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**Home Missions**

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.

**I**F a larger space in the RECORD is usually devoted to Foreign Mission intelligence than to our Home Mission work, it is not because we deem the one to be more important than the other, but rather because it may reasonably be supposed that our readers have better opportunities of acquainting themselves with the nature and progress of evangelistic work carried on by their own church and in their own country, than with the details of what is being done in foreign fields by the labours of those who have gone forth from us to distant lands. No good can come of pitting the one against the other. The divine command includes both. To omit the furtherance of either is to subject ourselves to the Master's rebuke,—“these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.”

The printed minutes of the General Assembly for each year contain elaborate and interesting accounts of the Home Mission work of the Church, with a fulness of details that should satisfy the most exacting. But as some may not have very ready access to this authentic source of information, it may not be out of place to give in brief outline, a few of the leading features of the work, as well in respect of its magnitude, and the means employed to overtake it. Before pro-

ceeding to this, however, let us first glance at the progress of Protestantism in Canada. Although long and largely under the shadow of the colossal system of Rome, with its splendid endowments and its admirable organizations, it is gratifying to be able to state that Protestantism, on the whole, is not going to the wall. It is slowly gaining ground and making substantial progress. During the twenty years, from 1851 to 1871, the total population of Ontario and Quebec increased at the rate of 52½ per cent. Roman Catholicism during that period increased 41½ per cent; Episcopalianism, 46½ per cent; Presbyterianism, 69½ per cent; Methodism, 109 per cent. Protestantism as against Roman Catholicism increased 92½ per cent.

The Home Mission field of the Presbyterian Church in Canada is the grandest ever given to any Church. As to its extent, the Maritime Provinces are together larger than Great Britain and Ireland. The Province of Quebec is as large as France. Ontario is equal in area to Spain. Little Manitoba is bigger than Holland. British Columbia is as large as Austria. The North-West Territories are capable of supporting as large a population as now inhabits the Russian Empire! If the present population of Canada be three millions and a half, one tenth of that number are Presbyterians; or, if we deduct the one million and a quarter of French-speaking Roman Catholics, the Presbyterian Church in Canada has the oversight of one seventh part of the Protestant population. But it is not