

HOME MISSION REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG
FOR 1863-64.

During last summer the Presbytery employed two missionaries, one in the new townships on the Bobcaygeon road, and the other at Warsaw. During the winter Warsaw was supplied for three months, and the Bobcaygeon road stations for three months. Besides these members of Presbytery gave supply at Warsaw when there was no resident missionary here, and the back stations were visited during the summer and winter by a member of the Presbytery who dispensed ordinances amongst the people.

This summer the Presbytery is employing two missionaries in the new townships, and one at Warsaw, besides a third who is engaged in supplying the vacant charge of Perrytown and Oakhills.

The following facts concerning the stations are submitted to the Committee.

1. Warsaw is a village distant about twelve miles from Peterboro' and close to the Roman Catholic township of Douro. The congregation there has been in existence for about twenty years; for about five years it was part of the charge of Mr. Bowie in connection with Norwood, but for four years has stood alone. Owing to the barren character of the country to the north, and the Roman Catholic character of the population to the west, the field is very limited. The congregation averages about 100, Bible Class consists of 23 scholars over 16 years of age, and the Sabbath School has about 40 scholars. There are only about 12 families which are decidedly attached to our Church, represented by 25 communicants. Many others, however, attend and are as favourably disposed to our Church as to any other, being connected with none. There is a church here free of debt, but the isolated situation of the village makes it difficult and expensive to give a regular supply of ordinances.

An effort is being made to detach the congregation of Lakesfield from that of Peterboro' with which it is now associated, and to fester a new congregation on the boundary line between Emily and Smith with the view of forming a new charge, and the missionary at Warsaw gives some aid in this. The prospects in this respect are good.

2. The Bobcaygeon road stations being northward from Bobcaygeon village about forty miles, there are eight stations at which the Gospel has been preached by our missionaries. The attendance varies at the different places on an average from 20 to 80. This year this mission field has been divided into two groups of stations. (1) Burnt River, or Kinmount, and adjoining places, at least four preaching places. The membership at these places collectively may be very little over 20. Though there are over 30 families professing to adhere to the Presbyterian Church. The attendance collectively may be set down at 150 on an average. (2.) Minden and adjoining localities. Here should be at least six preaching places. The members in Minden are over 20, and as many as 40 families around profess to adhere to our Church, and would support it if only established there. The attendance collectively may be set at 150 here also.

At Minden a church is in course of erection, and another may soon be put up near Lake Cushog. In Minden are several warm friends of the cause.

Besides preaching in the places already visited, the missionaries are expected to be able to go to settlements further north, beyond the Peterson road, and to the east and west of the Bobcaygeon road. There are in all about 14 townships which call for visiting.

The settlements are new, the crops have been for the last three seasons but indifferent. The people, therefore, have been able to do little more than bear the expense of the missionaries' board and travelling. Most of them are, however, ready to do what they can and need encouragement.

This mission field has been cultivated for three years; it is only about six years since the settlers went in beyond the Brompton River.

The only other denominations which are in the field are the Methodist. These