

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY
FOR
EASTERN CANADA.

The Committee of this Society need scarcely remind their Constituents, that its operations are of such a nature, and of so limited an extent, as to furnish but slender materials for a striking Report of its progress. The field which we cultivate familiar to us all—no

“distance lends enchantment to the view.”

Our Brethren can tell us no wonderful adventures among people of another aspect and language, for they deal with persons whose character and mode of life are similar to our own. Nor have we the interest inspired by a territory of vast extent. Here we have no “Great West,” where imagination is little tasked to see the rudiments of future empires, the character and destiny of which depend so largely on the spiritual training they receive in their infancy. Our bounds are, and must be comparatively narrow, and our work must therefore kindle an ardour less enthusiastic. Nor, again, can we relate any extraordinary circumstances as evidencing great success. Our Brethren “pursue the even tenor of their way,” not, indeed, without frequent marks of their Lord’s approval, rejoiced at times with being enabled to say, of “this man and that man”—“Behold! he prayeth,”—but still, in a manner so noiseless, as to show that now, as of old, “the kingdom of God cometh not with observation.”

While these things, however, are undoubtedly true, and should constantly be borne in mind when we consider the operations of this Society,—let it not be supposed that we are labouring in vain. From the lowest point of view, we must see that much evil is prevented, and that preparation is