

aggregate amount contributed by the United Secession Church during the year, not only for their own Missions, but for Missions of all kinds, was upwards of £9,000.

[Here follows a tabular statement of the stations, and the Presbyteries under whose superintendence they are placed.]

Leaving out of view a considerable number of substations, where the gospel is preached, and others connected with City Mission operations,—in the above table amounting, in all, to sixty-three. are included the Synod's Missionary Congregations,—the Stations with located preachers,—preaching Stations,—and those stations which are connected with the Gaelic Mission. In regard to all of these different branches of the Home Mission of the Synod, the Committee are happy to have it in their power to report that they are in a favourable condition.

MISSIONARY CONGREGATIONS.

The Missionary Congregations under the care of the Synod are, as last year, *twenty-six* in number. Notwithstanding the depressing influence under which these infant Congregations have been placed, and the pressure of the times which, during the last year, has borne with peculiar severity upon their interests, it is gratifying to be able to state that, generally, they have, as hitherto, maintained their ground,—that many of them have been adding considerably to their numbers, although their members have been constantly removing to other quarters,—that the ministers placed over them have been manifesting the same hearty earnestness and zeal in their work in seeking to do good to the souls of men,—and that the plans of usefulness established in connection with them, more especially with a view to the religious instruction of the young, have continued to be prosecuted with unabated vigour. The following extract from the Report of the Presbytery of Orkney, in reference to two of the Missionary Congregations under their inspection, cannot fail to be interesting :—

SANDWICK.—The membership of the congregations, of which the Rev. William McGowan is the stated pastor, is 116. The general audience has somewhat increased during the year. It now numbers about 200, all of whom, during the services of the sanctuary, are attentive and apparently interested. There are 12 weekly fellowship-meetings, the membership of which is, in all, 78. Two monthly missionary meetings are held also for prayer, at which the attendance is good and increasing, and the interest in missionary intelligence communicated is very considerable. The attendance upon the Sabbath school is 63. The week-day male class numbers 45; the female class 76. The attention of this last mentioned class, especially to the exercises prescribed, is very promising, and their attendance most regular. There are two Sabbath schools, which have a connexion with the Congregation in the parish of Birsay, at each of which the attendance is from 20 to 30, with a considerable number of hearers.