

Those who ask us to leave Romanism alone overlook the glaring fact that it will not leave us alone. It has not done so in the past, and is not doing so to-day throughout the length and breadth of our Dominion. To say nothing of political intrigue, of which no one will venture to exonerate the Jesuits, it is notorious that priests and prelates habitually thunder against our faith and our Bibles as utterly false, and, therefore, on the ground of self defence and self preservation, we are bound to act as we do, unless, indeed, we are ready to confess before God and man that the faith which we hold is to us a matter of such little moment that we care not whether it is maintained or destroyed. Finally, as to the work of our Colporteurs and Missionaries being an impertinence. The unsupported assumption here is that they are sent to do what is unnecessary, and to do it in a wrong spirit and method, in an insulting manner; all of which we deny. How can it be an insult to offer our most highly prized possession, the Gospel, to any one? It is most necessary that superstition and spiritual bondage should be broken up by a full and clear presentation of God's message of love and freedom to all men. This is all that we charge our agents to do, and if the teaching of the simple Gospel to those who are ignorant of it is an impertinence which should be resented, then we must plead guilty; but if, on the contrary, it is a work stamped with the approval and enforced by the command of the Son of God, then instead of being blamed and censured for it, we justly expect to be heartily supported by all who love and serve Him.

Our Home Missions.

DR COCHRANE, Convener of the Committee for the Western section, in presenting his annual report to the General Assembly, congratulated the Eastern Section upon the excellent statement they had presented. They had a 'balance' also in the West, but it was unfortunately on the wrong side. He hoped however, that the clouds would soon pass away. He had never laid on the table a report shewing a greater amount of work done.

After dwelling at length upon the great success that had attended the work in Manitoba and the North-west, he said that if the Home Mission Committee had not done anything but this they well deserved the prayers and thanks of the Assembly. He then referred to the work in British Columbia, stating that while there was but one minister there a little over ten years ago, they now had a Presbytery of eleven ministers, and these are only the advanced guard of the army of occupation that is to follow.

Dr. Cochrane referred to the past changes and progress that had taken place in the Province of Manitoba since his first visit in 1873, and the marvellous extension of Home Mission work. In supplying the settlers in the North-West with the means of grace, the Presbyterian Church occupied no secondary place. The report now presented was encouraging as regards work done, much greater then ever before in the history of the Church. It was not encouraging as regards the contributions for this, one of the most important, of all the schemes of the Church. Instead of larger givings as larger demands were made, congregational collections for the fund were decreasing. A perusal of the report showed that during the past year many new mission fields had been occupied, more especially in the North-West and British Columbia, and that several new congregations had been put upon the augmented list. The number of the latter was, however, now only 142, as compared with twice that number three years ago. This was a cheering indication that congregations were gradually becoming self-sustaining, a most hopeful aspect of this department of the work. The statistics showed that there were under the care of the committee 714 mission stations, 166 augmented congregations, and 139 ordained missionaries and catechists. Of this number of stations 302 were in Manitoba and the North-West, with 20 augmented congregations. In closing his address he made reference to the exceedingly critical condition of both the Home Mission and Augmentation Funds. The sum of \$47,000 had been expended on missions during the year, of which the presbyteries had contributed only \$25,000. The sum of \$29,000 had been given to augmented congregations, of which the presbyteries gave only \$23,000. The Reserve Funds were now nearly exhausted. Assuming that the same rate of giving was to continue during the year and the grants promised paid, there would next year be an indebtedness of \$20,000. As to the causes for the large deficit of the year, he mentioned the unexpected payment of some \$3,000 to Manitoba in addition to the large grant received, making this year a total of nearly \$32,000 for missions and augmentations to the North West. The contributions also of many churches, from causes which might appear different to different minds, had in many cases fallen far short of former years, and there was an increased outlay, of necessity, in British Columbia. But for the kind gifts of the British churches and private bequests and donations, and the \$12,000 taken from the reserve fund, the mission fund would have shown a debt this year of \$22,000, and but for the reserve fund for Augmentation there would have been a debt in that department of some \$6,000. It was clear that this state of matters could not go on. It need not go on if Presbyteries and congregations would give in anything like proportion to the pressing necessities of the