

THE MISSIONARY REGISTER,

OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia.

LORD, bless and pity us, shine on us with thy face,
That th' earth thy way, and nations all may know thy saving grace.—*Ps. lxxvii. 1, 2.*

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Home Missions.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS. 1856-7.

THE Board, in presenting their Annual Report, have, as on former occasions, to congratulate the Synod on the amount of work performed, and the increased efficiency of the agency; and at the same time have to lament that the means at our disposal are so inadequate to the demand—that so many who look to us for the gospel have been so very imperfectly supplied, and that we are unable to extend the sphere of our operations so as to meet the openings of divine Providence. This will appear by the following summary of our proceedings during the past year:

MISSIONARY LABORERS.

At the date of the last report there were eight missionaries on the roll, and since that date two others, Messrs John Currie and George Ruddick have been licensed by the Presbytery of Pictou.—But we regret to say that from various circumstances, the whole of these have not been engaged in the work all the time. Soon after the rising of the Synod, the Rev. J. W. Matheson having tendered his services as a Foreign Missionary, and having been accepted, was withdrawn from the Home field. The Rev. Hugh Ross and Mr William Keir obtained leave of absence, the former to visit Canada and the latter to visit the United States,

and have not yet returned. More recently Mr Currie has accepted a call to the second congregation of Maitland, leaving only six in active employment, which has been about the average number through the year. When the number of vacant congregations is considered, and also the number of stations requiring fostering care and, if possible, regular supply, and the new fields opening before us, it will be at once seen that this supply is entirely inadequate to the demand.

SUPPLY OF VACANCIES.

During the year the following vacancies have received supply: In the Presbytery of Truro—Economy and Five Islands, Middle Stewiacke and Brookfield, and Maitland, to which may be added a few day's supply to Mr Crow's congregation at Noel, in the view of their calling a helper. In the Presbytery of Pictou—West Branch East River, Mabou and Central Congregations West River. From not receiving full reports the Board are unable to give the exact amount of service performed in this way, but it must be entirely insufficient to meet their wants; and it must be matter of deep regret, that only one of our vacancies has been successful in obtaining a pastor, and even in that case, though the call has been accepted the settlement has been delayed in consequence of the state of health of the pastor elect. Some congregations have been more than once disappointed. These disappointments are