrated concerning our Home Mission Work during 1898. Only a few new Mission stations have been opened and occupied, but old ground has been well held and much progress made in the cultivation thereof. Everywhere there has been improved organization, and by the blessing of God upon the faithful labours of ministers and missionaries our cause is growing slowly but steadily.

The four great divisions of our field remain very much the same as at the meeting of Synod in October last, viz:—

1. Settled Congregations.....	176
2. Vacant Congregations.....	21
3. Missionary charges.....	27
4. Mission stations.....	31

Total.....255

In caring for these fields the Presbyteries and the Committee have had no lack of labourers. On the contrary many of our probationers have not been able to secure constant employment. Five of the mission stations supplied by catechists in 1897 are now in charge of ordained missionaries, viz:—Cape North, Country and Isaac's Harbour, Waterford, Grand Falls and Boiestown. This step will increase the demands upon the Home Mission Fund considerably, but as it will unquestionably develop and strengthen these fields, it has been heartily approved by the Committee.

Forty Catechists were employed in nine out of ten Presbyteries last summer, of these 31 supplied mission stations, 3 were in charge of vacant congregations, viz:—Grand River, Hampton and Dundas, and 6 assisted the ministers of the large and scattered congregations of Boulardarie, Five Islands, Tatamagouche, Parrsboro, Richmond Bay and Nashwaak. Congregations of 150 or 200 families scattered over a widely-extended