

Our Home Work.

It is hard to realize that Rev. D. J. Macdonnell; brilliant, intense, earnest; a "man greatly beloved," is gone. The daily and weekly press has given in full the story of his active life. We can but lay a wreath on the grave of him who, for nearly a quarter of a century, has taken a large and enlarging share in the public work of the church, and who has done so much to advance her interests, more especially in Educational, Home Mission, and Augmentation work.

Home Mission work in the Maritime Provinces and in the older West is not less important than in the New North West. Our country must be kept as well as won for Christ. Many of the smaller settlements send forth young men, full of life and energy, who become leaders in law, politics, and commerce. Their character and their influence in life, will be largely shaped by the character of the home and scenes of their boyhood. Let every corner of the land be leavened with the Gospel.

There are but two months, March and April, before the closing of our Church year. There is much to do in these two months. If the amount given for the work of any department is not sufficient, the year will end with a debt, and the next year has its own work to do. It is easier and better to keep out of debt than to get out. With a good hearty effort on the part of all it may be done.

The Augmentation Funds, East and West are in about the same condition as they were this time last year, and the effort that then was needed to square accounts at the year's end, must not be lacking.

During the last twelve years 250 congregations in the Western section of the Church have been nursed into self-support by the Augmentation Scheme, and are now self-sustaining. This was the Scheme for which Macdonnell did so much. He was Convener of the Committee. His congregation set a splendid example of liberality to the Fund. How much our Church owes in this direction, to his untiring zeal and energy none can tell.

There is probably no scheme of the Church that is more jealously guarded both East and West, than the Augmentation Fund. Instead of being used to help the undeserving, it is oftener that cases which seem really deserving of aid do not get it. The Committees can only pay out what is entrusted to them, and they do so where it seems most needed. This further fact should be borne in mind by all who are asked to aid in this good work, viz., that none get help from it who do not earnestly and faithfully help themselves.

United Church, New Glasgow, N.S., has decided to support a Home Missionary in addition to its usual Home Mission giving.

Annual Reports. The thousand congregations, more or less, in our Church, have been holding their annual meetings, stock taking. Columns of the weekly Presbyterian papers are filled with brief reports of the year's work. Almost without exception these are cheering and hopeful. Times are hard and many of our people have been obliged to retrench; but true and loyal hearts never begin this work at the House of God, and there are many such hearts in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. It is to be hoped that when our great Church schemes end their year, 30 April, their affairs will be found as satisfactory as those of most of our congregations, and still more earnestly should prayer be made that the spiritual progress, the true progress, of our Church, may be even more marked than the financial and temporal advancement.

Home Mission Church Building. "If all our mission stations can have halls or churches of their own in which to worship there will be a growth and development impossible under other circumstances. School houses and borrowed churches are all very well, and we have good reason to feel thankful that they have been useful to us, but it is plain that if our work is to succeed, and to give us the returns we have good reason to expect, we must open up halls and small churches in which our people can worship according to Presbyterian custom, and so feel at home." Thus speaks the *Church and Home* and it applies to all our vast Home Mission Territory from ocean to ocean.

Pres. Coll. Has been within a few weeks the **Montreal** scene of two interesting events. The first, 17 Jan., was a conversazione given by the students. Some 700 guests were present, and the number was limited only by the room, not by the hearts of the students or the number of the friends of the college. The tasteful decorations, the music, sweet and soft, the provision in every way for a pleasant evening, made the gathering a most successful one.

A fortnight later, 31 Jan., there was an inter-collegiate debate, in which two champions of the College and two from Knox College, Toronto, waged wordy war on the theme "Has Free thought," (i.e. as commonly used to mean rejection of Bible authority) "benefited Christianity." There was a large audience, and the judges courteously awarded the laurel wreath to the visitors from Knox.

Rev. J. S. Carruthers, of New Glasgow, N.S., gave a month's training in elocution to the students of the Presbyterian College, Halifax, early in the winter, and during January has been doing similar work at Queen's. A triple charge.

Rev. Wm. Meikle, evangelist, has been holding very successful services in Rat Portage, and elsewhere in the West.