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Our Home Missions.

WHAT a magnificent field is that given the Presbyterian Church in Canada to cultivate! The more one thinks about it the more is one impressed not only with its magnitude but its grand possibilities. The reports presented to the General Assembly from the Committees on Home Missions and Augmentation of Stipends, if printed in type similar to what the reader has before him, would fill a volume of several hundred pages. Hence the impossibility of reproducing them in the *Record*. But, supposing we could do so, it would not be safe to say that anyone looking for information would be able readily to obtain such a bird's-eye view of the home missions of the Presbyterian Church in Canada as might be desirable. The truth is, that instead of one report we have nominally four, yet in reality more than that number; and as there is a want of uniformity in presenting the statistics of the different parts of the Church, the result is, that while the reports are all prepared with great care, and while each is doubtless faultless in respect of the data which it furnishes, it requires a certain amount of time and patience, and a familiarity with the machinery of the Church possessed by few, to master the situation. Much of the difficulty arises

from the perpetuation of lines of demarcation betwixt "East" and "West," which, however indispensable in the meantime, are bound to disappear eventually. In the eastern section of the Church, "operations were conducted in every presbytery within the bounds of the Synod;" in the western section, in all save five. The presbyteries of Whitby, Stratford, London, Huron and Maitland have no mission stations within their bounds. The number of mission fields in the 32 western Presbyteries is 276, and of preaching stations 820. In the eastern section there are apparently 45 fields and 170 preaching stations, which gives us in all 321 distinct fields and 990 preaching places. The number of missionaries employed last year, for longer or shorter periods, in both sections, was 329, of whom 121 were ordained ministers and licentiates and 208 students and catechists. The average Sabbath attendance at all these stations was 43,065, the number of families connected with them, 11,701, and of communicants, 13,997. The receipts by the Boards of Management, including the College societies and Lumberman's mission (but irrespective of contributions by the people in the mission fields for local supplies), were \$66,475.60, — namely \$55,159.60 from the western section and \$11,316 from the eastern, for purely home mission purposes. Adding the amounts received for the augmentation of