

sentence of the statement laid before the parent Churches by the Conveners and Secretaries of our Home Mission enterprises. It is well for us to bear in mind a fact so impressive, in order that we may raise our minds and hearts above our immediate surroundings and as becomes the possessors of so vast and splendid a heritage. The earth is the Lord's: this Dominion is His, and He has given it to us to subdue and cultivate for Himself. We are to care therefore not for our own congregation merely,—and not for our own Presbytery, or Synod merely; not for our own town or county or province merely, but our sanctified patriotism must be coextensive with this vast Dominion." Moses was permitted to view the green slopes and the goodly mountains of the Promised Land. Each one of us is privileged not only to see our goodly land but to enter in and possess it in the name of the Lord, and prepare the way for millions that are to come after us.

The Eastern Section of our Home Mission fields, embracing Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P. E. Island, Newfoundland and Bermuda, contains, at least, two hundred thousand Presbyterians, and many thousands who *should* be Presbyterians. Three hundred ministers would be required adequately to supply this population, widely scattered as it is. Our actual ministerial strength in this section is 156 settled ministers, with an uncertain number of Probationers and catechists, varying say from 20 to 40. In the province of Bermuda we never had but little to do, and the population is small and not likely to increase. Our interest there is confined to two congregations. In Newfoundland we have been very weak hitherto,—no Presbytery being formed there till 1875. But there is hope of progress, and a pressing call for evangelistic work. Presbyterianism is relatively strong in Nova Scotia and P. E. Island,—stronger than any other Protestant denomination; still there is much Home Mission work to be done even in these two Provinces. But it is in New Brunswick especially that there is the amplest scope for Home Missionary

effort. Our congregations often consist of four, five, or more stations, at considerable distances apart. In each station is a handful of families, composed of immigrants from New England, and the north of Ireland and Scotland, or the descendants of the original settlers, who are struggling to maintain ordinances amid difficulties enough to weary any but the strongest faith and hope. In some districts, recent colonies from Scotland, Ireland, Iceland, &c., have been formed. These newly-arrived bands require every shilling they bring with them to procure the bare necessities of life. Our Church must provide for them the ordinances of religion, or their children must grow up as adherents of Churches less pure than the Church of their fathers, or become, through neglect of ordinances, ignorant of and careless about the Gospel altogether.

The Maritime Provinces have their Theological Hall to support, and also to provide an annual subsidy of \$45,000 for Dalhousie College. They have a scheme for the supplementing of weak congregations, involving an annual outlay of some \$4000.

The western Section of our Church includes the great Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and the new Provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba and Keewatin, and the whole North-West Territory. One-seventh of the population, say 450,000 is professedly Presbyterian. In British Columbia we co-operate with the Church of Scotland. Considering the inflowing, present and prospective, of population in the North-West we should have 700 ministers in the "western section;" but instead of this number, our whole strength is four hundred and sixty settled ministers, with fully one hundred vacant charges, thirty-five to forty home missionaries, and more than one hundred catechists. The only other Presbyterian ministers with charges in these provinces and territory are some fifteen or sixteen, who claim a nominal connection either with the Church of Scotland, or the Free Church, or the Reformed Presbyterian Church. In the province of Ontario, the population of which is one and three-quarter millions, our