

that there has been a marked improvement in the reading matter which has filled the columns of the Messenger during the past year. We hope therefore, that by the continued confidence and increased support of the denomination, the Editor will be stimulated to further improve the paper, and make it still more attractive,

All of which is respectfully submitted in behalf of the Committee.

A. W. BARSS, *Chairman.*

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#### ON MISSIONS.

As the annual meeting of the Home Missionary Society is to be held during this session of the Association, the Committee do not think it necessary to enter into details respecting that department of Christian labour, and will only observe that there is increasing demand for missionaries in many parts of our province, while the funds supplied are by no means adequate to the necessities of the case. The Baptists of Nova Scotia have for many years past directed their attention to the home field, with encouraging results. The calls for help are becoming louder and louder: let the response be prompt, hearty, and liberal.

The Foreign Mission commands the sympathies of the Churches in every part of the land. God has greatly blessed the labours of the native preachers who have been engaged in the work, and whose instrumentality is doubtless admirably adapted to the state and circumstances of their fellow-countrymen. Indeed, it seems scarcely possible to evangelize Burmah, or any other heathen country, otherwise than by the employment of the gifts which the Lord bestows on the converts, all which are intended for use and profit. Your Committee were therefore surprised and distressed at the announcement which the Board felt it necessary to make, to the effect that ten of the preachers were to be dismissed. They cannot but indulge the assurance that the churches will forthwith so replenish the treasury that the entire staff of preachers may be re-engaged, and their number, if possible, increased.

The Committee are deeply interested in the department